

**conference**

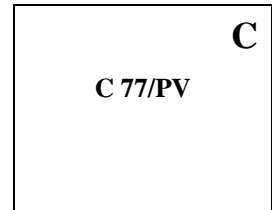
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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**Nineteenth Session  
PLENARY**

**Nineteenth Session  
PLENARY**

**Nineteenth Session  
PLENARY**

**Rome, 12 November - 1 December 1977**

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I OF THE CONFERENCE  
PROCES-VERBAUX DES SEANCES DE LA COMMISSION I DE LA CONFERENCE  
ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION I DE LA CONFERENCIA**



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VINGT-QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
24ª SESION PLENARIA  
(1 December 1977)

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## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/PV/1

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIERE SÉANCE PLENIERE PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1977)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 11. 10 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plèniere est ouverte à 11 h 10,

sous la présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 11. 10 horas,

bajo la presidencia de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

OPENING OF NINETEENTH CONFERENCE SESSION

OUVERTURE DE LA DIX-NEUVIEME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE

INAUGURACION DEL 190 PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA

OPENING STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL

DISCURSO DE APERTURA DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs: j'ai aujourd'hui pour la première fois, l'honneur de souhaiter la bienvenue aux éminents délégués de nos Pays Membres, parmi lesquels j'ai le plaisir de compter de nombreuses connaissances.

Aux nouveaux venus, et particulièrement aux représentants des pays ayant présenté leur demande d'admission en qualité de membre de l'Organisation, je tiens à exprimer ma satisfaction de les voir s'intégrer à notre grande famille.

Je suis heureux aussi d'accueillir toutes les personnes présentes en qualité d'observateurs.

Pour nous tous ici, la Conférence est toujours un grand moment de la vie de la FAO.

C'est là que, depuis plus de trente ans, des hommes et des femmes, toujours plus nombreux et plus enthousiastes, tentent patiemment de poser les jalons d'une politique agricole commune à l'ensemble de l'humanité.

Une politique basée sur la concertation et la solidarité pour vaincre à jamais la faim et la malnutrition.

Et pourtant, plusieurs centaines de millions de personnes souffrent encore de ce double fléau.

Faut-il alors nous déclarer forfaits, ou pis encore, compenser par l'abondance du verbe la cruelle indigence de nos moyens?

Je ne le pense pas.

Nous sommes tous convaincus de la nécessité de poursuivre et même d'intensifier l'aide aux pays en développement.

Mais il est aussi de plus en plus évident que le Tiers monde doit d'abord compter sur lui-même. A cet égard, je ne peux manquer d'évoquer la Chine.

Ce pays, qui regroupe le quart de la population du globe, cette nation qui est la plus grande nation paysanne du monde, a réussi à assurer sa propre subsistance en comptant sur ses propres forces.

S'il est une assemblée internationale qui se doit de rendre hommage à l'oeuvre du

Président Mao-Tsé-Tung, au lendemain du premier anniversaire de son décès, c'est bien la nôtre.

Nous savons tous ici combien il est difficile, combien il est ambitieux d'édifier une économie capable de nourrir tous les hommes, au lieu d'être seulement soumise aux intérêts d'une minorité.

C'est à cette tâche que nous devons nous atteler en priorité.

Voilà la raison d'être de la FAO et l'ultime signification des travaux qui nous occuperont dans les prochains jours.

Nous aboutirons, j'en suis sûr, à des décisions concrètes.

Ensemble nous ferons progresser la coopération internationale dans un esprit de conciliation et d'entente.

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs: je déclare ouverte la Dix-neuvième session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.



## INTRODUCTORY - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

## INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

## INTRODUCCION Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

### 1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

### 1. Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents

### 1. Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Le premier point à l'ordre du jour est l'élection du Président de la Conférence. Conformément à l'Article VII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Conseil a proposé pour cette haute fonction Son Excellence le Docteur TOYIB HADIWIJAYA, Ministre de l'Agriculture de l'Indonésie.

La Conférence approuve-t-elle cette proposition?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: J'ai l'honneur de déclarer le Docteur Hadiwijaya élu par acclamation au poste de Président de la Conférence générale de la FAO.

Je vous félicite Docteur Hadiwijaya. Puis-je vous demander de venir prendre votre siège de Président?

Mr. T. Hadiwijaya took the chair

M. T. Hadiwijaya assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia el Sr. T. Hadiwijaya

## ADDRESS BY CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE

## DISCOURS DU PRESIDENT DE LA CONFERENCE

## DISCURSO DEL PRESIDENTE DE LA CONFERENCIA

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: May I acknowledge most sincerely the signal honour you have accorded my country by electing me Chairman of the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference. Indonesia, as you well know, belongs to Asia. It is a region with a long history of religion, culture, arts and agriculture. This election is also an honour bestowed on my Region. For this manifestation of trust, I extend my gratitude and deep appreciation to all of you, to the Asia and Pacific Region, in particular to Bangladesh, for their support to the candidature of Indonesia.

In response to your vote of confidence, I pledge my services to help ensure that, in the days ahead, our deliberations are conducted impartially, not merely in accordance with our established rules and practices, but also with what we, in our ancient Indonesia farming villages call musyawarah: a process of authentic consultation, that goes beyond mere power compromises, and seeks instead a consensus, based on mutual understanding and respect.

Upon his assumption of office, the Chairman of an FAO Conference is required to discharge a series of traditional duties.

I would like first, on behalf of all member nations, to convey to the Government of Italy our gratitude for its continuing welcome to our Organization. We owe, too, a word of thanks to the authorities and the people of Rome for their warm hospitality.

Second, we will be opening our ranks, in the course of our Conference, to new members. Their entry comes at a time when the systems for international collaboration that we have painstakingly built, over the years, are strained and threatened by threats of fragmentation. Thus we welcome this bolstering of our ranks.

Permit me also to convey through you, Mr. Director-General, the sincerest thanks of the delegates and observers, to the Staff, for the excellent arrangements they have made for our Conference.

When our Conference closes, the second term of office of the Independent Chairman of the Council will expire. We will bid farewell then to Señor Gonzalez Bula Hoyos, a distinguished son of Latin America. Led by Señor Bula Hoyos, the Council dealt with a large number of significant policies, relating to the basic needs of the rural poor. His work will be remembered, with appreciation, by us. We say goodbye to him in this city of Julius Caesar. So I may, perhaps, be excused in quoting the farewell to Cassius, which probably was uttered in the shadows of the Palatine Hills, not far from here: "If we do meet again, why we shall smile! If not, why then this parting was well made. "

Like all human endeavour, each Conference assembles in its own unique setting, with its own hopes, its own opportunities for achievement - and if one is realistic - its own chances for failure. What are the chances that our Conference will not fail and thereby be "consigned to the dustbin of history"?

Our Conference is, in a number of ways, fortunate. We meet at a time when the food queues of the mid-1970s have disappeared. The State of Food and Agriculture 1977 is before you. It reports that due to good weather and improved harvests, over the past three years, the food situation has eased. Growth of forestry and fisheries appears to be continuing. Supplies of fertilizer and pesticides are up. The first signs of a moderation in rapid population growth rates worldwide are emerging. We, therefore, have a breathing spell wherein to redesign our common assault on hunger.

We are witnessing, too, a number of hopeful institutional indicators. The International Fund for Agricultural Development is preparing to start operations. The World Bank is redirecting the flow of its funds from traditional urban projects to the rural poor, mostly in agricultural settings. There is a network of excellent international centres for agricultural research and training in the developing world.

Within this House, our Director-General has instituted a series of administrative reforms and integrated set of policies. Significantly, these were endorsed by the Council, on behalf of the Conference, at its 69th Session in July 1976. These new policies sought, first, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of this Organization; and, second, to bring services where they really matter - at the village level, where seed is sown and harvests reaped - and all too often lost.

Thus, the Director-General has validly insisted that FAO re-examine and move beyond its traditional approaches to give priority to innovative action, at country and village levels. This calls for the adjustment of criteria and practices in old FAO programmes and broadened support for practical action. All these seek to unlock - by investments, training, technology and other means - the latent indigenous resources at grass-roots levels. There has, therefore, been a welcome start to encourage participatory planning and programmes that build from below.

A modest Technical Cooperation Programme, designed to give FAO a new immediacy and flexibility in responding to urgent short-term needs of Member Nations, has been established. Despite initial scepticism, TCP is welcomed, specially in the poorer countries. Establishment of country representative offices is in progress. Clearly, this too has support of Member Governments.

There has been, also, a welcome effort by the Director-General to collaborate with regional institutions. Thus, the Heads of Governments of the Association of South-East Asian Nations or ASEAN commended, at their Second Summit Meeting, FAO's budding programmes in population rural development. The various Funds in the Near East have been approached to support vital FAO programmes.

These aforementioned initiatives by the Director-General signal a rededication, a new start and have given FAO, in the Director-General's felicitous phrase, "A new dimension" in carrying out its mandate to assist the rural poor.

It is right to give credit where due and realistically assess the factors in our favour. However, this might tempt us to gloss over the grim, seemingly intractable problems of hunger, malnutrition and mass poverty or the inadequacy of our efforts. As I said before, we could all too easily still be consigned to history's trash can. Estimates of the magnitude of pervasive rural poverty are available. And it is clear that the normal processes of incremental growth and traditional approaches in terms of gross national production will not ease the problem.

Thus, our food situation remains fragile. In the developing countries, the average of food production increase, since the beginning of the 1970s, has been 2.6 percent. This is below the 4 percent target set by the United Nations for this decade. Well over 400 million today are still malnourished. For reasons that are obvious, our world today is increasingly sensitive to human rights. One of the most vital of these rights is the right to adequate food. It may be appropriate, at this juncture, to consider social aspects of these rights by recalling what the Second World Food Congress, held at the Hague in 1970, said: "Food is the first need of every human being - a fundamental human right. But for hundreds of millions throughout the world, that need is not met and that right denied. This is intolerable. "

Let me, however, point out a few ironical aspects of this mass denial of human rights.

The most vulnerable groups affected, for instance, are the millions of small farmers and landless labourers. Yet, these are precisely the men on whom we, in the developing countries, pin our hopes for a food production surge. The most extortionate cost of this hunger is borne by those who can afford it least: the children of our rural poor. Our neat infant mortality tables do not fully document the blindness, tuberculosis, mental retardation and premature deaths caused by hunger and malnutrition. But some of that anguish is caught in the poet's haunting line: "Do you not hear the children crying, O my brothers? Ere sorrows come with the years?"

There are also other troubling trends.

The drop in population growth is just beginning. The momentum of rapid growth, in earlier years, guarantees that many countries represented around this table will see their populations double in less than a generation.

Official commitments of external aid to agriculture slumped by 7 percent in real terms last year. Our workaday world today is dominated by headlines on satellites, laser bombs and other sophisticated weapons. The World Bank estimates that the bills for armament expenditures pile up at the rate of one billion dollars a day. In contrast, the most recent study on doubling of rice production in Asia by provision of adequate irrigation, done by the internationally known economist Saburo Okita, would entail only \$4. 5 billion annually for a 15-year period. We should note, with a sense of sadness, that given our world's priorities we might get the bombs, but not the rice.

The burden of solving the food problem rests basically, of course, with the countries themselves. We know that the resources being made available to agriculture, by many developing countries is far less than needed. Agrarian reform in many areas has been bogged down. The "Green Revolution" may have passed its peak, especially as far as rice is concerned.

This listing of problems could be lengthened ad infinitum. I merely cite some to stress that we need apply ourselves, with far greater commitment than has been shown in the past, to the tasks outlined in this Conference agenda.

The FAO Council, therefore, has appropriately invited. Heads of Delegations, when making their statements in Plenary, to give particular attention to the subject "Investment in Agriculture: Implications at the National and International Level. " In a very real sense, this may be considered the underlying theme of this Conference. The delegations, I am sure, will contribute valuable insights to our deliberations.

To start our discussion may I speak on what has been one of the more neglected aspects of our theme: in this case, the human dimensions of investment.

Many will agree with the Director-General that "one of the key pre-requisites for progress in practically all fields of agricultural development is investment, both from domestic as well as from international sources. " This is the reason why many member countries support the current policy to strengthen within the Organization the capacity to respond quickly to requests for assistance in preparing and formulating projects for submission to funding agencies.

But history can be a good teacher.

And we know that one of the bitter lessons of the late 1960s and the earlier part of this decade has been summed up by a Head of State this way: "You cannot solve a problem by throwing money at it. " It is a candid realization of the limits of money as a development tool. It validly implies the need for a vision, a scale of values, as well as the more subtle management skills, to deal with human constraints on economic development.

Beyond securing loans or equipment, the question facing many countries is: How can they utilize what is their major potential source of investment - namely their human capital which is the hearts, minds and bodies of their peoples to produce their food and other basic needs? This is a perennially renewable resource. It is available in abundance in the developing countries. Yet, daily it runs to waste. There are a multitude of reasons: ignorance, malnutrition, poverty, disease, lack of skill, opportunity and organization. Yet, this is the fundamental capital of mankind. Its mobilization remains the basic and most important challenge of our time.

What can we then, as countries and as an Organization, do to eradicate those factors that constrain this resource from creative activity?

There is no universal panacea to resolve these constraints. Conditions vary from country to country. But we have enough experience now, bought by a generation of -costly mistakes, to distil general principles that should guide our approaches in the future. The key lesson is to build into our national programmes, as well as in our collaborative international efforts, a policy of positive bias in favour of the most seriously disadvantaged sectors of our rural populations.

Conversely, this implies a no less important lesson: the need to pinpoint elements in macro-policies -industry, trade, aid, investment, education, etc. - which do not militate against this policy of "positive discrimination. " These contradictory elements have to be cauterized from national plans as well as programmes.

Hence, we feel that FAO's work must not be straight-jacketed into the narrow, technological field. They must now encompass more the human and social aspects as well. Both Governments and FAO must explore these aspects to the fullest extent possible.

Our accumulated experience shows that many programmes fail because they attempt to do everything at the same time, rather than doing first things first. Thus, there is now a consensus that a rural breakthrough will occur only when a step-by-step approach is followed.

In Asia, we know that the only way of determining what the "the first things" to be done is to consult with the people themselves. Very often, the needs and problems identified by outsiders do not reflect the needs and problems, as seen and experienced by the rural poor. This fact underpins the basic wisdom of the musyawarah consultative process I referred to earlier.

In countries that have mounted effective rural development programmes, we find invariably that they provided for interacting "bottom-up" planning with central guidance. The usual difficulties that programmes of this nature entailed were minimized where there was full participation of people "at the bottom. "

In the coming weeks, we will try to work out, in concrete action-programmes, the principles we have discussed. I am confident that in our common task of easing the problems of hunger and poverty, we can count on each other's cooperation and good will.

Before concluding, permit me to make two brief observations.

First, may I bring to your attention a significant comment from the 1977 Agriculture Survey of the Asian Development Bank: "A deserved sense of cynicism has settled in among the rural poor, and it is only due to the timeless patience of these people, that more upheaval and more revolutionary violence did not materialize during the past ten years. Unless major policy commitments are made, however, one cannot be as sanguine about the coming decade. "

Part of the cynicism obviously is ruled by the fact that, mostly in the past, words have substituted for action; that the liturgy of conferences replaced the hard decisions.

My final observation rests on the fact that in the developing countries the majority of food producers are either small farmers, tenants or landless labourers. They could be, as the Bank report cited earlier warns, tomorrow's revolutionaries. This would be understandable. They are, after all, the main victims of earlier lack of commitment.

I have dealt with some of the fundamental questions with which we must be concerned. May I thank you for the patient listening to my statement. If I have been able to convey to you the significant role which FAO should play in the solution of the immense and urgent problems in world food and agriculture, the responsibility which rests upon us, especially the delegates of member countries of the developing nations, the hope and demand of these nations for concrete achievements of this, the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference, then I will consider myself generously rewarded. I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: May I invite now the distinguished delegate of Brazil, Chairman of the Group of 77, to take the floor.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Chairman, Group of 77): In the name of the Group of 77, I would like to congratulate you most warmly on your election. We are particularly pleased to see that a most distinguished son of a great nation will have the responsibility of conducting our work.

Indonesia has had a leading role in the promotion of development in the Third World. Indonesia has been a pioneer in the past of solidarity among the developing countries. Moreover, Indonesia has already demonstrated great achievements in the field of agricultural and rural development.

This background, Mr. Chairman, and your own vast experience and association with FAO is in our view the best token that the Conference will benefit from a most effective and enlightened leadership. We already have proof of this in the very important statement you have just delivered.

I am quite sure the fundamental questions you touched upon just now will merit priority consideration in our deliberations. I thank you very much, Sir.

CHAIRMAN: May I thank the Chairman of the Group of 77. Now I invite the distinguished representative of Iraq for the Near East.

A. WAHAB M. AL-DAHIRI (Iraq) (Interpretation from Arabic): I would like to congratulate Dr. Hadiwijawa, Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia, on his election to chair the General Conference. We are convinced that the new Chairman will enable the Conference to gain excellent and fruitful results.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Iraq. May I now invite the distinguished delegate of Bolivia for Latin America, please.

M. VARGAS JORDAN (Bolivia): A nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano que me honro en presidir, compartiendo esta responsabilidad con la representación de la hermana República de Colombia, quiero expresar a nombre de mi Grupo, nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones al doctor profesor Toyib Hadiwijawa, Ministro de Agricultura de Indonesia, que ha merecido la confianza de todas las representaciones acreditadas en este magno evento que marca hitos en la historia de FAO, no sin antes expresar nuestra felicitación por la vasta capacidad demostrada por su Director General, que dirige actualmente las actividades de este organismo.

La incansable tarea de dar bienestar a la Humanidad y a los pueblos desamparados y asistirlos en sus horas de angustia, la consideramos como una de las tareas más provechosas que será recogida por todos los desamparados de la humanidad. Estamos seguros de que el profesor Toyib sabrá conducir con sabiduría, capacidad y acierto las deliberaciones de esta Conferencia empleando la verdadera magnitud de ella, en servicio de todo el orbe que cifra sus esperanzas en las determinaciones que se aprueben en el máximo organismo de FAO.

Que estas esperanzas, eminente señor Presidente de la 19ª Conferencia que contemplan todos, con justicia, los pueblos desamparados de la humanidad, puedan concretarse en realidades. Este es el deseo que abraza toda América Latina.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Bolivia. May I now invite the delegate of Belgium for Europe.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi, au nom des pays de la zone européenne, de joindre ma voix aux orateurs qui m'ont précédé afin de vous adresser nos plus chaleureuses félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de cette auguste assemblée.

Je n'ai pas à mentionner l'importance de cette session puisque vous avez vous-même, dans votre discours, souligné tous les aspects des problèmes qui nous occupent. Nous sommes tous particulièrement conscients de l'importance de ces problèmes et nous avons la ferme conviction que, sous votre présidence compétente, nos débats aboutiront aux décisions justes et nécessaires que nous attendons tous.

En même temps que je vous adresse ces félicitations, je voudrais aussi vous présenter, à vous et à votre pays, nos meilleurs vœux et nos remerciements pour avoir bien voulu généreusement assumer cette charge.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Belgium. May I now invite the delegate of the Philippines on behalf of Asia and the Far East.

C. J. VALDES (Philippines): On behalf of the Asia Group I would like to say that we are proud to have one of our colleagues, the Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia, chair this Conference. We have no doubt, knowing his background and knowing the history of Indonesia, that he will contribute not only brilliance but also leadership to this Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 1 of Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Nominations Committee shall propose to the Conference candidates for the three posts of Vice-Chairman of the Conference; seven Member Nations of the General Committee of the Conference required under paragraph 1 of Rule X of the same General Rules; and nine members of the Conference Credentials Committee, as laid down in paragraph 3 of Rule III of the General Rules. The Nominations Committee to make these proposals was elected by the FAO Council in its Seventy-Second Session held from 8 to 11 November, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5(b) of Rule XXIV of the General Rules of the Organization. This Committee met on Friday, 11 November and drew up its recommendations for the posts just mentioned. I shall now ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Mr. Amato, to place before the Conference the nominations agreed to by his Committee.

R. AMATO (Presidente del Comité de Candidaturas): De acuerdo a la elección hecha por el Consejo en su 72º período de sesiones, el Comité de Candidaturas estuvo integrado por los siguientes países: Bélgica, Canadá, Checoslovaquia, Japon, Líbano, Malawi, Malasia, Rwanda, Sudán, Uruguay y Venezuela. Mis distinguidos colegas en ese Comité, me confirieron el alto honor de elegirme Presidente. El Comité sesionó en plena armonía inspirado en el deseo de facilitar los trabajos de esta Conferencia.

Es así que, de acuerdo con el Artículo VII del Reglamento General de la Organización, cumplo el honroso deber de presentar a ustedes las conclusiones de nuestras deliberaciones. En nombre del Comité de Candidaturas me complazco en proponer los siguientes candidatos para los tres Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia:

1. O. R. Borin, Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario de Italia ante la FAO.
2. S. Essimengane, Ministro de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural de Gabón.
3. S. Juma'a, Ministro de Agricultura de Jordania.

CHAIRMAN: We have just heard the proposals of the Nominations Committee in respect of the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference. Are there any objections? If there are none I consider these proposals adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee

2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs C 77/LIM/19)

2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales

R. AMATO (Presidente del Comité de Candidaturas): Los siete miembros del Comité General elegidos son los respectivos representantes de: China, Egipto, Estados Unidos de América, Gambia, Nicaragua, Panama y Rumania.

CHAIRMAN: We have just heard the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee. Are there any objections? If there are none I will consider the seven Member Nations to be duly elected to serve on the General Committee of the Conference.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobad

R. AMATO (Presidente del Comité de Candidaturas): En relación con el Artículo III -Comité de Credenciales, se proponen los siguientes estados: Birmania, Guatemala, Hungría, India, Kuwait, Lesotho, Nueva Zelandia, Sierra Leona y Suiza.

CHAIRMAN: We have just heard the proposals of the Nominations Committee with regard to the nine Member Nations which compose the Credentials Committee. Are there any objections? If there are none I will consider these nine Member Nations duly appointed to constitute the Credentials Committee of the Conference. This completes the report of the Nominations Committee.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobad

R. AMATO (Presidente del Comité de Candidaturas): Con el fin de facilitar la labor del Comité General, el Comité de Candidaturas tomo nota asimismo de que se habían formulado las siguientes sugerencias en relación con las Vicepresidencias de las tres Comisiones de la Conferencia y la composición de un Comité de Resoluciones integrado por siete miembros.

Vicepresidentes de las Comisiones.

Por la Comisión I: Australia, Irak, Marruecos, Nepal.

Por la ComisiónII: Irán, Kenya, Tailandia.

Por la ComisiónIII: Filipinas, Siria.

En lo que respecta al Comité de Resoluciones:

Por la región de:

Africa: Guinea

América del Norte: no hay nominación

América Latina: México

Asia: Bangladesh

Cercano Oriente: Arabia Saudita

Europa: hay dos candidaturas propuestas: Francia/Yugoslavia

CHAIRMAN: May I thank the Nominations Committee for the brilliant work that they have already done. This surely will be of much help to the General Committee. I now invite the delegate of Italy to take the floor.

O. BORIN (Italie): Je suis très sensible à l'honneur que vous m'avez fait en me désignant au poste de Vice-Président de la Conférence. Je considère cela comme un hommage rendu au pays hôte de cette assemblée et je désire vous assurer, en toute humilité d'esprit, que je ferai de mon mieux sous votre égide pour m'acquitter de ma tâche avec le plus d'efficacité possible. Je saisis cette occasion pour, au nom de mon gouvernement, présenter à cette auguste assemblée les vœux les meilleurs pour le succès de son travail et la réussite de son activité.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. I now invite Jordan to speak.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): First I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as Chairman of our Conference. I would also like to thank, through you, all those colleagues who have elected me as Vice-chairman of the Conference. I would also like to say that in the course of the discussions of this Conference I will be entirely in the hands of the Chairman and of the General Committee, and I hope that we will be able to work towards the objectives for which we are meeting here in Rome.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman from Jordan. May I now invite the Vice-Chairman from Gabon.

S. ESSIMENGANE (Gabon): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Ministre, Honorables délégués. Mesdames, Mesdemoiselles, Messieurs: c'est avec émotion que je prends la parole pour vous remercier de tout mon coeur, au nom du peuple et du Gouvernement gabonais, de la délégation qui m'accompagne et du mien propre, de la marque de confiance que vous avez bien voulu me faire en m'élevant au poste de Vice-Président de cette dix-neuvième session de la Conférence de la FAO. A travers ma modeste personne vous avez sans doute voulu honorer mon pays et démontrer aux yeux du monde tout l'intérêt que la FAO nous porte. Vous pouvez être assuré, Monsieur le Président, que je vous apporterai toute l'aide nécessaire et le soutien le plus total dans la mesure de mes possibilités pour la réussite de cette session.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice-chairman from Gabon.

This completes our Agenda for this morning.

The meeting rose at 12. 05 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 05 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/PV/2

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIEME SÉANCE PLENIERE SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1977)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 16. 15 hours,

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 15

sous la présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 16. 15 horas,

bajo la presidencia de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTORY - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is called to order. May I invite His Excellency The Minister of Agriculture of Sierra Leone to take the floor.

B. MANSARAY (Sierra Leone): Mr. Chairman, Director-General, fellow delegates, I must confess that on behalf of the African Group we are very happy that you have given us the floor to express our congratulations on the election of the Chairman for this occasion. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the African delegations to this 19th Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, it is my delightful pleasure to convey to you, Mr. Chairman, our very warm congratulations on your election to the position of Chairman of our Conference. We have no doubt with your sterling qualities, rich and deep experience in various matters relating to agricultural problems you will steer this Conference to a successful conclusion. We assure you of our total support in order that you may achieve this objective, and we are also confident that being a member also of one of the developing states you will share with us and we will also share with you cooperation that will make your election as Chairman a very successful one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: I thank His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of Sierra Leone. May I invite the distinguished delegate of the United States to take the floor.

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): Mr. Chairman I also wanted on behalf of the delegations to the Conference from the North American Region to extend to you our most hearty congratulations for your election to the Chairmanship of this important Conference.

We have many issues here of significance which our Governments regard as crucial to the effort to meet the human needs of the kind that you most eloquently described in your address to us this morning. Your statement has convinced us that the work of this Conference is in excellent hands and we can assure you that the delegations here from the North American Region will give you every support and cooperation in your conduct and leadership of the work of this Conference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, the delegate of the United States of America.

In accordance with the tentative timetable for the Conference as found in Appendix A to document C 77/12, the appropriate items are numbers 3, 4 and 5, respectively Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items and Admission of Observers.

In conformity with the instructions received this morning from the Conference, the General Committee has prepared its first report containing proposals on these three items as well as on other necessary arrangements.

I now propose that this first report of the General Committee be read out section by section for the Conference's consideration. The report will be available as a document by Monday morning under document number C 77/LIM/12.

Will the Secretary-General please read out the first section of the report.

3. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
3. Aprobación del programa
4. Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items
4. Organisation de la session et repartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour
4. Organización del periodo de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa

- 5. Admission of Observers
- 5. Admission d'observateurs
- 5. Admisión de observadores

First Report of the General Committee

Premier rapport du Bureau

Primer informe del Comité General

SECRETARY-GENERAL: This is the first report of the General Committee, the Agenda for the Session.

With reference to the Provisional Agenda set forth in document C 77/1, the General Committee recommends that under item 20, Other Constitutional and Legal Questions, a sub-item 20. 4 be added, reading "Amendments to Conventions concluded under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution - International Plant Protection Convention; International Popular Convention".

The Committee also draws the attention of the Conference to the fact that two additional applications for membership should be considered under item 24, namely that from the Republic of Djibouti and that from the United Nations Council for Namibia. This is explained in document C 77/14 and C 77/14-Supplement 1.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none I declare the section of the Agenda which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Establishment of Commissions and Provisional Timetable of the Session). At its Seventy-First Session, the Council proposed the Arrangements and Tentative Timetable for the Nineteenth Session of the Conference, which were circulated to all Member Nations in early August as document C 77/12. Since then it has been arranged and the Council informed accordingly that the Tenth McDougall Lecture will be delivered by His Excellency Andrew Young, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations.

In addition the General Committee recommends that the informal Meeting of. Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations start on Tuesday, 15 November, in the morning and continue if necessary in the afternoon.

As regards the timetable of the Conference proper, the General Committee recommends the following changes: first, for logistic reasons Commission I start only in the afternoon of Wednesday, 16 November instead of the morning in order to avoid the simultaneous opening of both Commissions; second, that on 18 November, Commission I meet in the afternoon instead of the morning and that Commission III meet in the morning instead of the afternoon. This would give more time for that section of the Report of Commission III to be prepared for adoption on Monday, 21 November. The change will be particularly necessary, if, as the Seventy-First Session of the Council had suggested, the Conference agrees to keep free Monday, 21 November, for the Muslim Feast of Aid El Kabir, in which case the meetings foreseen for Monday, 21 November, will take place on Saturday, 19 November.

The third change concerns Wednesday, 23 November. It is recommended that Item 26. 1, Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council, be taken on Monday, 28 November. This change would permit all elections, that is, the election of the Independent Chairman of the Council, and Council members, to be concentrated on the same day.

The fourth change concerns Friday, 25 November, where it is proposed that Commission II take up Item 15. 3 in the morning instead of Item 15. 1, and Item 15. 1 on Monday, 28 November. This change will avoid having a discussion on relations with the World Food Council and IFAD at the same time in Commission II and Commission III.

Lastly, the attention of the Conference is drawn to the fact that in order to accommodate requests for speaking time by Ministers who will be in Rome only during the first days of the Conference, the General Debate during those first days may need to be prolonged to about 12. 45 hours in the morning and 18. 15 hours in the afternoon, on the understanding that morning and afternoon meetings must start sharply on time. In addition, the Committee recommends an evening Plenary on Thursday, 17 November, from 21. 00 to 23. 00 hours in order that all the requests received are accommodated.

The General Committee therefore recommends that the Conference approve the Tentative Timetable proposed by the Council with the above changes.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General. Are there any comments on this section, Item 4? If there are none I declare the section Item 4, Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items, which has just been read, adopted.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Nomination of Chairmen of Commissions). Appointment of the Chairmen of the three Commissions: in accordance with Rules VII-1 and XXIV-5 (b) of the General Rules of the Organization and as indicated in document C 77/LIM/18, the Council at its Seventy-First Session nominated the following three Chairmen of the Commissions: Commission I - Mr. Juan Carlos Vignaud of Argentina, Commission II - Mr. Johan H. Dahl of Norway, Commission III - Sir Satcam Boolell of Mauritius.

The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm these nominations pending finalization of its own proposals concerning the Vice-Chairmanship of the three Commissions.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none I declare the section that has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Appointment of Rapporteur from Plenary to Commission I) It will be recalled that the Arrangements for the Conference proposed by the Council included the recommendation that, as has been done since the Fifteenth Session of the Conference, the Conference should appoint, upon nomination by the General Committee, a Rapporteur from Plenary to Commission I, to inform the Commission of the salient points made by Ministers and Heads of Delegations in the General Discussion.

As proposed by the Seventy-Second Session of the Council, the Committee recommends that the Conference appoint Mr. Rittershaus of the Netherlands to this post.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If none, then I declare this section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Item 5: (Admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership). As is customary, the Director-General has provisionally invited the applicants for membership to be represented by observers until their admission to the Organization has been decided upon. The Conference will no doubt wish to confirm these invitations.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Admission of New Member Nations). In accordance with the provisions of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization the following eight Applications for Membership had been received by the deadline of 13th October 1977: - Angola, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles.

Under Article II of the Constitution the Conference decides by secret ballot on the admission of additional Member Nations by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, which means effective and negative votes and does not mean the inclusion of abstentions or defective ballots. Membership becomes effective on the date upon which the Conference approves the application.

The Conference should now consider adoption of the Council's proposal to conduct the elections for the admission of the above-mentioned countries at the end of the Plenary meeting of Monday morning, the 14th November.

The results of the vote will be announced at the beginning of the afternoon Session of that same day and the short ceremony of the seating of the new members will follow. As customary, the Chairman will welcome the new members, and each of them may make a very brief declaration of appreciation. In order to save time, the Committee recommends that only one country speak for each Region, and welcome in the same short statement all the new members, all those it wishes particularly to welcome. Should a speech of a controversial nature be made and a delegation criticized for its Government's policies, the Committee recommends that in order to avoid delay and allow the Conference to follow the tight schedule of the day, the Conference allow for only one speaker against and one in favour.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General. Are there any comments on this section?

J, A, BAKER (United States of America): I have no comment other than those made during the General Committee on which I think we have reached understanding.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Are there any other comments? If there are none, I declare the section that has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Attendance by Liberation Movements). In line with the suggestion made at the Seventy-First Session of the Council, observers from the Palestinian Liberation Movement and from the African Liberation Movements recognized by OAU have been recognized by the Conference. The Conference will no doubt wish to confirm these invitations.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations). The list of Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations which have been invited by the Director-General to be represented in an observer capacity at this Session of the Conference is given in Documents C 77/13 and C 77/13-Sup. 1. The invitations to Intergovernmental Organizations which do not have a formal agreement with FAO and the invitations to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have consultative status with FAO are provisional and subject to approval by the Conference. Having reviewed this list, the General Committee recommends to the Conference that the provisional invitations so issued be confirmed.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations).

The Council had recommended that, as at previous Conference sessions, observers from International Non-Governmental Organizations should be invited to attend an informal meeting in order that their views and suggestions on the activities and programmes of the Organization may be reported to the Conference. It has now been suggested that the meeting be held in the morning of Tuesday, 15th November, with a possibility of continuing into the afternoon if necessary. The Council at the Seventy-Second Session nominated Mr. E. Querin, Secretary-General, International Cooperation for Socio-Economic Development, Brussels, to chair this Informal Meeting. The Committee recommends that the Conference accept this proposal.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section ? If there are none I declare this section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Appointment of Independent Chairman of the Council). By the date determined by the Council, that is, 5th September 1977, one nomination had been received for the post of Independent Chairman of the Council, namely: Dr. Bukar Shaib of Nigeria. This single nomination was communicated to all Member Nations by circular letter CF 4/3(d) of 7th September 1977.

Under the terms of Rule XXIII, paragraph 1, of the General Rules of the Organization, the General Committee proposes that the secret ballot for this appointment be held in the morning of Monday, 28th November.

CHAIRMAN: Any comments on this section ? If there are none I declare the section that has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Election of Members of the Council). Rule XXII-10 (a) provides that the Conference, on the recommendation of the General Committee shall - no later than three days after the opening of the Conference Session - decide the date of the election and the date by which nominations must be submitted.

The General Committee accordingly recommends:

- (a) that the election be scheduled to begin on the morning of Monday, 28th November; and
- (b) that nominations for Council seats to be filled at this Session be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference in Room A-140 not later than '18 00 hrs on Thursday, 24th November.

In this connection, the Conference will note in particular paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of Rule XXII, which read as follows:

"3. In selecting Members of the Council, the Conference shall give due consideration to the desirability of:

- (a) including in its membership a balanced geographical representation of nations interested in the production, distribution and consumption of food and agricultural products;
- (b) ensuring the participation in the work of the Council of such Member Nations as contribute in a large measure towards the success of the Organization;
- (c) giving to the greatest possible number of Member Nations an opportunity by rotation of membership, to serve on the Council.

4. Member Nations shall be eligible for reelection.

5. No Member Nation shall be eligible for election to the Council if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years,

7. A Member of the Council shall be considered to have resigned if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding, calendar years, or if it has not been represented at two consecutive sessions of the Council".

All relevant information concerning the seats for which nominations must be submitted are to be found in document C 77/11. Forms for submitting nominations will later be made available.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none I declare the sections that have just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Right of Reply). The Conference, at its five previous sessions, had taken a decision to the effect that, where a delegate wished to reply to criticism of his Government's policy, he should preferably do so on the afternoon of the day on which such criticism had been voiced, after all those wishing to participate in the discussion had an opportunity to speak.

The General Committee recommends that these same arrangements be followed at the present Session.

CHAIRMAN: Any comment on this section ? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Verbatim Records). Under the FAO rules, verbatim records are kept of all Conference plenary and Commission meetings, and the right of delegates to check the accuracy of the records of their interventions is specially mentioned (Rule XVIII - 2).

The accuracy of the records may be maintained by either the correction of mistakes and typing errors, or the amendment of a word or phrase actually used. In practice, such corrections or amendments to interventions are accepted only from the delegation which made them and should be submitted within 48 hours of circulation of the draft verbatim record concerned.

During the 1959 Conference Session the number of heads of delegations wanting to speak in the opening general discussion was greater than the timetable would permit; and a request was made for those who so agreed to insert their statements in the record without delivering them in Plenary. In 1961 and since then this procedure has been formally adopted by the Conference at its sessions.

There have been other occasions also when delegates have had inserted in the verbatim records statements which were not in fact delivered.

While the Committee saw no objection in principle to the insertion of statements in the records when time does not permit them to be delivered, it recognized the difficulties which might arise if no occasion were given to a delegate to exercise the "right of reply" to any, criticism of his Government's policy made in the inserted statement.



The Committee therefore recommends that the Conference continue to permit the insertion of such statements on conditions that:

- a) the Conference, or the Commission concerned, is informed by its Chairman that a statement not actually delivered, or a substantive addition to a statement that has been delivered, is being inserted in the record;
- b) the text to be inserted is in English, French or Spanish, the languages used in the verbatim records;
- c) the provisional verbatim record containing the additional statement is circulated at least three days before the closure of the Session; and
- d) delegations attending the Session can avail themselves of the right of reply by having an opportunity to make, prior to the closure of the session, a declaration relating to the additional statement.

CHAIRMAN: - Are there any comments on this section? If there are none I declare the section that has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Statements by Heads of Delegations (General Discussions)). Having noted the situation outlined earlier, the Committee recommends that a list of speaker be published daily in the Journal of the Conference, in the order in which they will be called upon by the Chairman.

The Committee also recommended that any additional speakers be placed on a reserve list. Speakers on this list will be fitted in if time permits, at the end of the morning or afternoon Plenary Meetings.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? I see none, and declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Statements in Plenary Meetings of the Conference by International Non-Governmental Organizations having Consultative Status). In accordance with Rule XVII, paragraph 3, of the General Rules of the Organization, observers of International Non-Governmental Organizations having consultative status may, with the consent of the General Committee, speak before Plenary Meetings of the Conference. Rule X, paragraph 2 (g) gives as one of the duties of the General Committee to "report to the Conference on any request by a participating International Non-Governmental Organization to speak before a Plenary Meeting of the Session".

Such a request has been received to date from three organizations: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU); International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP); and World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU),

While one of the purposes of the informal meeting of observers from Non-Governmental Organizations, to be held on 15 November, is to permit such observers to convey to the Conference their views in a written report which is circulated to all delegations, the Committee recommends that the Conference concedes speaking time in Plenary to the above mentioned organizations on the understanding that a maximum time limit of 10 minutes will be observed and that in no case will such organizations be given priority in speaking over delegates of Member Nations.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none I declare the section that has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Lastly, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirms all the detailed arrangements for the Session as set out in document C 77/12 recently amended and that the normal working hours for meetings of both Plenary and Commissions be 9. 30 to 12. 30 hours and 14. 30 to 17. 30 hours, with the exception of the first week which we have mentioned. The approved Agenda and the revised Timetable as amended will be issued as document C 77/1-Rev. 1 and document C 77/LIM/21 by Monday morning.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the last paragraph of that section? If there are none I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobado

CHAIRMAN: This concludes the adoption of the First Report of the General Committee which, as I said will be available on Monday morning as document c 77/LIM/12. Before proceeding may I ask the Secretary-General for his announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have two announcements to make. The first one concerns special guests. There has been a large number of delegates and special guests invited to the McDougall Memorial Lecture and the B. R. Sen awards. There will be only very limited space available during the morning session of Monday 14 November. It will therefore not be possible to admit either the public or friends or relatives of delegates, whose understanding and cooperation is requested in view of these special circumstances.

Lastly I want to inform you, with regard to today's Journal about television coverage of this Conference, we have been informed by Italian television that there has been a change in the time of the second edition of the Telegiornale news programme of this evening, which will now start later than 10 p. m., and certainly not before 10. 45,

CHAIRMAN: Now that all items for this afternoon have been discussed, I declare the meeting adjourned.

The meeting rose at 16. 55 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 16. 55 horas

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/PV/3

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

THIRD PLENARY MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(14 November 1977)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9. 45 hours,

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence

de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia de

T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

## INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

## INTRODUCTION ET QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

## INTRODUCCIÖN Y CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

### First Report of Credentials Committee

### Premier rapport de la Commission de verification des pouvoirs

### Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales

CHAIRMAN: I wish to call upon the Chairman of the Credentials Committee to come and give the first report of the Credentials Committee.

H. QABAZARD (Chairman, Credentials Committee): The Credentials Committee, of which I have the honour to be the Chairman, at its first meeting on 12 November, 1977, examined the credentials of the delegations of Member Nations to the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference.

The Committee found 116 credentials valid, and the countries are shown in the list attached to the report. 28 countries have so far not presented credentials. In addition, the Committee considered the credentials of the permanent Observer of the Holy See which we have found valid.

Any other credentials which are received as well as the credentials of the representatives of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and all observers from the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will be examined by the Committee at the subsequent meeting on which I shall report in due course.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman of the Credentials Committee. I understand that this report has already been distributed and the number of the document is C 77/LIM/20. This report was reviewed by the General Committee only this morning.

I will now ask the Secretary-General to read the report of the General Committee.

### Second report of the General Committee

### Deuxième rapport du Bureau

### Segundo Informe del Comité General

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the First Report of the Credentials Committee.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

### Adopted

### Adopte

### Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The General Committee recommends that the vice-chairmanships of the three Commissions be distributed as follows:

Commission I - 4 Vice-Chairmen from Australia, Iraq, Morocco and Nepal;

Commission II - 4 Vice-Chairmen from Canada, Iran, Kenya and Thailand;

Commission III - 4 Vice-Chairmen from Philippines, Syria, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

The Committee recommends that the Conference request the delegations of the countries listed above to inform the Chairman of the Conference at the earliest opportunity of the name of the member of their Delegation which they have designated to serve as Vice-Chairman of a Commission.

The Committee stressed that its proposal of four Vice-Chairmen in each Commission should not, however, be considered as a precedent.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General. Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Admission of New Member Nations) Further to its earlier report on this matter in Document C 77/LIM/12 which has been distributed this morning, the Committee recommends admission of Namibia represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

The Committee further recommends that the voting on the admission of new Members be started immediately after the item is taken up by the Conference, and that any statements delegations wish to make should take place after the voting, with not more than one delegation speaking on behalf to each region to welcome in the same short statement all the new Members, or those which it wishes particularly to welcome.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Assessments of New Member Nations) As indicated in the reports of the Seventy-First and Seventy-Second Council Sessions of June and November 1977, the amounts due in accordance with the provisions of Article XVIII-3 of the Constitution, Rule XIX-3 of the General Rules of the Organization and Financial Regulation 5. 8, would be as follows:

For Angola, Comoros, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles, \$4, 080 each as contribution for the last quarter of 1977, and \$1, 300 each as advance to the Working Capital Fund.

For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the contribution for the last quarter of 1977 would be \$12, 240 and the advance to the Working Capital Fund \$3, 900.

The Committee recommends the above for final decision by the Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted,

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL: (Voting Rights) The Committee noted that the arrears of the Central African Empire, Congo, Democratic Kampuchea, Dominican Republic, Mauritania and Paraguay are such that they have no vote in the Conference, as provided for in Article III. 4 of the Constitution. I must add here there was another country which has paid its arrears to the extent that its voting is possible, just before the opening of this meeting.

That Article also provided that the Conference may permit a Member to vote provided it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nations

With regard to Congo and Mauritania, the Committee, having been informed of the steps taken and to be taken to regularize their positions, recommends that the Conference restore their right to vote.

As the delegations of the other Members concerned had not arrived by the time of the meeting of the General Committee, it requested the Director-General to make contact with their representatives as soon as possible after their arrival in order to review their position with them and report thereon to the General Committee so that it may make further recommendations to the Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobado

CHAIRMAN: The report of the General Committee that the Secretary-General has just read and which has been adopted will be distributed in the course of the day, and the number of the document will be C 77/LIM/22.

PRESENTATION OF B. R. SEN AWARDS FOR 1976 AND 1977

REMISE DES PRIX B. R. SEN POUR 1976 ET 1977

ENTREGA DE LOS PREMIOS B. R. SEN PARA 1976 Y 1977

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the presentation of the B. R. Sen Awards this Nineteenth Session of the Conference is unique in that it is the first occasion when the man you honour is present with us on the podium. (Applause). He needs no introduction, least of all to this distinguished gathering. You know his brilliant career as a senior civil servant and diplomat with this Government. You know his inspiring leadership as Director-General of this Organization from 1956 to 1967. Ten years ago at the Fourteenth Session of the Conference it was decided to create a new permanent FAO activity associated with the name of Dr. Sen and devoted to the goal he served so well.

It is fit I should remind you of the Conference Resolution unanimously approved at this time. This Resolution recognized the eminent services of Dr. Sen to this Organization in raising it to the standard it now enjoys, with exceptional energy and devotion to duty and great competence in the development questions. It considered he had made a unique contribution in creating among the leaders of the world an understanding of the problems of hunger and malnutrition, and the imperative need to accelerate agriculture and general developments.

The Resolution spoke of his magnificent achievement that would be lastingly remembered, and expressed the hope that it would be able to continue to serve the ideas for which the FAO stood throughout the world.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates - I can personally testify to the fact that Dr. Sen has lost none of his exceptional energy, none of his great competence in development questions.

I have frequently called upon him during these past two years for his advice and counsel.

I can therefore also testify that he continues to serve, with profound wisdom and selfless dedication, the ideals for which FAO stands.

Mr. Chairman, before you present the B. R. Sen award for 1976/77 on behalf of the Organization, I feel sure that you and the Distinguished Delegates would wish to acknowledge the presence with us today of the man whose achievement these annual awards commemorate.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Director-General. As I said before, the B. R. Sen Awards were established in pursuance of a resolution of the Fourteenth Session of the Conference. The award is an annual one, and two are presented at each Conference Session. Any official of FAO and the World Food Programme who has served in a field post and programmes undertaken by either Organization is eligible providing he or she has at least three years' service in the field. The recipients are staff members who have made an outstanding contribution to the performance of the country or countries to which they were assigned. This contribution should be clearly identifiable, and it may take the form of technical innovations in agriculture, fisheries or forestry, administration, discoveries of new resources as a result of research survey or other investigations, establishment of training or other research institutions, or performance of many of the other parts essential to FAO or World Food Programme personnel.

For 1976 the winner of the B. R. Sen Award is Mr. Talât Eren from Turkey.

The citation for Mr. Talât Eren is that his service as an FAO Field Officer has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country to which he was assigned. His work in Thailand in assisting in the settlement of nomadic peoples, in promoting better land use practices on critical watersheds and increasing forestry activity and in intensifying agriculture reflects both credit and honour on this Organization and on its partners in the field. In recognition of exceptional dedication and achievement this acknowledgment is gratefully presented. I would now ask Mr. Talât Eren to come to the podium, please.

T. EREN' Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: As an officer of this great Organization, as a forester by profession, and as a Turkish citizen, I am deeply moved by the honour which you have conferred upon me through the B. R. Sen Award. By its reason and magnitude the joy, the pride, satisfaction and honour of this Award cuts across a larger spectrum than my humble personality.

In my several years of national and seventeen years of international services I have firmly believed that honesty, devotion, cooperation and appreciation are the most indispensable strategic elements of any important developmental task. It was with this conviction that I enthusiastically and of my own will accepted a field assignment in Thailand. I wanted to find out how forestry could happily be married to other activities, agriculture in particular, within the context of rural development. It seemed that this was as difficult as eliminating the quarrels between the modern law and pride since the rivalry was almost equally action and deep seated. However, I found very fertile ground, kind people, an interesting and beautiful country and cooperative and receptive administration. Moreover, I had a team of well qualified experts and Thai counterparts. I was encouraged by the cooperation that emerged from various agencies. These were further stimulated by His Majesty the King's interest in our activities. Less criticism, more guidance, firm stands on principle and an honest and sincere interest in rural poor have been our tools in the project implementation. " We respected every profession and listened to every advice from everyone. My Headquarters' experience and my colleagues' invaluable backstopping, especially the support of the UNDP office in Bangkok and regional offices support, has been very instrumental in our activities.

We are far from solving all the problems but through this joint effort some of the difficulties have been overcome and the stage has been set for further developments. Today's ceremony is therefore not only the recognition of our joint effort but also an endorsement of our approach, an approach which should be further refined if greater success in serving the rural poor, in Thailand in particular, and indeed those in every part of the world, is to be achieved. This is both an urgent and the most noble task that faces all of us.

It is an honour and a pleasure, for me especially to know that Dr. Sen, in whose name, as you know, this Award has been established is at this ceremony. I have endeavoured to dedicate myself to his principles ever since I joined the Organization as a junior officer during his term. Before concluding I would like to express my sincere thanks and my appreciation to my colleagues, both Thai and international, whose cooperation and contribution earned this great honour which I would like to share with them as well.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Talât Eren. Before continuing there is a request and I invite the head of the delegation of Thailand to make a brief statement.

S. KOMALABHUTI (Thailand): I wish to express very briefly the appreciation of the Royal Thai Government for the B. R. Sen Award for 1976 which has just been conferred on Mr. Talât Eren.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure that I would like to convey to him the congratulations of my Government on the signal honour bestowed on him in recognition of his outstanding and far-reaching contribution to the national planning and utilization of forest land in Thailand.

Mr. Talât Eren's work in Thailand has been indeed of the most extreme importance, not only on a national level but, on an international level also.

Thailand feels privileged to have had the services of Mr. Talât Eren as Project Manager of the UNDP/FAO project "Mae Sa Integrated Watershed and Forest Land Use" in Thailand for about four years.

In many developing countries, forest destruction is a serious problem especially in watershed areas. But through this tripartite project (FAO/UNDP/Royal Thai Government) and thanks to the leadership of Mr. Talât Eren together with his local Thai counterparts, he has found a way to cope with the problem. He introduced and demonstrated rational land use practices and better cropping systems. He assisted the Thai Government in improving the physical and social infrastructure of the area. His major accomplishment was to improve the welfare of the rural poor. He was also instrumental in the creation of a new interdisciplinary Watershed Management Division of the Forestry Department and in introducing the concept of multiple-use management to the area, and in guiding this Division in an integrated and people-oriented approach to land use. In addition, this project has promoted labour-intensive activities aimed at creating employment opportunities for the hill-tribe farmers as an extra source of cash income.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, let me express the appreciation of the Thai Government, and of my own, for the Award which has just been conferred.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Thailand.

The winner of the 1977 B. R. Sen Award is Miss Jean Ritchie from the United Kingdom. The citation for Miss Ritchie is that her service as an FAO Field Officer has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the countries to which she was assigned. Her work in many countries of Africa in the teaching of home economics, in developing inaugural training courses for women and the training of trainers and in the planning and direction of nutrition, population and rural family programmes reflects both credit and honour on this Organization and on its partners in the field. In recognition of exceptional dedication and achievement this acknowledgment is gratefully presented. I would ask Miss Ritchie to come to the podium, please.

MISS J. RITCHIE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Dr. Sen, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am indeed deeply honoured to be given this Award. I particularly appreciate it because I had the privilege of serving under Dr. Sen when he was Director-General here in FAO.

Dr. Sen inspired the Freedom-From-Hunger Campaign, he intensified FAO's awareness of problems which are arising in this world from rapidly increasing population and the difficulties of balancing food and people. Dr. Sen is not only concerned with the planning and policy aspects of food and nutrition, but he was, and I know still is, concerned with the real human suffering and starvation which hits nations, also the individual families, the mothers and the people.

Our present Director-General, Dr. Saouma, has reaffirmed on many occasions his awareness of the critical nature of the dilemma of balancing food and people and has directed the attention of FAO to this with great vigour. He has focussed attention on the needs of rural women who in fact are in many parts of the world the food producers who will have to be helped if they are in turn going to help to solve the problem of food shortage and malnutrition.



The women of this world - and I am talking about the rural women particularly - not only make a very large economic contribution, for which they are very often not recognized, but they play a very large part in influencing nutritional standards through their efforts in marketing, in food processing, and in storing food. They are the people who are responsible for distributing food within the family and they bear and nurture the children, giving them milk from their breast as well as having the responsibility of home and family care.

Most of the women in rural areas have very little access to the resources needed to improve their farms or to the education and extension needed to improve their skills in farming, in homemaking and in child development. They are very often overburdened with constant child-bearing and they are too busy and too tired to be able to do much to improve the welfare of themselves, their children and their families. Hunger, in spite of a generation of effort, is still with us. FAO estimated in 1975 that 400 000 000 people still did not have enough food for body maintenance, let alone for a lot of hard work; and that 200 000 000 children under five years old were suffering from malnutrition, about half of these from protein-calory malnutrition which is common in the developing world in all the Continents represented here.

We can therefore not afford to delay in a more vigorous attack against hunger, malnutrition and the too rapid growth of population which tends to nullify the advances made by development.

I should like again to express my thanks to FAO for the Award and I should like to say that I feel it should be shared among my colleagues who have faithfully helped me from FAO in Rome and who have worked with me in the field, not only FAO but the other United Nations agencies with which I have been associated as a team member; and not least, the workers in the different countries who have been my colleagues and friends when we were carrying out activities in Africa and in Asia. I am retiring myself in about six weeks but I hope I shall still have the privilege of making some small - however small - contribution to development and to the welfare of women and children in the developing world and assisting rural families to achieve a better quality of life even after I retire.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I thank Miss Ritchie and I now call on the Honourable Delegate of Guinea, the Chairman of the Africa. Group, to make his brief statement.

J. S. CAMARA (Président du Groupe africain): M. le Président, M. le Directeur général, c'est un grand honneur pour moi et pour mon pays qui assume la présidence des représentants permanents africains à Rome auprès de cette Organisation, de prendre la parole pour exprimer notre profonde gratitude à Mademoiselle J. Ritchie.

Nul plus qu'elle ne pouvait être récipiendaire de cette décoration du Prix B. R. Sen, en cette année où la FAO et le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation mettent l'accent sur le problème de la nutrition. Sa contribution dans un secteur aussi important que celui de la nutrition, lorsque l'on sait que près de 500 millions de personnes dans le tiers monde souffrent de la malnutrition, ne pouvait être qu'un hommage rendu à une grande dame qui a consacré plus de trente ans de son existence au problème de la malnutrition dans le monde.

Tous les pays en développement, et les quelque vingt pays africains où elle a servi, lui sont profondément reconnaissants pour son travail, pour sa contribution.

Nous sommes donc très honorés et très fiers de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée pour lui témoigner notre profonde gratitude.

Elle vient de nous dire que très bientôt elle va prendre sa retraite; mais nous pensons que même dans sa retraite, elle continuera à apporter sa part au travail gigantesque de cette Organisation et de tous les pays intéressés à résoudre ce grave problème.

Enfin, pour conclure, au nom de toute l'Afrique, nous voulons lui dire merci et encore une fois grand merci.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Honourable Delegate from Guinea, Chairman of the Africa Group. Before inviting Dr. Sen to take the floor, may I invite Mr. Barnala, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of India, to make a brief statement.

S. S. BARNALA (India): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity you have given to the Indian delegation to say a few words on this occasion. The Awards we have just witnessed are a token of the tribute this world Organization is paying to the significant contribution Mr. B. R. Sen made to the development and progress of this Organization during his Directorship.

Yesterday the Indians in Rome met in a gathering to celebrate the great Indian festival of Divali. If anyone of you had the opportunity of being in India during Divali, the Festival of Lights, you would have seen myriads of small lamps, every lamp representing the hopes and prayers for prosperity in years to come. This reminded me of the years when Mr. Sen was Director-General of FAO, when he lit so many lamps which lighted our path and helped to fulfill the ideals for which this Organization stands. Some of these, like the World Food Programme, conceived and executed during Mr. Sen's Director ship, are true symbols of his vision and foresight. It is not my intention to enumerate Dr. Sen's achievements which are well known, but I wish to touch on one aspect of his life which illuminated his entire career while working in India or with the world Organization. It was his iron self-discipline and complete dedication and total involvement in whatever he undertook. Even today, a decade after his retirement, he and his gracious wife are with us here, which shows his love for this Organization and his continuing dedication to the causes which he served.

The Awards FAO has established in his name to reward the best field workers who have made a noteworthy contribution to agriculture research and development are indeed in line with the best attributes of Mr. Sen. Without dedication and sincere application to duty no field worker can show worthwhile results to merit recognition. The Award is a tribute to all the workers of FAO who are in the forefront of our struggle against hunger and malnutrition. I wish to congratulate the winners of the B. R. Sen Award, which for the first time includes a lady, on their splendid achievement. I also wish to congratulate the Director-General, Mr. Saouma, for inviting Mr. and Mrs. Sen to be present on this occasion and to witness with satisfaction this event.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation wishes to join you and all those present here in offering a salute of love and affection to Mr. B. R. Sen, a noble son of India and a great citizen of the world.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Honourable Delegate of India. I now have the honour to give the floor to Dr. Sen.

Dr. B. R. SEN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a great honour for me to be invited this morning to participate in your proceedings. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and you, Mr. Director-General, for your very kind words of welcome. I had almost a homecoming feeling after this long absence. To the two recipients of the Award I extend my warmest felicitations. It is men and women like them who carry the message of FAO to the field, to the humblest of village homes. It is they who give a true meaning to the work of this Organization.

We are also glad to know that in this great Hall of Nations, women are not - to use an expression by Orwell - more equal than others, but fully equal with men.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates, I belong to a generation that is passing away. It is my generation which saw the horrors of the war, which also saw the emergence of a humanism promising a new world order. The United Nations was created to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. FAO was brought into existence about the same time to ensure humanity's freedom from hunger.

Three decades have since passed. The world today is certainly different, almost unrecognizable from what it was then. Empires have dissolved and nations have sprung into new life everywhere in the world. There is a stirring among the masses never known before, like a giant awakening after a long sleep.

But, Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates, are we any nearer to solving the basic problems of human life, the problem of world hunger in particular? All evidence points to the contrary, compounded as all these problems have been by unprecedented population growth.

Yet there are signs which are encouraging: the cry for a New International Economic Order which was received with dismay and unbelief by the developed countries, that cry is now being taken more seriously.

The cry for social justice for the underprivileged, the poor, the hungry is slowly but surely finding recognition everywhere.

FAO was the first expression of post-war idealism. In recent years new institutions have been created overlapping FAO's functions. But we have to remember - by "we" I mean not only we in FAO but the entire United Nations system - we have to remember that the FAO still remains the primary international instrument for achieving the great objectives set out in its charter.

Already we see a new spirit in FAO -to try and reach out to the rural masses, to help realize the potential which is the greatest asset of the developing countries. Until now the rural masses have remained almost untouched by modern technology and with a few exceptions have had little benefit from planned investment. The poverty in the countryside has led to mass migrations to the cities with grave consequences. This new spirit in FAO coincides with the ratification last year of the United Nations Covenant under the Human Rights Declaration recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. In this new endeavour to reach out to the masses you have a Director-General at the helm of the Organization dedicated and determined, of high integrity, intelligence and grasp of realities.

Mr. Chairman, and distinguished delegates, to that great day when the world will be a happier place for all to live in we look forward with hope. May you succeed where we have failed. May you achieve what has proved so elusive to our generation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

TENTH MCDUGALL MEMORIAL LECTURE

DIXIEME CONFERENCE MCDUGALL

DECIMA DISERTACION EN MEMORIA DE MCDUGALL

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Sen. We will now proceed to the next item on our Agenda, the Tenth Biennial McDougall Memorial Lecture. May I now introduce Ambassador Andrew Young, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations.

A. YOUNG: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General and Dr. Sen.

It is an honour for me to be invited to give this tenth lecture commemorating Frank L. McDougall of Australia who did so much to create this wonderful agricultural arm of the United Nations system. While I was not privileged to know him, I am told that inspiration, imagination, and determination best characterize Frank McDougall. We are often told that this planet is woefully short of persons of the McDougall mould but this view is not acceptable to me. Many others, in all parts of the world, have the visions and aspirations of this noble Australian and I hope and pray they also have his determination.

You Ministers, the Secretariat, representatives of other Agencies, can best remember Frank McDougall by stimulating thought on new approaches among your colleagues, by refusing to accept anything but the very best, and by ensuring that whatever we do or propose in this critical field of agriculture has, at its very base, the fullest consideration of the dignity of man and the rights given him by our creator.

America has its roots deep in agriculture. Our greatness, our failures, our joys and our agonies derive in large measure from these roots. Thomas Jefferson was a democrat, a humanist and a farmer. His role in the birth of our country and in the Declaration of Human Rights derives from his agrarian background and philosophy. American farmers played a vital role in expanding our frontiers westward. Their determination, their courage and their individualism rise from their closeness to and love for the land. America's commitment to human rights and individual liberty owes very much to these agricultural pioneers.

Our economic development in the past and our prosperity today are based in large part on our agricultural abundance. While only a tiny fraction of our labour force remains in agriculture much of our industrial production capability and our export potential would not exist without agriculture.

We are very fortunate that the President of the United States is a farmer. His farm was not run by a corporation, it was a family farm. His hands and his feet know well the red dirt and the clay of the state of Georgia. Bob Bergland, our Secretary of Agriculture, is also a farmer, not an agronomist, not a bureaucrat or an agro-business executive, but a farmer elected by other farmers to the Congress of the United States and then appointed Secretary of Agriculture by the President. Much of the hope that I have for this Organization and our relationship to it and the challenge that we have accepted to end world hunger is due to the faith that I have in the farm leadership of our nation.

Our background and our philosophy, our leaders and our people, make the United States a strong supporter of agricultural development. We believe that international cooperation is necessary if the world's problems in food, nutrition and agriculture are ever to be resolved.

But we know full well also that great mistakes can be made in agriculture. Coming from the southern part of the United States, I am painfully aware that the organization of agriculture can be an instrument of repression and human bondage. The colonial system of agriculture in our south was based on cheap slave labour. Even after the Civil War many elements of this system remained. Hatred of the land continues to contribute to the enslavement of my people, for having divorced themselves from the land, they now find themselves in new enslavement in urban America.

Industrialization transformed the south, its labour, its economic structure and its social organization. Industrialization attracted the poor farmers - black and white - off the land where they could barely scratch a living. Industrialization generated a demand for skilled and educated labour. The blacks of our south could no longer be held down to fuel the profits of absentee landlords. They had to become educated, trained, and proud in order to participate in the industrialization process.

The experience of the southern United States has taught us a lesson. Agricultural development can only succeed in the long run if the rights to land and the social organization that support agriculture production and distribution are fair and just.

We must reorient our thinking towards the land and to the needs of those who labour on the land. Farmers need motivation to do their job. The work must pay. The life must be bearable. If people are to find living in the rural areas attractive, then leaders need to adopt policies that make those areas inviting, and see to it that the total rural environment satisfies. The public can push for this. Many Americans believe now that they can best influence national policy by controlling their neighborhood community. Others are returning to the land, in search of a better way to live.

Our experience has taught us also that many of our urban problems have rural origins; for example, where agriculture is neglected by public officials to the point that people abandon the land and go to the cities to seek a better life. Yet in the cities, life is not necessarily better.

Food is and always has been top-level politics in my country and, I suspect, it has been and is in yours. How many times political leaders would have done better to choose a full granary than a full arsenal, to prevent violence and disruption.

Food and hunger are now very much a part of the international debate between what we call the north and the south. In the past, monarchs, presidents, prime ministers, and generals have risen or fallen with the fluctuations of staple food prices. Hunger knows no homeland; it violates borders, impels

migrations, alienates otherwise loyal citizens. Hunger is said to be a problem of the poor, but the hungry poor, in their anger and frustration, can pull down the rich and powerful.

Food is a right. Our own position as leaders depend on guaranteeing this right. Many of us began our careers with slim waistlines and good intentions. Now we are part of a privileged group, circling the groaning tables of international diplomacy. It is therefore incumbent on us to stay aware: there is hunger and malnutrition, in my own country, in other lands; it can come upon us swiftly.

I grew up in the tradition of civil rights struggles to affirm popular rights. In the U. S. civil rights movement, we used to ask, "What good is it to have the right to eat at an integrated lunch counter if you can't pay the bill?", We knew we had to desegregate public accommodations; we also knew we had to confront the economic barriers to universal human rights.

What more basic right could there be than the right to food? It underpins all other human rights, for • without food there is no humanity, either of body or spirit. Hunger not only saps vitality, it violates human dignity.

Though many of us live with abundance, we are all aware how pervasive hunger is. In the African Sahel even now rainfall and crops are uncertain and the situation grows more ominous daily. In the United States, too, there have been serious droughts in the west and south. Elsewhere, in the midst of natural or political upheavals, farmers do not plant. Although most of the world's granaries are overflowing today, they may not be tomorrow. Even in the midst of plenty, drought and famine are still with us. Experts tell us that a reasonable estimate of the number who are undernourished in our world is five hundred millions. We know that many governments are hard pressed to raise the money to pay for badly needed food imports.

Today, in a period of relative plenty, it is essential to work towards guarantees of the right to food for the world's population. It is time to take stock and plan against future famines.

Billions have gone into food relief in recent years; but relief ends only today's hunger; it does nothing for the long term. The ultimate goal has to be total food security. We have the obligation now to plan preventive measures in both marketing and production that may obviate the emergency sacks of grain and help people devise ways to feed themselves.

Hunger is primarily a problem of the poor and the powerless. The rich somehow manage to get enough to eat. Food is not the only problem of the nomads in the Sahel, the miseries of those sleeping in the overcrowded streets of Calcutta, or of the hungry in Haiti. Poverty is a complex of deprivations, only one of which is hunger. But of all the misfortunes that afflict this planet, surely relief of hunger is the most essential.

Our ancestors were far more at the mercy of natural threats to food production - drought, pestilence, floods and disease - than we need be. We possess many techniques for solving the problems of world, hunger and malnutrition. Today hunger need not, be inevitable. The world can produce enough food for all, within, our lifetime, thanks to the advances throughout the ages including the plough. Production, however, is only one side of the coin. The other is distribution. Who will produce more and for whose benefit? Why is food distributed so unevenly?

In attacking the problem of hunger and poverty, we need to pay special attention to the rural poor. One way to help the rural poor is to increase their self-sufficiency. There are many rural areas which cannot pay for imported food and whose people live on marginal lands in fragile environments. For a variety of reasons they are unable to grow enough food, draw enough water and plant enough ground cover to subsist. My Chinese friends say, "It is good to give fish to a hungry man. It is better still to help him fish for himself. "

Self-reliance, however, is only part of the answer. In food, the world is interdependent. Our common task - to organize this interdependence fairly-is unfinished. Many people feel helpless and angry •before the fluctuations of world food prices, the insufficiencies in the present grain reserve pattern, the vagaries of marketing, the difficulties in establishing grain reserves, the scarcity of capital for investment. Even minimal global emergency food reserves fall short of what many consider sufficient. The poor nations expect a genuine reinforced effort from the richer nations.

We must renew domestic efforts to implement the agrarian reforms necessary to feed the poor. Hard political choices have to be made. Let us terminate land tenure policies which result in unfair distribution of the fruits of the land and inefficient production; credit facilities that benefit rich farmers and ignore the small and medium-sized entrepreneurs; pricing policies which deny low-income

farmers a fair return on their production or place a disproportionate tax burden on them; distribution policies which impede the free flow of vital foodstuffs from areas of abundance to areas of need, even in the midst of famine; and population policies that fail to ensure couples the right to determine the number and spacing of births.

Obviously each nation should ensure that it is conscientiously following policies designed to help the poor achieve their right to food. However, the community of nations collectively has a responsibility to cooperate to improve the international climate for efficient production and distribution and elimination of hunger and poverty:

By a substantial and effective increase in resources transfer devoted to the problems of hunger and malnutrition:

By an accelerated transfer of technology and knowhow with careful adaptation to local circumstances:

By an improvement in the international market for food, reducing the cycle of scarcity and plenty, of high prices that take food from hungry mouths and low prices that ruin farms financially and destroy their access to credit.

The richer nations have done far less than they might to help their poorer neighbors through resource transfers and technological assistance. Governments are supported by constituencies within their own borders, who often neither know of nor care about problems in other countries. Taxes are always too high, and there is little sentiment for using them on projects whose benefits are at best far away and indirect. Conservation is fine for others, but not if it demands a change in one's own style and patterns of life. Protectionism, subsidization of inefficient production and unfair commercial practices still abound. And yet if poverty in general and the maldistribution of the world's wealth are to be corrected we need the courage and wisdom to accept changes, not because they are easy to accomplish but because we recognize their innate justice.

The food producing and exporting countries have a special obligation-to help organize a more effective and stable market for food, to use their food abundance wisely for the international good, to contribute to an effective international system of food reserves and to disseminate their production knowledge to enhance food security for all.

In spite of all that is done by the agricultural exporting nations, there will still be no true independence and freedom without a well-developed program of rural development. Our task is not just to feed hungry people but to involve them in productive capacities. The problem of urban migration, unemployment, and income distribution that plague all of the nations of the world in some form are only exaggerated by food dependence. Rural development can be a key to both food production and the stabilization of our nations in new development patterns.

In this decade, the development plans of many countries received a rude set-back from the rising oil prices. Many nations experienced hunger. We have given much thought to oil and not enough to agriculture. Treated well, the land is an inexhaustible resource, not a depletable one like oil. Renewing itself every growing season, the land can protect us from the worst terrors of want. It is up to us, in the international community of nations, to behave responsibly, using our resources well and effectively for the good of all.

Rome is called the eternal city. It is also the city of our sustenance. The Food and Agriculture Organization here in Rome has been a vital force for international cooperation in agriculture since 1945. It is deserving of our support and close attention. It is our organization and we have the responsibility to make it an increasingly effective force in world agriculture. The FAO/ONU World Food Programme is an increasingly important channel for food aid. The concept of food for work, pioneered by the WFP, can be expanded into one increasingly developmental tool. Yet if food production is to be a development machine, contributing to an agriculture-based rural development strategy, the entire community of international development agencies must be involved.

The patterns of roads and infrastructure in most of the developing world are part of the colonial pattern of exploitation. They were not designed to help the nationals develop. They are still contributing to the enslavement of the people. If this pattern is to be reversed, then feeder roads developed by UNDP, credit availability structured through IFAD and the World Bank, fertilizer, irrigation and rural industrial development must somehow be done in concert. Bureaucratic coordination can also be the death of development. We can get so concerned about protecting our bureaucratic vested interests that we never get to the people with the resources they so desperately need. There is a delicate balance between coordination and creative competition that must be found. I think the principal reason I was invited to give this lecture is that the Director-General and I have a certain affinity for this problem, that we both are willing to be controversial if it in some way will shake loose the bureaucratic lethargy and get the job done. Every country in the world is fighting and losing the battle of bureaucracy. Whether East, West, North or South, we find that we are our own worst enemies.

One of the mechanisms which has emerged as a creative challenge to the problems of bureaucracy is the utilization of the volunteer. As a concept to help the agriculturally less developed nations of the world, I like the idea of national, regional, and perhaps even international volunteers for food production. The idea would be to integrate the very best of the volunteer service concept with the best ideas for promoting efficient, low-cost agricultural productivity and technical cooperation among developing countries. Technical efficiency is as important as voluntary service and might best be built in by an emphasis on both human and technical progress.

Volunteers have many strengths: they are dedicated; they are not a new bureaucracy, for they are temporary, but to be effective, they must be well trained.

For technical services, we have within the UN system itself considerable available back-up. Moreover, since self-reliance, not exports, is the goal, village improvement needs to be kept low-cost.

Such a corps of volunteers could serve where the mechanized techniques of expensive farms, are ruled out. Even if funds were available, mechanized techniques have their limits, particularly in the fragile environments where many of the people most vulnerable to famine live. There, even small shifts in weather or land use can bring disaster. Massive mechanized intervention can even result in great wastes, like the infamous peanut or groundnut scheme in Tanzania, before independence.

Such a national, regional and international food corps would promote small improvements that reduce problems of excessive or wasteful land use, poor crops or stock varieties, erosion, grass burning, inadequate water supply and deforestation. One part might specialize in the needs of rural women, who account for at least half of the subsistence food production of the developing world. Volunteers must have knowledge not only of different agricultural processes, but also of different societies. Village agricultural development requires great sensitivity to local social relations.

Farming takes time and persistence. As outside volunteers withdraw, and the nationals take over, it is important to maintain technical back-up services for some years. Too many village developments have faded away for lack of technical support during a reasonable transition period. Food volunteers would take on tasks in the context of a national plan, through a process which might include dialogue with capital donors. At the outset if the international, regional and national volunteers train together, this could reinforce the national agricultural, educational, research, and extension services. As many of the outside volunteers as possible should come from the developing countries.

Volunteers would be expected to put their hand to the plough, the pump, the wheel. However, their main charge is stimulating villagers to greater production and self-sufficiency to be a part of a self-perpetuating chain of practical agricultural education.

This idea of food volunteers is conceived as a complement to the existing international development structures. Since any organizational planning must be done collectively, I suggest the concept only in broad outlines; it must of course fit into the existing international system and benefit from existing national services.

In our struggle against hunger and malnutrition, a food corps concept is only a step. Who would not volunteer in such a cause? Of course, this cannot answer all our problems. There is no simple single answer to the problem of food security. Working to develop this concept can refresh our dialogue, give us strength to solve conflicts among ourselves, and renew our dedication to alleviating global hunger.

This year I had the good fortune to travel to several African and Caribbean countries. In Jamaica, I met people who said, "Why should a poor country, with good land, import food?" In Guyana I was impressed by the cooperative villages I visited, and by the towns where authorities gave people land and encouraged farming.

Perhaps the most impressive lessons were those from Costa Rica and Ivory Coast. Both are countries with extremely limited mineral resources, yet their development of the land has been the key to all of their industrial development and social progress.

There are still many problems. However food self-sufficiency by these countries is the basis not only for an export potential and earnings of foreign exchange, but also of a new social development and political freedom. Thus, even in bad times, townsmen who have no jobs can still subsist from their own harvests.

Our backgrounds differ in many ways and we have many different viewpoints. As Julius Nyerere has said, "The nations must have the courage to talk about their differences, and must hold fast to the principles of our common humanity".

The basic human need is for a filled bread basket, a bowl of rice, or millet, and for the balancing nutrients of greens, protein, fruit and milk. Our larger objective is to create a global food system, integrated enough to meet everyone's needs for changing conditions of agriculture, and yet producing an absolute increase in the total amount of food so that there is enough to go around. Never before in history have these goals been so attainable and so necessary for the survival of us all. Food security is not just bread for the hungry, it is some guarantee of peace for the world. The patterns of agricultural and economic cooperation which can produce a sugar agreement or evolve a Common Fund also contribute to an interdependence and mutual understanding which limits the potential for starvation, military destruction and civil strife. There is no task which requires more urgency than "the beating of swords into plough shares and spears into pruning hooks". Cruise missiles and backfire bombers don't offer nearly the national security that comes from a full harvest and well-fed, well-educated and productive farmers. All of our cities are exploding with anxiety and discontent while rural opportunity for peace and prosperity beckons.

We can fulfill these goals in our time. American students have begun to focus on an end to world hunger by 1985. It was the creative power of youth in our country which successfully challenged racism and discrimination in the 60s and ended our involvement in Viet Nam in the 70s. Surely the youth of the world with our help can end world hunger in the 80s.

If that dream can be realized, it is not too visionary to believe that true food security for the peoples and nations of this planet can be a reality by the end of this century.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I thank Ambassador Young for the delivery of the Memorial Lecture. May I call on the delegate for Australia, Mr. Ives, to take the floor.

W. IVES (Australia): Mr. Chairman, your Excellency Mr. Andrew Young, Mr. Director-General, His Excellency the Australian Ambassador to Italy and Mrs. Ryan, Distinguished Delegates and Ladies and Gentlemen; I, like Dr. Sen, happen to belong to a generation which is rapidly passing, and perhaps I should point out that for 44 out of the 45 years that Ambassador Young has been alive I have been one of those bureaucrats who I suppose from time to time have impeded the progress which all of us would like to see achieved.



I say this, not to disagree with what Ambassador Young has said, but to indicate what may be a certain bias which you must allow for in my remarks. It has fallen to my lot now on four occasions at four successive FAO Conferences to congratulate the very distinguished speakers who have delivered the McDougall oration. This has been through the sheer accident of my happening to be an Australian and I - not just I but we all, as Australians - are enormously proud of what McDougall did. We are therefore delighted that his name is perpetuated by this oration which is given at each FAO Conference,

I am deeply impressed by Ambassador Young's record, and am particularly impressed by his obvious concern for the future of all mankind. I emphasize "all mankind" and the fact that Ambassador Young is concerned not only about those groups who may happen to share his own particular point of view. I do feel there is a very important point to be taken from that, that in this Conference, representing as it does countries with an enormous range of problems and diversity of view points, we are reminded by Ambassador Young that each and every view point is entitled to full consideration.

Dr. Young is a humanitarian. So indeed was Mr. McDougall, and in that they have a great deal in common. McDougall was a very interesting man. He was a tough character, he had experienced a great deal of personal diversity, he had suffered many hardships, but the measure of the man was that these did not make him bitter, they did not make him angry, they did not cause him to be deflected from trying to achieve something positive and useful. He was very quiet but he was very persistent, and in the end I believe *you* would agree with me when I say he was one of the world's effective people simply because he was prepared to keep on working towards the end which he and others had identified as being in the interests of all mankind.

I was particularly pleased that Dr. Young mentioned, as Dr. Butz did two years ago, that more food for consumers and would-be consumers must begin by providing reasonable conditions for farms, reasonable conditions for farmers whether they own big farms or small farms - and we must all realise farmers are not in a position to be philanthropists. but if in fact we wish them to increase their output then we must provide conditions which make it possible for them to do so.

It so happens that at the present time Ambassador Young's country and mine are both plainly examples of the fact that farmers could produce more food if they were given better prices. This is the very point McDougall considers in that famous phrase of his: "The marriage of food and agriculture will be achieved only when we look at both sides of the problem, " For example, at this very moment both the United States and Australia, together with many other countries, have signed an International Sugar Agreement. The principal reason for this is over-production of sugar, over-production which has caused prices to fall to levels which have become unprofitable for producers in every country of the world, irrespective of the nature of that country.

The result is that in Australia we will accept quite heavy reductions of production. In the United States the Government has already had to raise the price to the consumer by about 3 cents a pound to make it possible for their own farmers to live, to make a bare subsistence, not to make a great deal of money. The same is true of grains, where at the present time there are discussions about an international grains agreement, and the whole problem is that it seems likely that once again there will be surpluses which could lead to ruination of farmers in many producing countries. As I said earlier, farmers are not philanthropists, they have to live, like everybody else in this world.

This is not the moment to stress problems which are going to come before the Conference in succeeding days, but I think that one other general comment would be appropriate. It is undoubtedly a measure of the enormous importance of the responsibilities of FAO that every Conference indicates that the commitments that people want the Organization to accept, the tasks that most of us agree should be undertaken, are always far in excess of the budget that we give to our Director-General to do these things. Each Conference has seen this situation. This Conference, I am certain, will be no exception. So we have the difficult decision of deciding what is to come first, where our priorities lie.

Distinguished delegates, this is no different from the problem that you and I have back in our own countries. I am not a Minister, I am only a Permanent Secretary, but as a humble technician it is my task every year to try to make inadequate resources cope with the multiplicity of jobs that have to be done. Our problem here is no different, except that I would suggest that the resources are smaller, the tasks are greater. I think that our Director-General and his senior colleagues are to be congratulated upon the analytical approach that they have adopted.

Now I want to indulge in one piece of special pleading. I, like many of you, are enormously impressed by the potential of the programme that the Director-General has proposed concerning the reduction, and where possible the avoidance, of post-harvest losses of food. The task is one that has received a lot of attention, which has been the subject of a lot of detailed technical study, and clearly is one which deserves very high priority, in fact I would almost dare to say top priority.

If I may indulge in still further special pleading may I suggest that without excluding other areas of urgent storage problems, the problems of storing rice under the conditions that usually exist in South East Asia undoubtedly are matters which warrant our special attention. In my judgment - I emphasize in my judgment only - very early effective action to reduce the losses which now lead to unnecessary lack of food and malnutrition are necessary.

Thank you for this opportunity to express the appreciation of Australia of yet another McDougall oration. May I say that Australia will be anxious to offer all the technical cooperation that it can in the discussion and in the action that may take place at this Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

#### PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

#### QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS

#### PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

24. Applications for Membership in the Organization: Angola, Comores, Dem. People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles
24. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation: Angola, Comores, Republique démo-cratique populaire de Corée, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibie, Sao Tome-et-Principe, Seychelles
24. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización: Angola, Comoras, Corea, República Democrática Popular de, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Santo Tome y Príncipe, Seychelles

CHAIRMAN: We will now proceed to the next item on our agenda. The Conference will now vote on the admission as Member Nations of the Organization of the following eight countries: Angola, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tome and Principe and Seychelles. I should recall that this vote is governed by Article II - 2 of the FAO Constitution which reads:

"The Conference may by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present, decide to admit as an additional Member of the Organization any nation which has submitted an application for membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that it will accept the obligations of the Constitution as in force at the time of admission. "

I will now call on the Secretariat to give details of the voting procedures.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Vous trouverez tous les renseignements concernant les scrutins dans les deux documents déjà distribués sous les cotes C 77/INF 7 et C 77/INF 2. Les sections 5 & 6 du document C 77/INF 2 contiennent respectivement les dispositions relatives au vote, les procédures de vote, et le document C 77/INF 7 donne les détails sur les procédures régissant l'admission de nouveaux Etats Membres.

Aux fins du scrutin, les délégués recevront 8 bulletins de vote, un pour chacune des demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre. Ces bulletins portent 3 cases marquées "OUI", "NON", "ABSTENTION". Pour voter, les délégués feront une croix dans la case correspondant à leur choix.

Aux termes de l'article XII. 4 c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront comptés comme abstentions.

Aux termes de l'alinéa 4 d) du même article, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication et aucun signe autres que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

CHAIRMAN: In accordance with Article II - 2 of the FAO Constitution and the provision of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least sixty-eight (68) Member Nations must be represented and present in the hall at this time. I have requested the officers in charge of the election to carry out a count and I am told that at this moment 123 delegations of Member Nations are present in this hall. We may therefore proceed to voting. May I remind you that in accordance with paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connexion with the voting. In accordance with paragraph 9 (c) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization the Chairman of the Conference appoints two tellers from among the delegates or representatives, or their alternates. I would therefore request the delegates of Barbados and New Zealand to serve as tellers for this election. Would these two delegates please proceed to the voting area? I will now ask the Assistant Secretary to call all delegations in alphabetical order to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, voting has now been completed. The tellers with the assistance of the Officer-in-Charge of the election will now count the ballot papers, and the results of the election will be announced at the beginning of this afternoon's meeting. The new Member Nations admitted to the Organization will then formally take their places in this hall.

The meeting rose at 12. 00 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 00 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/4

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(14 November 1977)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15. 15 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance planiere est ouverte à 15 h 15 sous la présidence

de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 15. 15 horas, bajo la presidencia de

T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: I call the first Plenary Meeting to order. May I ask the Secretary-General to make some announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Before proceeding to read the results of the votes this morning, I would like to draw attention to the fact that the Conference Revised Time-Table now appears in document C 77/LIM/21. It supersedes the timetable which appeared in C 77/12, as agreed by the Conference last Saturday on the recommendation of its General Committee.

I would draw attention in particular to the fact that the Conference has recognized the need for an evening session of the Plenary on Thursday, 17th November, from 9. 00 to 11. 00 hrs. p. m. in order to continue the general discussion.

Also Saturday, the 19th - that is next Saturday - will be an additional working day for the Conference instead of Monday, 21st November. The Conference will not meet on Monday, the 21st. All meetings originally scheduled for Monday will, therefore, take place on Saturday. The speakers in the general debate originally scheduled for Monday will speak on Saturday instead in the same order.

#### PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

#### QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

#### PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuacion)

24. Applications for Membership in the Organizations: Angola, Comoros, Pern. People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles (continued)
24. Demandes d'admission à Ta qualite de Membre de l'Organisation: Angola, Comores, République démocratique populaire de Corée, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibie, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Seychelles (suite)
24. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización: Angola, Comoras, Corea, República Democrática Popular de, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Santo Tomé y Príncipe, Seychelles (continuacion)

CHAIRMAN: I have now received the report of this morning's balloting for the election of new members. The results are as follows:

REPORT OF BALLOT ON ADMISSION OF MEMBERS  
RESULTAT DU TOUR DE SCRUTIN SUR L'ADMISSION DES MEMBRES  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION SOBRE LA ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

ADMISSION OF ANGOLA ADMISSION DE ANGOLA ADMISION DE ANGOLA			
1. Number of ballot papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas		....127.....	
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	.....1.....		5. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida
			.....80.....
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	.....6.....		6. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables
			....115.....
4. Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	.....120.....		7. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra
			.....5.....

ANGOLA HAS OBTAINED THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

ANGOLA A OBTENU LA MAJORITE REQUISE

ANGOLA HA OBTENIDO LA MAYORIA REQUERIDA

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT ON ADMISSION OF MEMBERS  
RESULTAT DU TOUR DE SCRUTIN SUR L'ADMISSION DES MEMBRES  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION SOBRE LA ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

ADMISSION OF COMOROS  
ADMISSION DE ETAT COMORIEN  
ADMISION DE COMORAS

1. Number of ballot papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas		128
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1	
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5	
4. Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	122	
5. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida		82
6. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables		121
7. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra		1

COMOROS HAS OBTAINED THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
ETAT COMORIEN A OBTENU LA MAJORITE REQUISE  
COMORAS HA OBTENIDO LA MAYORIA REQUERIDA

Applause  
Applaudissements  
Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT ON ADMISSION OF MEMBERS  
RESULTAT DU TOUR DE SCRUTIN SUR L'ADMISSION DES MEMBRES  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION SOBRE LA ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

ADMISSION OF DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
ADMISSION DE LA REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE  
ADMISION DE LA REPUBLICA POPULAR DEMOCRATICA DE COREA

1. Number of ballot papers issued			
Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués		128	
Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas			
2. Defective ballots			
Bulletins nuls	1		
Papeletas defectuosas			
3. Abstentions			
Abstentions	10		
Abstenciones			
4. Number of votes cast			
Nombre de suffrages exprimés	117		
Número de votos emitidos			
5. Majority required			
Majorité requise		78	
Mayoría requerida			
6. Votes for			
Voix pour		110	
Votos favorables			
7. Votes against			
Voix contre		7	
Votos en contra			

THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS OBTAINED THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
LA REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE A OBTENU LA MAJORITE REQUISE  
LA REPUBLICA POPULAR DEMOCRATICA DE COREA HA OBTENIDO LA MAYORIA REQUERIDA

Applause  
Applaudissements  
Aplausos



REPORT OF BALLOT ON ADMISSION OF MEMBERS  
RESULTAT DU TOUR DE SCRUTIN SUR L'ADMISSION DES MEMBRES  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION SOBRE LA ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

ADMISSION OF DJIBOUTI  
ADMISSION DE DJIBOUTI  
ADMISION DE DJIBOUTI

1. Number of ballot papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	128
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3
4. Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	124
5. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	83
6. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	123
7. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1

DJIBOUTI HAS OBTAINED THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
DJIBOUTI A OBTENU LA MAJORITE REQUISE  
DJIBOUTI HA OBTENIDO LA MAYORIA REQUERIDA

Applause  
Applaudissements  
Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT ON ADMISSION OF MEMBERS  
RESULTAT DU TOUR DE SCRUTIN SUR L'ADMISSION DES MEMBRES  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION SOBRE LA ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

ADMISSION OF MOZAMBIQUE  
ADMISSION DE MOZAMBIQUE  
ADMISION DE MOZAMBIQUE

1. Number of ballot papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	.....128.....		
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	.....1.....	5. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	.....81.....
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	.....6.....	6. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	.....118.....
4. Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	.....121.....	7. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	.....3.....

MOZAMBIQUE HAS OBTAINED THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

MOZAMBIQUE A OBTENU LA MAJORITE REQUISE

MOZAMBIQUE HA OBTENIDO LA MAYORIA REQUERIDA

Applause  
Applaudissements  
Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT ON ADMISSION OF MEMBERS  
RESULTAT DU TOUR DE SCRUTIN SUR L'ADMISSION DES MEMBRES  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION SOBRE LA ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

ADMISSION OF NAMIBIA  
ADMISSION DE NAMIBIE  
ADMISION DE NAMIBIA

1. Number of ballot papers issued		.....128.....	
Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués			
Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas			
2. Defective ballots	.....1.....	5. Majority required	.....78.....
Bulletins nuls		Majorité requise	
Papeletas defectuosas		Mayoría requerida	
3. Abstentions	.....11.....	6. Votes for	.....112.....
Abstentions		Voix pour	
Abstenciones		Votos favorables	
4. Number of votes cast	.....116.....	7. Votes against	.....4.....
Nombre de suffrages exprimés		Voix contre	
Número de votos emitidos		Votos en contra	

NAMIBIA HAS OBTAINED THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

NAMIBIE A OBTENU LA MAJORITE REQUISE

NAMIBIA HA OBTENIDO LA MAYORIA REOUFRIDA

Applause  
Applaudissements  
Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT ON ADMISSION OF MEMBERS  
RESULTAT DU TOUR DE SCRUTIN SUR L'ADMISSION DES MEMBRES  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION SOBRE LA ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

ADMISSION OF SÃO TOME AND PRINCIPE  
ADMISSION DE SÃO TOME ET PRINCIPE  
ADMISION DE SANTO TOME Y PRINCIPE

1. Number of ballot papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas		.....128.....
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	.....1.....	5. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	.....4.....	6. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables
4. Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	.....123.....	7. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra
		.....1.....

SÃO TOME AND PRINCIPE HAS OBTAINED THE REQUIRED MAJORITY  
SÃO TOME ET PRINCIPE A OBTENU LA MAJORITE REQUISE  
SANTO TOME Y PRINCIPE HA OBTENIDO LA MAYORIA REQUERIDA

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT ON ADMISSION OF MEMBERS  
RESULTAT DU TOUR DE SCRUTIN SUR L'ADMISSION DES MEMBRES  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION SOBRE LA ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

ADMISSION OF SEYCHELLES  
ADMISSION DE SEYCHELLES  
ADMISION DE SEYCHELLES

1. Number of ballot papers issued			
Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués			128
Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas			
2. Defective ballots	1	5. Majority required	
Bulletins nuls		Majorité requise	83
Papeletas defectuosas		Mayoría requerida	
3. Abstentions	3	6. Votes for	
Abstentions		Voix pour	123
Abstenciones		Votos favorables	
4. Number of votes cast	124	7. Votes against	
Nombre de suffrages exprimés		Voix contre	1
Número de votos emitidos		Votos en contra	

SEYCHELLES HAS OBTAINED THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

SEYCHELLES A OBTENU LA MAJORITE REQUISE

SEYCHELLES HA OBTENIDO LA MAYORIA REQUERIDA

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the just elected countries to come forward, please? 1/

(Elected countries take their seats)

C. A. FERNANDES (Angola): Monsieur le Directeur general, Messieurs les délégués, Excellences, au nom de la République populaire de l'Angola et de sa délégation à cette 19ème session de la Conférence de la FAO, j'ai l'honneur de présenter nos remerciements en tant que membre de plein droit.

J'ai l'honneur de féliciter Monsieur le Ministre de l'Agriculture de L'Indonésie pour son élection aux fonctions de la Présidence de cette auguste Conférence.

Je voudrais remercier aussi tous les Etats Membres qui ont bien voulu appuyer notre admission à cette Organisation de la famille des Nations Unies.

Nous voulons assurer devant cette Assemblée la volonté de la République populaire de l'Angola de s'engager dans une coopération qui puisse aboutir vraiment à la résolution des multiples problèmes de l'alimentation et du développement du monde rural. Tout au long de cette session, nous aurons l'opportunité de prendre encore la parole pour mieux définir et marquer nos positions.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

A. HARIBOU (Comores): Tout d'abord, je tiens à vous présenter, Messieurs les délégués, mes remerciements et ceux de mes 350 000 frères et soeurs comoriens pour l'admission de notre pays à la FAO. Nous en sommes très honorés.

Quand on parle des Comores, habituellement, ceci évoque deux choses:

Pour les scientifiques, et particulièrement les zoologistes, les Comores c'est le coelacanth, ce poisson extraordinaire qu'on pêche parfois dans les eaux comoriennes et qui est un fossile vivant

Pour les diplomates, les Comores c'est l'affaire de Mayotte. Cette île, vous le savez, est une partie intégrante du territoire national comorien, mais elle se trouve encore sous la dénomination coloniale française. Il s'agit donc là encore, en quelque sorte, d'un autre type de fossile vivant, mais à caractère éphémère celui-ci.

Mais nous ne sommes pas venus ici pour engager une polémique à ce sujet. Je voudrais plutôt présenter très brièvement certaines réalités de mon pays plus fondamentales.

Les Comores, entre 11 degrés et 13 degrés de latitude sud, se trouvent dans l'Océan indien, à l'est du Mozambique et au Nord-Ouest de Madagascar.

Il s'agit de quatre îles d'origine volcanique: Grande-Comore, Mohélie, Anjouan, et Mayotte.

La superficie totale est de 2 166 km<sup>2</sup>. La population totale est de plus de 350 000 habitants dont plus de 90 pour cent de religion musulmane. Plus de 90 pour cent de cette population vit directement du sol et de la mer, et 44 pour cent a moins de 15 ans.

La densité de population pour la surface agricole utile est en moyenne de 350 habitants au km<sup>2</sup> cultivable.

Le revenu national brut par personne et par an est estimé à 160 dollars.

Quatre-vingt quinze pour cent en valeur des exportations sont réalisés par 4 grands produits: l'essence d'ylang-ylang, le girofle, la vanille et le coprah.

Ces chiffres sont significatifs. Pourtant je voudrais les compléter par trois constatations simples:

1/ See below, under this item, the statement by J. A. Baker (United States of America).

Première constatation, les Comores ont des potentialités agricoles considérables. Il s'agit non pas de pauvreté, mais réellement de sous-développement.

Les sols comoriens, d'origine volcanique, sont très fertiles. Ces sols sont caractérisés par la présence abondante d'allophanes, argile dont tous les agropédologues connaissent les potentialités et par une matière organique humifiée qui renforce cette fertilité.

Ces sols sont arrosés par une pluie abondante, la moyenne annuelle globale dépasse 2 500 millimètres par an. Sur les versants du volcan Karthala il peut facilement tomber 10 mètres d'eau par an.

Les températures moyennes oscillent entre 15 et 30 degrés centigrades, avec une moyenne de 15 degrés c, et une température moyenne de 25 degrés c,

Les eaux maritimes comoriennes sont très poissonneuses, même si l'absence de plateau continental ne favorise pas toujours la pêche côtière, les courants marins apportent en quantité ces matières organiques qui attirent les bancs de thon dans notre zone économique.

Nous avons certes un problème grave de malnutrition et un problème de conservation des sols dans certaines zones. L'exploitation coloniale des bandes côtières pour les cultures d'exportation a forcé les paysans comoriens à défricher des zones forestières de manière excessive. Nous avons donc maintenant devant nous un problème de DRS considérable. Mais les potentialités sont là.

Deuxième constatation, nous avons besoin d'aide matérielle concrète, et non plus d'études générales ou de rapports.

Nous nous sommes fixés pour objectif en 1982 d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire sans diminuer pour autant nos recettes d'exportation, et sans pour autant vivre en autarcie. Notre situation est en effet difficile.

Les Comores n'ont aucune ressource minière connue à ce jour.

A cause de l'affaire de Mayotte, la France a coupé soudainement en décembre 1975 toute son assistance technique et financière.

En outre, nous nous sommes trouvés en janvier 1977, dans l'obligation de rapatrier 18 000 Comoriens de Madagascar à la suite du massacre de 1 470 de nos compatriotes à Majunga.

Le 5 avril dernier, enfin, une éruption volcanique à 18 kms au sud de la capitale a dévasté des hectares de terres cultivées et une coulée de lave de type hawaïenne enseveli un village entier.

Cette année, comme du temps de la colonisation, nous devons encore importer plus de 15 000 tonnes de riz pour nous nourrir.

Mais nous savons ce qu'il faut faire pour exploiter nos potentialités et atteindre notre objectif d'autosuffisance alimentaire. Devant toutes ces catastrophes, nous nous sommes serrés la ceinture et nous avons progressé.

En dépit de nos difficultés financières, nous avons continué à verser des sommes importantes à un institut de recherches français privé pour disposer aujourd'hui de cartes de vocation des sols complètes. Ce qui est tout à fait exceptionnel et unique dans nos pays.

Nous avons payé également sur nos ressources propres une vingtaine de millions de francs CFA pour équiper un laboratoire d'agronomie générale qui nous sert de support pour nos opérations de développement rural. Ces progrès viennent d'un mouvement populaire sans précédent pour le développement et je peux préciser qu'actuellement le salaire le plus-élevé perçu par un cadre ou un ministre comorien est de 30 000 francs CFA, c'est-à-dire 120 dollars par mois.

D'ailleurs chez nous, le chef de l'Etat, Ali Soilih, n'est ni un général, ni un colonel, ni un avocat, c'est un ingénieur agronome issu du mandat rural, donc quelqu'un de la terre.

Les deux dernières années ont permis également d'accomplir des réformes sociales radicales, non pas pour le plaisir d'accomplir des réformes mais parce que celles-ci sont indispensables pour notre développement.

La destruction de la féodalité, du pouvoir des notables avec tout son cortège de coutumes archaïques et anti-économiques;

La dissolution complète de la bureaucratie endormie et budgétivore héritée de la colonisation;

La construction d'une démocratie réelle fondée sur l'émancipation des femmes et de la jeunesse;

Le démarrage d'une nouvelle administration légère, décentralisée, constituée de praticiens, qui encadre efficacement les paysans.

Nous avons aussi entrepris entre autres choses déjà trois programmes pour l'autosuffisance alimentaire:

La culture du maïs associée à celle de l'ambrevade, de la banane;

Le développement de la pêche artisanale;

Le développement du petit élevage en milieu paysan.

Donc, malgré toutes nos difficultés nous avons résolu des problèmes de fond et nous avons créé les conditions politiques sinon des bases nécessaires pour le développement économique. Nous avons, certes, besoin d'aides extérieures. C'est vrai. A la condition que celles-ci viennent renforcer financièrement ou matériellement nos efforts. Elles seront alors utilisées efficacement. - Mais nous savons où nous allons et comment nous y allons: nous n'avons plus, besoin d'études générales, de bonnes paroles, de rapports ou de leçons.

Je tiens aussi à préciser - et c'est ma troisième et dernière constatation - que les Comores sont un pays non aligné. Nous appartenons à trois ensembles:

- l'ensemble africain

- l'ensemble arabo-islamique

- l'ensemble des pays de l'Océan indien.

Nous coopérons par exemple avec: les Communautés européennes des pays d'Afrique comme le Sénégal, des pays arabes comme le Koweït, des pays d'Asie comme la République Populaire de Chine, mais nous ne sommes liés à aucun bloc, à aucune grande puissance.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous croyons à la coopération internationale sous toutes ses formes, bi et multilatérales, et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous sommes heureux de notre admission à la FAO.

Je tiens à dire que nous appuierons dans la mesure de nos moyens tous les efforts, ceux des pays membres et ceux du Directeur général, pour faire de la FAO un organisme plus adapté aux réalités et plus efficace. Ce que nous avons entendu du Directeur général, en public et en privé, nous semble très encourageant.

Je vous prie de m'excuser si j'ai été un peu long mais malheureusement la délégation comorienne ne pourra pas rester à Rome pour la durée de la Conférence. En effet, les Comores ont très peu de cadres et beaucoup de problèmes. La saison des pluies commence et il nous faut planter le maïs et être sur le terrain. Nous devons en même temps finir de rédiger nous-mêmes le plus vite possible notre Plan de développement. Nous devons donc rentrer à Moroni et j'espère que vous nous en excuserez. Ceci ne veut pas dire que nous négligerons le reste de la Conférence puisque nos amis délégués des mêmes régions nous tiendront régulièrement au courant de la suite des travaux de la Conférence.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHIN CHUNG GUK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Distinguished Delegates: I would like, first of all, to express my thanks to Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General and fellow delegates for having the 19th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations decide the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into this Organization as a full member.



Allow me also to avail myself of this opportunity to express my thanks to the Italian Government for making every effort to ensure the successes in the work of the Conference and offering convenience to my Delegation in every way.

In external affairs, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as a fully independent sovereign State, holds it as one of basic principles in its activities to defend world peace and (security and develop friendship and cooperation among the peace-loving peoples.

According to this basic principle of the independent and peace-loving foreign policy, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has always respected the Constitution and purpose of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and applied for admission into this Organization with a view to contributing to the development of this Organization.

We have recorded a rapid progress in the agricultural field by vigorously advancing along the road indicated by the "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in our Country", the programme of socialist rural construction, set forth by the respected and beloved leader Comrade KIM IL SUNG, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Our countryside, which suffered from draught and flood and was farmed with mediaeval farming tools in the past, has long ago completed irrigation and electrification and is pushing ahead with chemicalization and comprehensive mechanization, thereby increasing agricultural production every year.

Our country now has diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with more than 100 countries different in social system, and concluded bilateral and multi-lateral agreements with a number of countries to strengthen its ties with them.

We also have entered UN specialized agencies such as the World Health Organization, the Universal Postal Union, the Unesco, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and set up our permanent observer offices in New York and Geneva, and are developing international cooperation.

All these facts clearly show that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea can implement with credit the aim and tasks assigned to it by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and develop cooperation and contacts with other Member States and contribute to world peace and security.

We will, in the future, faithfully discharge the obligations assigned to us as a Member Nation of the Food and Agriculture Organization, firmly basing ourselves on all these achievements made by us, and further strengthen and develop the friendship and cooperation among the Member Nations with the active participation in the activities of this Organization.

In conclusion, I once again express my thanks to Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General and distinguished delegates for having given active support to our affiliation into the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at the present Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

A. M. KAMIL (Djibouti): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, Mesdames, Messieurs, Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter M. Toyib Hadiwijaya, le Président de cette assemblée, pour sa désignation, qui est à mes yeux un des meilleurs gages de réussite de nos travaux au cours de la présente session. Je tiens à vous remercier de l'honneur que vous faites à la jeune République de Djibouti en l'admettant en qualité de membre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture. La décision que vous venez de prendre ne constitue pas seulement pour nous, Djiboutiens, un motif de légitime fierté; elle accroît la confiance que nous avons en notre avenir et renforce notre détermination de résoudre, grâce à nos propres efforts mais aussi avec le concours de la solidarité internationale, les graves difficultés auxquelles se heurte présentement notre développement économique et social.

Nous avons conscience de ce que nous sommes. C'est dans le camp des "Nations pauvres" que se situe la République de Djibouti.

Presque totalement dépourvu de productions agricoles, mon pays doit acheter à l'extérieur les denrées consommées par une population en accroissement constant et rapide. Cette dépendance de l'étranger, dans le domaine alimentaire, est d'autant plus préoccupante que nos moyens de paiement risquent de diminuer au fil des mois par suite de la réduction de nos activités économiques traditionnelles.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture voudra, j'en suis persuadé, nous apporter son concours pour nous permettre de tirer le meilleur parti possible de nos potentialités. Celles-ci sont particulièrement prometteuses dans le domaine de la pêche car les eaux du Golfe de Tadjourah sont parmi les plus poissonneuses du monde.

Développer l'agriculture sur le Territoire de la République de Djibouti, cela pourrait sembler une utopie si l'on ne savait que les techniques modernes permettent beaucoup mieux que par le passé de tirer parti des ressources hydrauliques. Des experts des organismes et pays amis envisagent dès à présent l'implantation, sur d'assez grandes surfaces des cultures irriguées, et leurs travaux auxquels des spécialistes de la F. A. O. souhaiteront, je l'espère, s'associer, sont pour nous un très précieux encouragement.

Il va de soi que la République de Djibouti n'entend pas tirer profit de la solidarité internationale, sans apporter de contrepartie ni souscrire d'engagements. Encore qu'il n'est point la chance d'être exportateur de produits primaires, mon pays se sent concerné par la détérioration des termes de l'échange et par le grand débat Nord-Sud tendant à l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial.

La République de Djibouti a pleinement conscience d'être une nation du tiers monde. L'ensemble des pays qui le composent peuvent compter sur sa solidarité active.

C'est dire la part que nous comptons prendre, dans un esprit constructif, aux futurs débats de l'Organisation qui auront trait à la commercialisation mondiale des produits agricoles.

Pour terminer, je vous transmets les salutations fraternelles du Président de la République de Djibouti et je me joins à lui pour souhaiter très vivement que nos travaux, au cours de la présente session, soient couronnés de succès.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

J. RIBERIO DE CARVALHO (Mozambique): This is our first address at the Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. First and foremost I would like to say that our presence here is an honor for the People's Republic of Mozambique. Our presence here is the result of the Mozambican people's struggle, a struggle that implied heroic sacrifices, leading to final victory under the leadership of Frelimo and to the proclamation of the People's Republic of Mozambique on the 25 of June 1975.

This victory is also a victory for the international community. We want to express our deepest appreciation for the support that was given to us during our most difficult moments, mainly to the African states, to the socialist countries, the non-aligned countries and by all democratic forces all over the world.

We welcome the election of His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture for Indonesia as the Chairman of this Conference. This choice makes us confident that the session will thereby be successfully presided over.

The United Nations has, and is still, giving important support to the struggle against oppression, humiliation and exploitation and is thereby contributing to a gradual materialization of the deepest aspirations of mankind, that is peace and progress.

The main objectives of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations is to support this struggle and FAO in particular has an important role in this work. Through this Organization an invaluable contribution can be given by the international community in the fight against hunger and in the efforts to improve the nutritional level of people, as well as in a broader sense to improve the living conditions for rural populations. We know that this task is by no means an easy one. It is not easy because there still exists political regimes that are oppressive, regimes that practice inhuman policies. Our brothers in South Africa are still subject to race and minority regimes. Colonialism and imperialism are the permanent enemies of the people and our determination against them cannot be discouraged by any intimidation. The complete liberation of Africa, the total liquidation of apartheid are hallowed obligations for African peoples and peoples all over the world. The consciousness of the People's Republic of Mozambique, of its international responsibilities will not allow our people to avoid the sacrifices necessary to meet international duties. In this struggle we are supported by all peoples who are aware of freedom as an invaluable asset. We want to express our sincere thanks for all the help and assistance that has been given to us, in particular the decision taken by the Security Council to call on Member States of the United Nations to strengthen the defensive capacity of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Mr. Chairman, we all know the difficulties that all peoples have to face during the first years after the seizing of power, particularly when independence is gained after a severe and sacrificing armed struggle against backward colonialism.

Agriculture is defined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Mozambique as the basis of the economy. Agriculture must be the source of accumulation to provide the base for industrial development. The role of the agricultural sector in our country is to satisfy the needs of our people, to supply our industries with the raw materials and I to (guarantee a certain level of exportation we need to permit our economic development of our country.

Mr. Chairman, the People's Republic of Mozambique is working with a great determination to establish a just society with a strong economy. That is why we keep our motto "A Luta Continua". The struggle continues against hunger, poverty, disease, misery. Hunger is still one of the biggest and most important problems that mankind is suffering. Within the FAO we have therefore to create and further develop flexible and operational methods to meet the aspirations of people, to enforce the struggle against hunger and to improve the standard of life for people all over the world. Therefore, through the delegates present at this Conference, we would like to greet the peoples you represent and also express our confidence that our fight against hunger, poverty and misery will be victorious. A Luta Continua.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. May I now call on the distinguished delegate of Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

C. B. DJIGO (Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie): Monsieur le Président: je voudrais pour commencer m'acquitter d'un agréable devoir en vous présentant nos chaleureuses félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la Présidence de cette XIXème Conférence de l'Organisation Mondiale pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture.

Le Conseil des Nations Unies, au nom de qui j'ai l'honneur de m'adresser à cette assemblée, se réjouit à plus d'un titre de votre élection à de si hautes fonctions.

Nous nous réjouissons particulièrement que cette admission se fasse sous la présidence d'un pays membre du Conseil des Nations Unies et qui y joue un rôle très actif.

Nous nous en réjouissons également pour la décision historique que vous venez de rendre en déclarant l'admission de la Namibie comme membre à part entière de la FAO et qu'elle y sera représentée par le Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie.

Monsieur le Directeur général, vous me permettrez de saisir cette opportunité pour vous témoigner également nos bien sincères remerciements.

Depuis votre élection, vous n'avez cessé de nous manifester votre solidarité et de nous témoigner votre disponibilité.

Nous tenons à vous rendre hommage pour cela, mais aussi pour le zèle et l'ardeur avec lesquels vous assumez vos fonctions.

Messieurs les délégués, par le vote que vous venez d'exprimer, vous avez confirmé votre volonté de réaffirmer que le problème de la Namibie est la préoccupation de toute la Communauté internationale.

Monsieur le Président, c'est bien un moment plein d'émotion, parce que historique, que nous vivons en ce moment.

Je voudrais, à cet effet, témoigner à l'ensemble des délégations ici présentes l'expression de notre gratitude, au nom du peuple namibien et de son mouvement de libération national la SWAPO, pour lesquels cette élection constitue un encouragement appréciable à leur lutte pour recouvrer leur dignité.

Je voudrais vous exprimer ensuite la gratitude du Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie, autorité administrante légale de ce territoire, investi par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies du mandat d'administrer le territoire de la Namibie jusqu'à l'indépendance (Résolution 2248 (S-V) du 19 mai 1967), pour la confiance que vous venez de lui manifester.

Le processus de notre demande de participer au nom de la Namibie aux travaux de votre institution, a été engagé par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies dans sa résolution 31/149 du 20 décembre 1976 qui stipulait, je cite "prie les institutions spécialisées et les autres organisations et conférences des Nations Unies d'envisager d'octroyer au Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie le statut de membre à part entière pour lui permettre, en tant qu'autorité administrante de la Namibie de participer à ce titre aux travaux de ces institutions, organisations et conférences".

C'est en se fondant donc sur cette résolution que le Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie participe depuis 1976 en tant que membre à part entière à de nombreuses conférences des Nations Unies; je citerai entre autres:

- la Conférence sur la succession d'Etats en matière de traités, qui s'est tenue à Vienne du 4 avril au 6 mai;
- la Conférence internationale des Nations Unies pour le soutien aux peuples du Zimbabwe et de la Namibie, qui s'est tenue à Maputo du 16 au 21 mai;
- la 6ème Session de la Troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer, qui s'est tenue à New York du 23 mai au 8 juillet;
- la Conférence mondiale contre l'apartheid, qui s'est tenue à Lagos du 22 au 26 août;
- la Conférence des Nations Unies sur la désertification, qui s'est tenue à Nairobi du 29 août au 9 septembre.

Le caractère juridique de deux de ces conférences - celle sur la succession d'Etats en matière de traités et celle sur le droit de la mer - aura permis au Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie de participer ainsi au nom de la Namibie à la préparation de documents juridiques d'une nature internationale.

Mais Monsieur le Président, c'est en se fondant également sur cette résolution de l'Assemblée générale que nous venons de mentionner que le Président du Conseil a saisi par lettre du 29 septembre 1977 votre organisation d'une demande d'admission en qualité de membre à part entière à l'Organisation pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture.

Je me dois cependant de souligner que de tout temps, le Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie a entretenu un contact étroit avec la FAO auprès de qui il a dépêché plusieurs missions en juin 1973, en septembre 1974, en avril 1975 et, tout récemment, en avril 1977.

Et ces contacts ont pu favoriser une action concrète de la part de la FAO.

C'est ainsi que la FAO a pu offrir à la SWAPO, au titre de la campagne mondiale contre la faim et de l'action pour le développement, des possibilités de formation dans divers domaines de l'agriculture.

Tout comme la FAO a envoyé des publications à la bibliothèque de l'Institut des Nations pour la Namibie, dont le siège est à Lusaka (Zambie).

Je signalerai également que la FAO a pris, par ailleurs, l'engagement à la demande de la SWAPO, de fournir des Conseillers agricoles pour tenir des séminaires pour les planificateurs agricoles, assurer la formation des professeurs d'enseignement agricole et celle des exploitants agricoles. Et elle a déjà alloué un crédit de 200 000 dollars pour l'assistance aux Namibiens.

Elle nous a encore récemment manifesté sa disponibilité lorsqu'elle a pris l'initiative du Commissaire des Nations Unies pour la Namibie, la FAO a donné la publicité que l'on sait au Décret No 1 sur la protection des ressources naturelles en Namibie, en le portant à l'attention particulière de tous ses organes subsidiaires.

Monsieur le Président et honorables délégués, le problème de la Namibie vous est suffisamment connu pour qu'il me soit nécessaire d'en refaire ici l'historique.

Je dirai cependant que le cas de la Namibie est unique dans les annales. En effet, la question de Namibie résulte des circonstances de la Deuxième guerre mondiale avec la dissolution de la Société des Nations et son remplacement par l'Organisation des Nations Unies. La Namibie reste le seul territoire précédemment sous mandat dans lequel le principe de l'autodétermination n'a pas encore été appliqué. Et cette spécificité de notre cause a appelé des solutions spéciales.

Voilà les raisons qui ont présidé à l'engagement des Nations Unies d'assister ce peuple dans sa lutte contre l'occupation illégale de son pays par l'Afrique du Sud.

C'est là donc la raison dont seul le Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie peut se prévaloir pour demander une admission de la Namibie au sein de toutes les institutions spécialisées de la famille des Nations Unies et d'y assurer sa représentation.

Je dirai cependant, s'agissant du Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie, qu'à ce jour, il n'a pu s'acquitter de ses fonctions en raison du refus persistant du Gouvernement de la minorité raciste d'Afrique du Sud de se conformer aux résolutions pertinentes de l'Assemblée générale et de se retirer de la Namibie.

Le Conseil a dû, afin de remplir son mandat d'autorité administrante légitime de la Namibie, lancer une campagne mondiale pour obliger l'administration illégale sud-africaine à se retirer de Namibie, en conformité avec les résolutions de l'Assemblée générale, pour que les Namibiens puissent exercer leur droit à l'autodétermination et à l'indépendance. Le Conseil se préoccupe néanmoins de représenter la Namibie, de protéger les droits et les intérêts namibiens dans tous les fora internationaux et de mobiliser l'opinion publique du monde entier pour hâter le processus de décolonisation en Namibie. Le Conseil, pour ce faire, oeuvre en étroite coopération avec la SWAPO, le Mouvement de libération nationale de la Namibie, reconnu par l'ONU, et participe activement aux travaux de nombreuses organisations, institutions des Nations Unies et conférences.

En tant que légitime autorité administrante, le Conseil des Nations-Unies pour la Namibie s'est engagé à assurer la véritable libération de la Namibie et il continuera de démasquer et de condamner toute oeuvre tendant à établir un régime fantoche en Namibie. Il entend, à cet égard, souligner qu'il considère comme seule solution acceptable pour la Namibie celle qui vise la mise en oeuvre de toutes les résolutions des Nations-Unies sur la question, et en particulier, la résolution 385 (1976) du Conseil de Sécurité qui "condamne l'occupation illégale continue du Territoire de la Namibie par l'Afrique du Sud" et déclare que "pour permettre au peuple namibien de déterminer librement son propre avenir, il est impératif que soient organisées des élections libres sous la supervision et le contrôle de l'Organisation des Nations-Unies pour toute la Namibie considérée comme une seule entité politique".

Le Conseil des Nations-Unies pour la Namibie, qui est conscient de sa responsabilité particulière vis-à-vis de la Namibie, vous sait gré de l'appui que vous venez de lui manifester dans cette tâche que lui assigne la Communauté internationale. En acceptant, aujourd'hui, la Namibie comme membre de l'Organisation pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture, en décidant que sa représentation sera uniquement assurée par le Conseil des Nations-Unies pour la Namibie, votre organisation aura eu le mérite d'appliquer scrupuleusement ce que 136 pays ont, le 4 Novembre dernier, souhaité au cours de la 32 session de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations-Unies en adoptant une résolution qui, je cite "prie toutes les institutions spécialisées et les autres organisations et conférences des Nations-Unies d'octroyer au Conseil des Nations-Unies pour la Namibie, le statut de membre à part entière".

Monsieur le Président, Messieur les délégués, votre institution, notre institution dorénavant, aura fait oeuvre de pionnier, qui confirme la volonté de la Communauté Internationale d'oeuvrer pour la restauration de la dignité de l'homme namibien.

Et je voudrais, pour conclure, déclarer que le Conseil des Nations-Unies pour la Namibie accepte formellement les statuts de la FAO et prend l'engagement de respecter toutes ses décisions.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Namibia represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia

C. GOMES (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): L'honneur m'échoit de représenter mon pays, la République démocratique de Sao Tomé-et-Principe au moment de son intégration dans l'une des plus prestigieuses des organisations de la famille des Nations Unies, la FAO.

Au nom du Peuple et du Gouvernement de la République démocratique de Sao-Tomé et Principe, je voudrais remercier cette assemblée de nous avoir acceptés dans les rangs de cette organisation qui, depuis des décennies, mène un combat exemplaire et universel contre la faim et la misère par sa contribution positive et dynamique au développement de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche.

Sao Tomé-et-Principe a bénéficié de l'assistance de la FAO aussitôt après son accession à l'indépendance, ceci grâce à la clairvoyance et l'identification avec le principe de cette organisation de M. Edouard Saouma, son directeur général, dont la promptitude d'intervention nous a été très utile.

L'impact de cette assistance a été remarquable, d'autant plus que des problèmes se posent à l'agriculture de mon pays. En effet, nous avons hérité du colonialisme une structure agraire défectueuse, une structure de production agricole axée sur une seule culture et un bas niveau de formation du personnel lié aux activités agricoles. Pour régler cette situation qui est devenue plus aiguë à la veille de l'indépendance avec le départ des cadres portugais, nous avons fait appel à la FAO qui, depuis lors, a engagé des actions permettant d'une part de constituer un organisme d'assistance à l'agriculture, c'est-à-dire un Ministère de l'agriculture, d'améliorer la gestion des entreprises agricoles, d'élaborer des projets de développement de la diversification culturelle; nous avons pu également bénéficier de l'assistance de la FAO pour sauver notre production par une campagne intensive phytosanitaire, mais cependant, étant donné les grandes difficultés que nous éprouvons dans ces premières années de notre indépendance, l'assistance dont nous bénéficions de cette prestigieuse Organisation, est encore insuffisante par rapport à nos besoins.

Sao Tome-et-Principe est un pays dont la seule source de revenus est l'activité agricole. Il a de lourdes tâches à accomplir pour le développement de ces activités.

Les résultats des opérations conjointes de la FAO et du Ministère de l'agriculture de Sao Tome sont très encourageants. Nous souhaitons qu'ils puissent être intensifiés, d'autant plus que, comme je l'ai dit plus haut, nous n'avons pas de compétences et que le problème de formation et de perfectionnement de cadres demeure urgent et prioritaire.

Le peuple et le gouvernement de Sao Tome-et-Principe sont très heureux d'être admis au sein de cette Organisation et s'engagent dans l'accomplissement des tâches et obligations qui en découlent en tant qu'Etat Membre.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

J. D. M. FERRARI (Seychelles): Permettez-moi de joindre ma voix à celles qui vous ont félicité pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Conférence.

Mon pays se réjouit du grand honneur qui vous est ainsi rendu.

J'aimerais exprimer les plus vifs remerciements de mon gouvernement à tous les Etats Membres qui ont " soutenu la candidature des Seychelles. Il est réconfortant de constater la bonne volonté qui s'est manifestée de par les quatre coins du monde à l'égard de mon pays.

La République des Seychelles est un pays jeune, je dirais même plus: un pays, très jeune, qui a vu le jour il n'y a même pas six mois, grâce à la détermination farouche de son peuple en quête de sa libération nationale.

J'ai l'honneur, alors que les Seychelles prennent pour la première fois la parole dans une Conférence des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, de m'entretenir avec des amis de longue date. En effet, du temps de la colonisation, du temps où l'accès à notre identité nationale nous était interdit, la FAO fut une des Organisations internationales vers lesquelles nous pouvions en toute confiance nous tourner pour trouver l'aide nécessaire à la fondation de notre indépendance à venir. Ainsi, par les soins diligents des bureaux du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, nous fûmes en mesure d'envoyer des jeunes Seychellois poursuivre une formation couvrant tous les domaines de l'agriculture. Ces jeunes, avec votre assistance, ont pu, en Afrique orientale, se spécialiser dans les technologies des produits laitiers et l'inspection de la viande de boucherie. D'autres Seychellois, avec les bourses de la FAO, ont ainsi obtenu des diplômes universitaires d'agronomie; au sein de mon Ministère, ils font partager à la communauté des agriculteurs leurs connaissances.

D'autre part, à plusieurs reprises, aux Seychelles, nous avons accueilli et reçu des consultations de la FAO dont les conseils nous ont été fort utiles en agriculture, pour la pêche et pour notre programme de reboisement. D'ailleurs, deux des plus importants projets de mon ministère, une école nationale d'agriculture et la recherche relative à l'utilisation de produits locaux pour la nourriture du bétail, n'auraient jamais existé sans les interventions techniques et financières de la FAO.

D'ores et déjà, il n'est pas fou de dire que ces deux projets vont considérablement influencer les pratiques agricoles seychelloises. On peut même affirmer que le second de ces projets pourrait intéresser tous les pays tropicaux condamnés à des importations ruineuses de nourriture animale, s'ils s'entendent pour suivre leur politique d'élevage.

Ce dernier exemple montre clairement que l'assistance de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, conjuguée à d'autres aides, nous permet d'utiliser au mieux nos propres ressources naturelles, dont la plupart avaient été honteusement ignorées. Le sous-développement - on peut aller jusqu'à dire le manque total de développement - n'est qu'une fraction de la facture que les Seychelles doivent régler en contrepartie du privilège d'avoir eu ces destinées dans les mains d'autres pays.

Les immenses richesses nutritives de nos eaux, les importantes superficies de terres cultivables représentées par toutes les îles de notre archipel, le savoir-faire et la puissance de travail de notre peuple, ont été tout simplement négligés. Il faut bien reconnaître que du point de vue de la puissance colonisatrice, l'exploitation rationnelle de toutes ces ressources devait forcément se traduire par l'accélération du processus d'indépendance des Seychelles. Cette exploitation était donc économiquement négligeable et politiquement à écarter à tout prix. Ceci appartient au passé.

Depuis le 6 juin 1977, les Seychelles sont engagées dans la voie du progrès sous tous azimuts. Le Gouvernement a concentré l'aide internationale sur des projets rentabilisant les ressources naturelles, l'agriculture devenant ainsi le terrain principal d'activités de cette politique. Seul, le mot "révolution" peut caractériser ce que nous avons entrepris en matière agricole, car il s'agit là de la seule et unique solution pour surmonter les années de négligence dont les conséquences néfastes se retrouvent au niveau des terres et dans la mentalité du peuple. Cette révolution ne peut se permettre d'échouer car seule une production agricole intensive, une industrie rationnelle de la pêche et une exploitation mesurée du patrimoine forestier, en un mot, une agriculture structurée, nous mèneront vers l'auto-suffisance indispensable pour le progrès des autres secteurs de l'économie. L'auto-suffisance se traduit pour nos fermiers par une augmentation constante de leur productivité, par une utilisation de toutes les parcelles cultivables. Le Gouvernement s'engage à leur apporter son total soutien. Ceci pourra se faire par l'octroi de subventions, de prêts, et aussi par le biais de conseils et la mise en oeuvre de programmes de perfectionnement. Qu'il soit bien entendu que les conseils et autres aides que recevront les fermiers ne seront que des moyens et ne devront pas remplacer les initiatives personnelles, ni se substituer à la volonté de travail mais plutôt les canaliser vers une production intensive.

Oui, effectivement, nous sommes un pays minuscule, et le programme d'action que nous avons par nos propres moyens mis en place est considérable. C'est la raison qui détermine notre volonté d'être membre à part entière de cette illustre Organisation.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture a toujours répondu positivement à nos besoins, tout comme elle l'a toujours fait pour les pays en développement. Nous demeurons persuadés que nos relations se renforceront au fil des ans.

De notre côté, nous ferons tout ce qui est en notre pouvoir pour contribuer à la FAO et faire partager aux Etats Membres nos connaissances et expériences, aussi minimes soient-elles.

Je tiens à réaffirmer solennellement l'engagement que prend mon Gouvernement autant que possible aux activités de la FAO, et d'accepter les obligations de sa Constitution.

Je dois aussi vous dire la fierté que j'éprouve de savoir que mon pays, en l'espace de quelques mois seulement, a réussi à créer les conditions nécessaires à l'établissement d'une société socialiste qui lui est propre. Là, la route est encore bien longue. Dès maintenant, M. le Président, j'ai la profonde conviction que la FAO sera à nos côtés tout au long du chemin.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Delegate for the Seychelles. On behalf of this Conference, it is my honour and great pleasure to warmly welcome the newly-admitted Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I will now call on the Director-General.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je suis à mon tour très heureux de souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux pays membres de cette Organisation. La taille, le prestige et la raison d'être de la FAO se trouvent accrus par cet apport important de huit nouveaux pays.

Les pays nouvellement indépendants se trouvent le plus souvent dans des conditions d'économie difficile et se placent généralement parmi les pays les plus défavorisés.

Aussi, je tiens à les assurer que la FAO, pleinement consciente de cette situation, accordera une attention particulière à leurs besoins.

Dans cette tâche, je compte sur la coopération de l'ensemble des pays membres.

Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos



CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Director-General. Now I would like to invite the Representatives of the regions.

B. MANSARAY (Sierra Leone): Mr. Chairman, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, and fellow delegates - on behalf of the African group of the delegation to this Nineteenth Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations it is my great pleasure to welcome the new States which have been admitted to the world body of the Food and Agriculture Organization, whose aims and objectives are to promote the well-being of the nations of the world and try to save humanity from the ravages of hunger, malnutrition, disease and poverty. Once again, the Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization have today demonstrated to the world what a united force can achieve. This world body has achieved its human task, and we are hopefully confident that the new Member Nations will cooperate and give full support to the areas which led to the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The African Group extends warm congratulations to those new Members who also form the nucleus of that family of nations. We wish them all success, and also to the Food and Agriculture Organization in its continued efforts for mankind.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

C. J. VALUES (Philippines): Mr. Chairman and Director-General, on behalf of the Asian and Far-East Region we welcome the admission of the new Member States into the membership of the Food and Agriculture Organization. We invite the new Members to join hands with us and help solve the problems of hunger and malnutrition, for we believe that food and agriculture know no social classes, they do not need any political barriers. We can work together, and we look forward to this cooperation.

On behalf of the Asian and Far-East Group we would like to wish each and every one of them all goodwill and success.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. BARETO (Portugal): Monsieur le Président, je desire saluer, au nom du groupe européen, les nouveaux membres de l'Organisation que cette Assemblée vient d'admettre.

Les actes d'admission à la FAO deviennent traditionnels, mais nous avons néanmoins la conscience et le sentiment que chaque fois nous faisons un pas important et nous remportons une victoire supplémentaire.

L'authentique universalité de la FAO sera pour nous motif de satisfaction, d'autant plus que les conditions d'efficacité accrue sont universelles et personne ne doit rester de l'autre côté de la porte.

Mais l'admission de ces nouveaux membres n'a pas comme conséquence le seul élargissement de la FAO. Les pays nous apportent leurs connaissances et leur expérience, facteurs d'enrichissement de l'Organisation.

La plupart des pays admis maintenant étaient récemment encore sous une administration extérieure. Leur admission comme nations souveraines est encore une victoire de leur combat pour l'indépendance et leur permettra de joindre leurs forces aux nôtres pour la lutte contre la faim, la pauvreté et le dénuement.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de m'acquitter de l'honorable devoir de transmettre à deux des nouveaux membres, les Comores et Djibouti, à la demande de nos amis de la Délégation française, un mot particulier d'amitié et de bienvenue.

Je dois encore, si vous me le permettez, faire une autre observation de caractère particulier. Comme représentant du Portugal, je ne peux m'empêcher de saluer fraternellement l'Angola, le Mozambique et Sao Tome-et-Principe qui, après l'arrivée du Cap-Vert et de Gao, représentent un ensemble de pays auxquels nous attachent des liens de culture et de langue et vers lesquels va aujourd'hui notre respect devant leur lutte pour le développement et l'indépendance.

J'ai le plaisir de rencontrer ici parmi les dirigeants ou les membres composant leurs délégations, des personnes avec qui, à la même époque, et dans des lieux semblables, nous subissons une condition similaire, et nous avons une communauté d'idées au sujet de la liberté et du développement.

A tous les nouveaux membres de la FAO, au nom du groupe européen, je présente les plus cordiales salutations et exprime notre espoir qu'avec vous nous puissions encore mieux réussir notre effort pour le bonheur de l'homme.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

F. HAMMER (Hungary): On behalf of the European socialist countries it is my honour to welcome the new member countries of FAO. I am confident that the new members' activity in the Organization will prove to be useful in tackling and solving the most severe problem that FAO is facing, the increasing of agricultural production and the bettering of the food situation, a better life for the poor of the world. May I once again congratulate the new Member Nations and wish every success for the future of their people and governments.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

H. RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART (Cuba): En nombre de nuestro Gobierno y en representación del grupo latinoamericano tenemos el honor de expresar las más sentidas felicitaciones a la República Popular de Angola, al Estado de las Comoras, a la República Democrática Popular de Corea, a la República de Djibuti, al Consejo de Naciones Unidas para Namibia, a la República Democrática de Santo Tomé y Príncipe y a la República de Seychelles.

El ingreso de estos países tiene un significado especial. Hemos sido testigos excepcionales en fecha reciente del surgimiento de países libres y soberanos que atestiguan con su presencia, hoy en FAO, que los últimos vestigios del colonialismo desaparecen de la faz de la tierra.

Con acciones como ésta nos acercamos más a la universalidad que postulan los documentos constitutivos de la Organización y al cumplimiento de los propósitos formulados en la Carta de la Naciones Unidas.

Ha sido condición primera para los países subdesarrollados la lucha por la libertad y la soberanía tras larga dominación colonialista e imperialista para poderse incorporar al seno de Organizaciones que, como FAO, nos ayudan a luchar contra sus secuelas, como son el hambre, la pobreza, el analfabetismo y la discriminación.

Algunos de estos países se defienden aún de agresiones externas y de prácticas neocoloniales, pero estamos seguros que contra unos y otros sabrán triunfar.

Igualmente estamos seguros de que en fecha próxima tendremos la satisfacción de saludar en esta sala a los genuinos representantes del pueblo de Namibia.

Por último deseamos ratificarles a los nuevos miembros de la FAO que nuestra Región está dispuesta a brindarles su colaboración y su experiencia en las labores que juntos desarrollaremos en esta Organización.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

S. SHAKER (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the Near East Group it pleases me to welcome and congratulate the new Member Nations of Angola, Comoros, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles. I would like to express thanks to the countries that have attributed to the achievement of independence by these countries and which have supported their admission today. It pleases me to see the flags of these

countries among us after they have struggled for a long time for the achievement of independence to get rid of colonialism in order to join the international agricultural family represented in FAO side by side with the other developing countries and the rest of the world who are working for the realization of democracy and peace with all countries of the world in order to complete the march towards economic independence for the developing world. We hope that in the near future, we shall witness the flags of other nations which are struggling for their freedom and independence so that justice and equality may prevail all over the world. Once more, we welcome these countries and we express heartfelt congratulations to them and their people.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

W. THOMPSON (Fiji): On behalf of the South West Pacific region I would like to add our words of welcome to the newly joined members. In welcoming them on behalf of our region I would like to assure them of the cooperation and support of the countries in the South West Pacific region in the future activities of the FAO. We wish them all the best for the future.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): On behalf of the members of FAO from the North American region I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new delegates who will now join in the important work of this Organization. We hope that they will all find here a sense of dedication to those common objectives which were this morning eloquently enunciated for us in the McDougall lecture by Andrew Young and which we expect will be further elaborated with equal eloquence this afternoon by our distinguished Director-General.

Canada and the United States join in welcoming into this Organization as full members the People's Republic of Angola, the Comoros, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Djibouti, the People's Republic of Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Republic of Seychelles. We hope that the unique attributes and contributions of these states described to us by their delegates will broaden the scope and the reach of this key Organization of the United Nations System. The membership of these states will permit them to contribute and also to benefit further from the application in their countries of some of the skills that the FAO mobilizes so well in the interests of development and the fulfilment of human needs.

I now wish to make a statement of explanation of vote, which I would have preferred, as you are aware, to register immediately after the vote in the normal fashion. I hope, Sir, that you will in accordance with the understanding reached in the General Committee arrange that it be recorded as an explanation of vote, although I am pleased to say that it contains as well elements of warm welcome.

As the Canadian vote was not identical to that of the United States I am making this part of my statement as an explanation of the United States vote. It contains constitutional views which I am assured are shared by Canada as well.

I wish on the instructions of my Government to make the following statement in explanation of vote. The United States voted against the admission of Namibia as represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia for reasons of a constitutional nature. We take the view that a state or nation in the sense meant by Article II of the FAO Constitution is a territory controlled by an internationally recognized government located in the territory that it controls or administers. We do not consider it wise for the future of this Organization or other Organizations in the United Nations System to take decisions that create confusion as to the meaning of the concept of state or nation as it relates to membership in United Nations Organizations.

For this reason, although the FAO's General Committee took pains to underline the exceptional legal nature of the application of Namibia as represented by the Council of Namibia by characterizing it in this manner, we cannot agree with the decision taken in favour of its full membership. In our view it would have been a wiser course to accept the Council of Namibia as an associate member, a status in which it would have been equally able to pursue the basic purposes of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution cited in its application. That purpose was to encourage specialized agencies to help meet the needs of the people of Namibia currently outside that territory. The United States

Supports that objective. We have participated directly and through multilateral channels in programmes to assist to feed and to train the Namibian people who were preparing themselves for independence. We are happy to see these human needs met by the agencies of the United Nations whenever possible. We will continue to take this position. We hope the day will come soon when the people of Namibia will be represented here by a government created by the application of the principles laid down in Security Council Resolution 385. We are working actively with other Governments to accelerate the pace in this process. Therefore let me stress again that my vote implies no reservation about the presence here of delegates representing the interests and concerns of the people of Namibia. We join in welcoming them in our midst. Our vote is motivated by the serious constitutional concerns regarding the status accorded them which I have described.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to record the views of my Government in explanation of vote.

#### RIGHT OF REPLY

#### DROIT DE REPONSE

#### DERECHO DE REPLICA

CHAIRMAN: Before inviting the Director-General to make his introduction of the FAO Senior Officers I would like to give a specific right of reply to the delegate of France.

L. VELAY (France): Comme c'est la première fois que ma délégation intervient au cours de la Conférence, je voudrais tout d'abord vous donner les félicitations très chaleureuses de la délégation française pour votre élection comme président de cette assemblée. La délégation française désire exercer son droit de réponse à propos de ce qu'a dit cet après-midi l'honorable représentant des Comores.

La délégation française rappelle que dans le strict exercice de leur droit à l'autodétermination, les habitants de l'île de Mayotte ont choisi de rester français et qu'ils pourront d'ici peu d'années confirmer ou infirmer leur décision. Les différents aspects de la question ayant été exposés lors de plusieurs débats de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, ma délégation ne répétera pas ici ce qu'elle a déjà eu l'occasion de dire à ce sujet. Elle tient toutefois à préciser qu'elle se félicite très sincèrement de, l'entrée de la République des Comores dans notre Organisation.

#### Applause

#### Applaudissements

#### Aplausos

### INTRODUCTION BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SENIOR OFFICERS APPOINTED DURING THE BIENNIUM

### PRESENTATION PAR LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL DES HAUTS FONCTIONNAIRES NOMMES PENDANT LE BIENNIUM PRESENTACION POR EL DIRECTOR GENERAL DE LOS ALTOS FUNCIONARIOS NOMBRADOS DURANTE EL BIENIO

CHAIRMAN: May I now invite the Director-General to introduce to the Conference the Senior Officers of directorate and higher levels appointed during the biennium.

DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, conformément à ce qui est devenu une pratique bien établie, je voudrais maintenant vous présenter les sous-directeurs généraux et directeurs que j'ai nommés durant le biennium écoulé.

Tout d'abord, je citerai M. Garson Nathaniel Vogel, qui, le 1er octobre 1977, a été choisi conjointement par le Secrétaire général Waldheim et moi-même pour assumer les importantes fonctions de secrétaire exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial. Avant de se joindre à nous, M. Vogel avait occupé, au Canada, des postes très importants ayant trait à l'industrie et au commerce des grains. C'est ainsi, en particulier, qu'il était, depuis mars 1971, Commissaire en chef de l'Office Canadien du blé.

En venant maintenant aux Sous-Directeurs généraux, je puis vous dire que les personnalités choisies ont été les suivantes, par ordre chronologique:

Monsieur Mandefield, Français, a été nommé à la tête du Département des affaires générales et de l'information, en août 1976.

Comme vous vous en souviendrez, cette désignation a fait suite à la décision de la soixante-neuvième session du Conseil d'élever le statut du Bureau des affaires générales et de l'information, dont Monsieur Mandefield était déjà responsable, à celui d'un département.

En janvier 1977, j'ai procédé à trois autres nominations. La première a été celle de monsieur Moral Lopez, Espagnol, au poste de représentant régional en Amérique latine. Auparavant Monsieur Moral Lopez, qui appartient à notre Organisation depuis 1952, avait été représentant régional adjoint depuis 1969.

La nomination suivante fut celle de Monsieur Watzinger, norvégien, à qui j'ai confié la responsabilité du département des pêches.

Monsieur Watzinger, qui est entré à la FAO en 1967 comme Directeur de projet, était devenu, en 1970, Directeur de la Division des industries de la pêche.

Plus tard dans le même mois, j'ai nommé Monsieur Sar, du Sénégal, Représentant régional en Afrique.

Avant d'assumer ces nouvelles fonctions, Monsieur Sar a longtemps servi comme Chef du service Afrique de notre Division du développement du Programme de terrain, dont il avait ensuite fait fonction de (Directeur, à partir de mai 1976.

En mars 1977 Monsieur Skoufis, des Etats-Unis, a été recruté pour prendre la tête du Département de l'administration et des finances. Auparavant, Monsieur Skoufis a servi son pays dans de nombreux postes diplomatiques; en 1975 il était devenu Inspecteur général adjoint du Département d'Etat, à Washington.

En juillet 1977, Monsieur Nurul Islam du Bangladesh, a été nommé chef du Département des politiques économiques et sociales. Avant d'entrer à notre Organisation Monsieur Islam a occupé de nombreux postes de grande importance dans des universités et des organismes de planification; juste avant sa nomination il était "visiting fellow" de deux universités renommées d'Oxford.

Finalement, en septembre 1977, le Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial, agissant en accord avec le Secrétaire général des Nations- Unies et avec moi-même, a nommé M. Ustün Directeur exécutif adjoint du PAM. Comme vous le savez, M. Ustün, qui est un distingué fonctionnaire de nationalité turque, occupait auparavant, toujours au PAM, le poste de Directeur de la division de la gestion des ressources.

Le nombre des nouveaux directeurs du niveau D-2 étant naturellement plus grand, j'espère que vous me permettrez, Monsieur le Président, de me limiter à une simple énumération des noms, des nationalités et des titres de ceux que j'ai nommés durant les deux années écoulées. Toujours par ordre chronologique il s'agit de:

Monsieur de Mèredieu, français comme directeur de mon cabinet;

Monsieur Davies, de Sierra Leone, comme directeur du personnel;

Monsieur Leeks, Royaume-Uni, directeur de la division des produits et du commerce international; Monsieur Savary, français, directeur de la division des publications;

Monsieur Dudal, belge, directeur de la division de la mise en valeur des terres et des eaux;

Monsieur Georgiadis, Grèce, directeur de la division des services d'organisation et sous-directeur général adjoint du département de l'administration et des finances;

Monsieur Huguet, français, directeur de la division des des ressources forestières;

Monsieur Dobbert, suisse, conseiller juridique;

Monsieur Labon, Pologne, directeur de la division des industries de la pêche;

Monsieur Fernando, du Sri Lanka, directeur du centre d'investissement;

Monsieur Brauer, mexicain, directeur de la division de la production végétale et de la protection des plantes;

Monsieur Mussman, des Etats-Unis, comme directeur de la division de la production et de la santé animales;

Monsieur Narain, de l'Inde, comme directeur de la division des statistiques et finalement,

Monsieur Leslie, australien, comme directeur de la division des industries forestières.

Je voudrais souligner qu'à l'exception de deux sous-directeurs et deux directeurs, toutes ces nominations ont été effectuées par promotion interne, en choisissant des fonctionnaires de notre organisation, riches d'une longue expérience, qui avaient démontré, dans des postes de responsabilité, leurs capacités et leur dévouement aux buts et aux idéaux de notre organisation.

Il va sans dire, , toutefois, que j'ai également tenu le plus grand compte de la nécessité d'équilibrer la représentation des différents pays et régions qui composent notre organisation, tout à la fois lorsque j'ai procédé à des promotions internes et lorsque j'ai eu recours à des recrutements extérieurs.

Tels sont les hommes que j'ai choisis.

Ils ont ma confiance et je suis certain qu'au cours des années ils mériteront également la votre et recevront ainsi votre support et votre coopération la plus entière; d'avance je vous en remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Director-General

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL

DISCURSO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (interpretation from Arabic): Mr Chairman, Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: Two years ago, you did me the great honour of electing me Director-General. Two years ago - by your votes and by Conference Resolution - you gave me your trust and I pledged myself to fulfil your wishes.

As you wished and with the support of your Council, the Organization has been set on a new path. It has been given an added dimension, the one it lacked for so long. Immediate and flexible action is now available, in response to the real needs of our time as expressed by you.

In the process, the Organization's tendency to over-weight in numbers of people and papers has been checked. The measures taken in my review of July 1976 on numbers of staff, meetings and documents have been reinforced in my new budget proposals. This much needed corrective treatment will continue, judiciously and precisely, ,

Transcending the form and the means are the new spirit and purpose which have been given to the Organization. There is now a much greater readiness to understand your own perception of the world and your own priorities in development. In place of leisurely, paternalistic planning, there is an eagerness for concrete and effective action programmes. To this end, I am happy to say, my colleagues at Headquarters and in the field are devoting all of their time and effort with renewed faith and enthusiasm.

Today, the Food and Agriculture Organization is in much better shape, is leaner, fitter, stronger, and more able to cope with the challenges confronting its Member Nations.

We are still, however, at the beginning of our new march on hunger. We have a long way to go and much to do before we can say that we are well down the road to solving the problems of food and agricultural development or, to put it in concrete, human terms, to reducing the number of people suffering from cruel hunger and wretched poverty.

The truth is that the gap between the real and sometimes astonishing achievements which have been made and the aspirations to satisfy basic needs is still awesome. The condition of the greater part of the world's population is shameful. They are the victims of a poverty so gross that it is a constant reproach to the world.

In the rural areas of the developing world, the greater part of the world's population suffers absolute poverty. A billion people are at the lowest levels of existence. Hundreds of millions are lacking in -one or more of the basic needs - enough food, clean drinking water, adequate housing, minimum hygiene.

Infant mortality is eight times that in the developed countries. Those who survive and there are nearly a billion adolescents in developing countries, are the victims, in mind and limb, of a gross malnutrition which will send many to a premature grave. Life expectancy is one-third lower than that of the fortunate who are born in developed countries.

Survival is in any case only a sentence to unrelieved poverty. In the case of females, it is also a sentence to unrelenting and unrewarded toil, to physical exploitation, and denial of even that remnant of dignity that is left to men in such conditions.

These stark facts seem even more cruel in comparison with conditions that have been achieved in the industrialized world.

It is of course true that economic problems and poverty *are* not unknown in the countries which benefit most from the old economic order. It is true that except for a few countries in surplus, recession, unemployment and trade deficits are presently a preoccupation in many capitals. Voices are even raised in favour of a new wave of protection, a new age of mercantilism.

Yet, as pointed out by the President of the World Bank Group in his address in Manila a year ago, the per capita income of more than one billion people in the poorest countries is estimated to have risen by about only \$2 per year over the last ten years. That is a statistical average. And it means stagnation and failure to meet needs.

In the developed nations, the figure was 65 times as great. And their peoples were in absolute terms richer than ever before. In the last 25 years, the gap between the richest and poorest has widened. It has been estimated that at its extremes, the gap is no less than \$8 000 per year per head. That gap cannot be closed in the foreseeable future except for the very few.

At the same time, the 1976 real total of official development assistance fell below that of 1975. Over the last ten years, it fell by about one-quarter of its previous percentage of GN?. During that period the real incomes of OECD countries rose by 40 percent, while in the developing world, foreign-exchange earnings were falling, import costs were rising and debts - now nearing \$200 billion - mounted to almost uncontrollable proportions.

These are the grim lineaments of life in the greater part of the world. This is the unacceptable face of the condition of most of mankind.

It is small wonder that there is great frustration and resentment in the Third World at the lack of progress in creating a New International Economic Order. This was evident in the abortive resumed Thirty-First Session of the General Assembly. It remains to be seen whether the current session of the General Assembly will result in any progress.

We must, however, make our contribution. While the current attention to satisfaction of basic needs and emphasis on self-reliance are justified, decisive and lasting progress will not be made in the food and agricultural sector, particularly towards achieving a stable and enduring system of world food security, so long as the citadels of inequity and injustice remain unassailed and the old economic order remains intact.

I am not, however, in favour of politicization of policy and technical issues which it is the mission of this Organization to resolve. Nor is it profitable constantly to categorize our Member Nations into the richest or the rich, the poorest or the poor. Rather it should concern us that much more can and should be done by the international community as a whole to create a confident economic climate, to establish equitable trading conditions, to relieve the crushing burden of debt, to provide adequate official aid commensurate with capacity, and to undertake cooperative programmes whether bilaterally or, as is often now the case, through the competent multilateral agencies.

In this connection, it is a fact particularly welcome to all of us that in the General Assembly, in the generally unsatisfying talks in Paris, and in the more successful meeting in Manila, the efforts to reach agreement have been-most fruitful in the field of food, agriculture and nutrition.

There is an encouraging degree of consensus that solutions to the world food problems and the improvement of agriculture in developing countries must be matters of primary concern and the responsibility of the whole international community.

It is accepted that the target of 4 percent for the minimum annual growth rate of agricultural and food production in developing countries can only be achieved if, in addition to the efforts of the developing countries themselves, the developed countries and international institutions provide adequate help and resources.

In particular, it is accepted -that the level of official development assistance should be increased; fertilizer production within developing countries should not only be expanded but further assistance in fertilizer supply should be provided from the developed countries, in kind or in cash, through bilateral or multilateral channels, including the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme of this Organization; and an amount of at least \$20 million should be provided to the FAO Seed Improvement and Development Programme. I shall have more to say in a few minutes about this last recommendation.

The concurrence of international opinion is apparently not so strong as regards achieving world food security. Against the target of 500 000 tons of cereals for emergency reserves, 400 000 tons have been pledged; against the annual target of 10 million tons for food aid, although 9.6 million tons have so far been pledged, this compares with nearly 12 million tons actually shipped five years ago.

The world community can now do better than this. For the first time in many years, the opportunity is there to be seized. For the first time in many years, it is possible to make some positive, albeit qualified, remarks about the food situation.

World cereal production for 1977 will be almost as high as the 1976 record. Although wheat production is expected to fall, there will be more coarse grains and rice.

Cereal stocks have increased during the last two years and will probably rise further in 1978. Taking into account the recent disappointing news of the grain crop in the Soviet Union, cereal stocks still are substantially larger than they were at the time of the World Food Conference. They may now rise to around 166 million tons, but at 18 percent of annual food consumption, this would be only around the minimum world food security level. This latest development illustrates the narrow margin which exists between world surplus and world food security.

At the same time, let us not delude ourselves about the underlying problem.

The production figures are not a reflection of even limited success everywhere. In Africa and in the poorest food deficit countries, the situation is still unsatisfactory. Overall, the trend in developing countries still is well below the targets set in DD2. Dependence on food aid has not diminished while the terms of trade of most developing countries have further deteriorated.

There are hundreds of millions who are still malnourished, hungry or starving in all parts of the world. Some are indeed again threatened with famine, notably in the Sahel. Dangerous drought exists in some countries.

Should we then lament the fact that while this is so, the world's biggest wheat producer is taking land out of production?

No one, of course, can positively welcome any step which reduces the world's capacity to relieve the fate of hungry millions.

Yet I have studiously refrained from hasty and simplistic criticism. If, with the aid of good weather, market forces have encouraged high production, they will, without careful intervention, cause a swing back which could be to the greater disadvantage of those least able to resist.

Moreover, there has been one very positive aspect of the new policy. This is the explicit acknowledgment of a modest but notable element of the United States' stock as a world food security reserve. I am happy to note that Sweden has recently pledged 40 000 tons annually to the International Emergency Food Reserve. These are examples which could be emulated by other large producers.

It would be cynical to expect the developing countries to satisfy basic needs without a measurable increase in willing and real help and cooperation from the outside. The amount involved is not great, comparatively speaking. The returns might be somewhat intangible, but they would surely be healthier for the world economy and for world peace.

Let us then make a reality of the International Undertaking on World Food Security. Let us give the World Food Programme the support which it deserves to continue its successes and to fulfil its mission. I appeal earnestly to you all to implement the pledging target of \$950 million and by your contributions to achieve this at the pledging conference next year. Let us try to achieve real progress towards the other targets for international cooperation in food and agricultural development.

Nevertheless, it is not enough to call for more aid in food or other resources.

It remains the ineluctable responsibility of the developing countries themselves to adopt and apply their own economic and social policies, and their own production and price measures, designed to grow more of their own food. It is up to them to distribute work and income more equitably and to succour the poorest and weakest of their own peoples, internally.



To these ends, this Organization will play its part when requested in helping the developing countries to introduce the necessary internal measures and in facilitating a fruitful dialogue and cooperative action with the developed countries.

Despite the modest improvement in agricultural export earnings last year, I remain seriously concerned with the disruptive effect on agriculture in developing countries of the unstable world prices for basic products such as sugar, tea and copra, and of barriers to trade in meat. The most dramatic fall has been in sugar prices which are now below the cost of production even in the most efficient producing countries, and I welcome the new International Sugar Agreement which has been recently negotiated to improve this situation. The Organization will continue to work in close partnership with the UNCTAD and through our own Intergovernmental Groups to help find practical measures to stabilize prices and to enlarge markets for the commodities of special concern to the developing countries.

We will continue to contribute our revised efforts in useful planning against the horizon of the year 2000.

We will continue to apply well thought-out and feasible technical programmes in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, and mechanisms which facilitate the greater flow of capital investment and technical assistance from the richer to the poorer countries.

Thus, in 1976 we identified and prepared 38 projects involving total investments of more than 1.5 billion dollars financed by multilateral and national banks.

This was in addition to our work with the World Bank, whose investment in agriculture, including bold initiatives in lending to rural development projects, has increased under the distinguished and determined leadership of Mr. McNamara. The two of us look forward to the further expansion of our Cooperative Programme in the next biennium.

Also ahead of us is the initiation of IFAD operations, for which FAO is now geared. The FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme and assistance to IFAD will have the highest priority in the work of FAO's Departments and Divisions.

In our technical work, the emphasis on food production in developing countries will continue. Increased agricultural production in the developing countries is essential. There is no other way in which we can attain true food security, growth of income, and thus greater purchasing power for better nutrition.

Technically, it is not difficult to see what needs to be done. Major breakthroughs achieved for production of wheat and rice have to be achieved for other grains. The crops and areas over which better technology is applied must be increased. The battle to reconcile more efficient exploitation of bio-resources with the protection of our environment and ecological balances is never-ending. The UN Conference on Desertification has underlined the needs. The rescue of the Sahel is a continuing challenge.

In the economic and social sector, the diagnosis is clear, even if the detailed prescriptions are often problematic. Science and technology must be supported by appropriate price policies, wider availability of credit, better management, improved marketing, with concern for the small farmer and landless labourer.

Measures for the better nutrition of the rural and urban poor must be pursued with greater diligence and a greater spirit of practicality. FAO will see to this, both alone and jointly with its partners in the new institutional arrangements recently initiated.

There are many programmes discussed in our Medium-Term Objectives and in the Programme of Work and Budget which would merit mention in a longer discourse.

For the moment, however, I would like to refer only to some major technical programmes. In being selective at this point, I am concerned not only with the need for brevity but also wish to emphasize FAO's capacity as the Specialized Agency for food and agriculture to carry out action programmes of concrete benefit to Member Nations financed from a variety of sources.

We have now had considerable experience and not inconsiderable success in such programmes - for milk and meat, genetic resources, fertilizers, food security, and seeds. In this connection, I should like to pay tribute particularly to the northern countries which have contributed generously to programmes and to the Arab oil-exporting countries for their pledges, amounting to \$32 million, for similarly concrete technical projects in the Near East.

I referred earlier to the recommendation of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris that contributions should be provided on a voluntary basis to the FAO Seed Improvement and Development Programme in the amount of at least \$20 million.

I ask that Member Governments should now make manifest the understanding and good will that they have thus shown.

We are without doubt the Organization with the mandate and competence through which this should be done. We have an on-going Programme which was established in 1973 and has achieved concrete successes. Last year, twelve seed projects were in operation in developing countries and contributed to the production of more than 200 000 tons of quality seeds of improved varieties of food, vegetables and pasture crops. For cereals alone, this represents an area of over 1.5 million hectares with the potential for greatly increased yields.

The scope and impact of this Programme can be greatly expanded with more resources.

Also requiring your attention is my proposed campaign for the reduction of food losses. This has been the subject of major discussion in the Committee on Agriculture and the Council. They gave wide and strong support to my proposals as being necessary, urgent, practical and economic.

The question which this Conference has to resolve is principally one of initial financing. I trust that it will be resolved satisfactorily, without controversy or confrontation.

If we can get this programme into rapid operation, we shall be making an immediate impact on the world food situation. The gains can be very high.

Even if we take the very conservative figure of only 10 percent for post-harvest food losses world-wide, this is near to the total projected import needs of the developing countries for cereals and coarse grains for 1985. If we were to succeed in cutting post-harvest losses by the equivalent of only 5 percent of production, this would be equivalent to savings of \$7.5 billion a year in foreign exchange.

This is an immediate prospect. Let us not lose the opportunity to implement a practical, concrete programme, on which there is such unanimity, simply because of the objections of some financial doctrinaires to comparatively minor sums of contributions. After all, the world spent over 300 thousand million dollars on military expenditures in 1976.

In the longer run, we will need to begin the assault called for in World Food Conference Resolution No. 11 on the scourges of trypanosomiasis and tick-borne diseases which affect such a huge area of Africa.

This will be a unique challenge not only to our scientific and technological ingenuity but also to integrated planning and action for rural development. Meanwhile, the challenge of successful rural development in vast settled tracts of land presses upon us more urgently.

No simple formula exists for achieving so large and complex an objective. Among the obstacles are the need to devise technologies appropriate to marginal land, to apply price policies which encourage expansion of production without unduly raising the price of food for the cities, to ensure access by the small farmer to rural supplies and services, to provide sufficient trained personnel with a proper understanding of what will motivate the farmer, and above all, to reach and improve the lot of the poorest.

These are questions which will no doubt be confronted by the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

Agrarian reform is finite but controversial. Rural development too often needs to be a shibboleth, lacking in substance. Both evoke political as well as academic passions. Theories and arguments abound, unless the Conference is very intensively prepared, it will be in danger of dissolving into confrontation and confusion rather than discussion and conclusion.

As regards the substance, I spoke earlier of self-reliance. It is in fact no use telling a starving, workless man or woman or a child to be self-reliant. The call for self-reliance can only have meaning and effect when applied to the duty of governments to seek to create a just society. In a just society, the shameful display of extremes of wealth and privilege, of political and economic power, will not be able to exist. There can be no economic development which can be called successful unless it improves the lot of rural masses. Nor can success occur and take root unless the masses participate in the formulation and implementation of the measures affecting their fate. How to involve them directly in the development process must be a primary concern in devising future strategies.

For this they must have an ideological foundation or a motivation appropriate to their own culture and stage of history, and a morally sound leadership permeating through all levels of social and political organization.

The aim of the World Conference should be to offer useful advice and material help at the international level which will be compatible with respect for national sovereignty, with relevance to different economic and social systems and different stages of development, with regard for auto-reform, with concern for the poorer sections of society, and as far as possible with the mobilization of the masses themselves in constructive effort.

In this connection, we must not forget that the most under-privileged section of the masses are the women. Even when not suffering an unequal share of hardship, they have little or no voice in the determination of their own fate.

I am pressing slowly but surely to improve their status in this House. I appeal to Member Governments to assist me by presenting more female candidates for posts in FAO.

I would not be content if FAO were to be restricted to exhortation, case-studies and planning. We must and we will offer an active, positive and operational service. We will not presume, however, to have an exclusive role. We hope by our position and capacity to lead. But the UN system must make a cooperative effort.

For this undertaking, I have appointed as my Special Representative, Señor Hernán Santa Cruz, whose distinction in terms of intellect, character, and experience in this and other fields need no introduction from me. He will have the support of a small Secretariat. Of course, the whole FAO staff will assist in the preparations, as a matter of priority, and we also hope to benefit greatly from the special Committee of Experts, as suggested by the Council.

In connection with the cooperation which exists within the UN system, I would like to say that over the wider field of development, I have found in recent discussions between the Heads of the United Nations Agencies, which broadly speaking include the same Member Governments and cover all sectors of development, that we all recognize the need for a change in the workings of the system.

There is wide agreement on the need for more effective international cooperation to ensure the best possible use of resources for development.

We are determined to respond and constantly to revise ideas, take new initiatives, and play our full role as Agencies for development in our own right, in the context, however, of a global view of development priorities.

In this regard, the Council has agreed that centralization of operational responsibilities or funds and coordination at all costs cannot provide the necessary solution. On the contrary, the proven strength and worth of the system lies in the diversity of its specialities, the decentralization of its initiatives, and the flexibility of its operations.

In this context, not only the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development but also the new inter-Agency arrangements for nutrition and joint endeavours in other fields constitute a test which we must not fail. It will surely be my constant endeavour to see that this Organization does not fail the test. A proper response to the important issues of tomorrow must not be obscured by the doctrinal, procedural, and methodological debates of today.

This will not only correspond to the duty of the office to which you elected me: I dare also to speak of my own personal faith and sense of mission.

I am determined to work for and with you to ensure by our concern, our vision, and our action that the world food problem was not just the theme for one World Conference, nor merely the pretext for creating new bureaucracies, new debating institutions, new confrontations.

We should not set unrealistic and unattainable targets. Nor should we ignore what has been achieved over the last quarter of a century in which the Third World has, for example, had on average a rate of economic growth unprecedented in any part of the world in the past. I believe we must and can now assist in converting that average into an equitable distribution, internationally and within countries.

Nor do I think we will shirk our duties. If we do, we will be admitting that there is no hope ever of a better life for millions of people. We will be encouraging the onslaught of deep social discord and international disorder.

I believe, therefore, with all my heart in the valid and urgent mission of FAO. My aim and effort is to realize the full potential of the Organization for fruitful cooperation between Nations and concrete action.

In an organization such as ours, this full potential is best realized by mutual respect, by regard for the small as well as for the powerful, by care for the minority as well as the majority, and by a general spirit of conciliation.

This spirit of conciliation has been shown in the past and especially since 1975, in the election of the Director-General.

It has, in fact, been my constant purpose to preserve and to enhance the aspiration towards universality of membership and to develop harmony between Member States, to maintain neutrality in the technical mission of this Organization, and to improve its efficacy for all.

I therefore sincerely hope and believe that this Conference will avoid confrontations and challenges, that there will be a constructive approach to issues on all sides, , and that a spirit of conciliation will prevail, without allowing the most powerful to obstruct it. The great and noble cause of this Organization demands no less.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates and guests, at the commencement of this sovereign Conference of the Member Nations of FAO, let us renew our faith and steel our determination to move forward in comradely ranks once more towards the battle of the century, to free millions of our fellow-men and women from the shackles of misery and despair, to renew our march on hunger.

Mr. Chairman, honourable delegates, on behalf of all staff and myself, I offer all our help and wish you all success.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: May I, on behalf of all delegates, thank the Director-General for his brilliant and inspiring opening statement. The fourth Plenary Meeting is now adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17. 30 hrs

La seance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesionarlas 1730 horas

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(15 November 1977)

The fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9. 50 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50 sous la présidence

de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9. 50 horas, bajo la presidencia de

T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

ALKYZ CERGA (Albania): Yesterday in the afternoon session notwithstanding our repeated request to take the floor we were not given it. The Albanian delegation considers this gesture a disregarding act which does not honour our Organization.

The delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania strongly protests on the stand taken by the Chairman of Conference and demands that such acts should not be repeated.

Yesterday the Albanian delegation wanted to stress that nobody has authorized the representative of the Hungarian government to speak on behalf of the socialist countries. The delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania deems it proper to point out that it has the right to express its viewpoint about the admission of the new States to our Organization in the due time.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Albania.

I wish first to call upon the Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, to make his statement to the Conference.

STATEMENT BY THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL

DISCURSO DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO

G. BULA HOYOS (Presidente Independiente del Consejo): Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, Señores Ministros, Señores Delegados y Observadores: Al comienzo del debate general, considero mi deber informar a ustedes acerca de las principales labores realizadas por el Consejo, después de la última Conferencia.

En el bienio pasado, el Consejo de la FAO ha desempeñado una función esencial en el estudio y la aprobación de las propuestas sometidas por el Director General, sobre revisión de la política, los programas y la estructura de nuestra Organización, a la luz de la resolución de la Conferencia que al autorizar ese proceso delego su autoridad en el organismo político.

Pienso que el apoyo unánime del Consejo a la nueva orientación del programa, ha sido instrumento útil y valioso incentivo para la realización de los cambios positivos que están en marcha y que representan notables beneficios a la Organización y a los Estados Miembros.

Hemos ofrecido importantes contribuciones a la definición de las grandes líneas de acción, cuya consolidación se ha consignado en los principales documentos que discutirá esta Conferencia.

En particular, el Consejo compartió el espíritu pragmático que caracterizan las propuestas del Director General. Asimismo, han sido apoyados los esfuerzos que se vienen haciendo por lograr que cada vez más la FAO oriente sus trabajos hacia la contribución positiva y eficaz que nuestra Organización está llamada a ofrecer en favor del cumplimiento de los principios democráticos, sociales y humanos en que se basa el Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

La creación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica decidida por el Consejo, constituye la principal y más significativa innovación entre las ideas sometidas a nuestra consideración. Ahora la FAO está en condiciones de responder en nombre propio - con rapidez y sin interferencias - a necesidades urgentes de los gobiernos, ofreciéndoles asistencia directa a corto plazo, cuyo efecto multiplicador puede representar notables beneficios para los Estados.

El proceso gradual mediante el cual se están designando los propios Representantes de la FAO en los países, es una etapa fundamental de la descentralización. La respuesta afirmativa de los gobiernos que están solicitando la creación de esas oficinas en sus respectivas naciones, es la comprobación de que esa iniciativa corresponde al deseo de que la FAO actúe en los países con imagen definida y voz auténtica que aseguren la presencia activa de nuestra Organización,

El Consejo ha venido impulsando el propósito de ofrecer más asistencia a los gobiernos, a fin de que obtengan mayores recursos financieros, indispensables para aumentar la producción agrícola y alimentaria.

A este respecto, se ha invitado a los señores Ministros y Jefes de Delegación a que en sus declaraciones dentro del debate general que ustedes van a iniciar, se preste atención especial a las "Inversiones en la Agricultura: Repercusiones en los planos nacional e internacional".

Hemos estado de acuerdo en que es necesario conceder más alta prioridad a las actividades prácticas y a corto plazo, así como a la mayor capacitación de las masas en las zonas rurales, con especial dedicación a los pequeños agricultores.

El Comité de Agricultura concedió gran importancia a la celebración de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que tendrá lugar en 1979, Nuestro organismo apoya la propuesta de que el Director General "estableciera un comité consultor de alto nivel que le ayude en la preparación de esa Conferencia. "

Personalmente, opino que esa Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural debe constituir una oportunidad propicia para que con base en las experiencias, positivas o negativas logradas hasta ahora, se identifiquen las causas que han obstaculizado los programas de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural.

La FAO dispone ya de un marco conceptual definido en la Conferencia de 1971, cuando se aprobaron los principios fundamentales del informe de un Comité de alto nivel, en el cual se analizaron y evaluaron los programas de reforma agraria en las diversas regiones del mundo.

Ojalá que de esa Conferencia surjan recomendaciones que puedan estimular los cambios institucionales necesarios para incorporar efectivamente las masas rurales a los beneficios de la mayor producción agrícola.

He tratado de presentar a ustedes un resumen de los aspectos esenciales que merecieron la atención del Consejo durante 1976 y 1977. Nuestras deliberaciones se llevaron a cabo con espíritu de leal y completa cooperación; sin ninguna confrontación; los representantes de todos los gobiernos participaron en las reuniones del Consejo animados por el deseo de aportar sus opiniones en favor del mejor y más eficaz funcionamiento de la FAO. Me complace en destacar ese hecho, como base fundamental de la amplia comprensión de toda la comunidad internacional, en favor de la solución de los graves problemas que afectan a la humanidad.

Una de las últimas acertadas actuaciones del Consejo fue la de elegir a usted, señor Ministro Toyib Hadiwijaya para Presidente de la Conferencia. Así rendimos homenaje a su noble país, Indonesia y a todos los Estados del Asia, y Lejano Oriente que tan valiosa contribución vienen ofreciendo a las actividades de la FAO.

Todos apreciamos mucho, señor Presidente, su discurso inaugural, lleno de sabios conceptos y de muy humano contenido. Bajo su experta dirección esperamos que surgirán decisiones destinadas a fortalecer la función de la FAO en los campos de la agricultura y la alimentación. Confío en que los resultados de esta Conferencia serán de gran utilidad para la FAO y todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente para los países en vías de desarrollo.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Chairman of the Council for his statement. I shall now give the floor to the Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

DECLARATION DU REPRESENTANT DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

DECLARACION DEL REPRESENTANTE DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

C. V. NARASIMHAN (Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you, Sir, for the courtesy extended to me in allowing me to make a brief statement at this point in the general discussion. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I wish to extend to you his best wishes for the success of your Conference.

As you begin your substantive work here, the United Nations General Assembly in New York is considering the progress made in the implementation of the strategy for the Second Development Decade and in moving towards the New International Economic Order. In singling out food and agriculture as one of the main areas for international action in connexion with the New International Economic Order, the General Assembly has affirmed the crucial importance for development of the matters coming within the purview of FAO and of this Conference. The results of your work will also be important for the General Assembly's forthcoming review of the progress made in the various fora of the United Nations system towards the establishment of the New International system and towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order. I might add that the Secretary-General in his current report to the General Assembly has commented on the excellent start which has been made by the United Nations system in undertaking global responsibility in respect of food.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday the distinguished Director-General referred, in the statement inaugurating this general debate, to an important question we will be considering at this Session, namely the prevention of food grain losses, especially post-harvest losses.

This is a matter of considerable interest to the General Assembly, which has expressed the hope that there can be at least a 50 per cent reduction of post-harvest losses in developing countries by 1985. It is evident that the strategy now proposed for creating food loss prevention programmes in developing countries will require cooperation with other organizations of the system, and I am glad that areas for such cooperation have already been explored.

I should now like to comment briefly on two questions which are of interest not only to FAO and the United Nations, but also to the United Nations system as a whole: rural development and nutrition. As you know, Sir, on January 1st the FAO will become the lead agency for the system-wide exercise in rural development which is being carried out on the basis of approaches endorsed by the Economic and Social Council last year. FAO has the full support of all the organizations concerned in this important task. FAO's assumption of the leadership in this field will also ensure coordination between that exercise and the preparations for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in 1979. I am pleased that FAO is consulting closely with all the organizations concerned regarding the preparatory work for this Conference and I have pledged the fullest cooperation of the Office to the Director-General and his colleagues and also to his distinguished Representative and my friend of long standing, Herman Santa Cruz, in this regard.

In the area of nutrition the Economic and Social Council has approved new institutional arrangements in accordance with Resolution XXII of the World Food Conference, which will have its Secretariat at FAO headquarters, and an Advisory Group on Nutrition. I trust that these arrangements will give new impetus to multidisciplinary work in the field of nutrition.

Soon, Sir, we will be welcoming the International Fund for Agricultural Development as a new Specialized Agency of the United Nations system; as the Fund becomes operational, it will become a further source of aid for increasing agricultural production.

Finally, I should like to mention two international conferences held this year whose recommendations are currently before the General Assembly: the United Nations Water Conference and the United Nations Conference on Desertification. The results of the consideration by the General Assembly of the reports of these two conferences will no doubt have a significant impact on the work of FAO.

May I conclude by expressing my personal pleasure at being with you on this occasion, and offering my best wishes for your success.



May I also express my personal appreciation to the distinguished Director-General for his personal friendship and cooperation ever since he assumed his high office.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Narashimhan.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION

#### DEBAT GENERAL

#### DEBATE GENERAL

#### STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION

#### DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS

#### MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES

CHAIRMAN: You will recall that the Conference agreed to the Council's suggestion that Heads of Delegations, as at previous sessions, limit their statements to a maximum of 20 minutes. We have many request for speaking time and it is really the only way for us to proceed. I would refer Delegates to paragraph 21 of document C 77/12 which we approved on Saturday 12 November. In order to help speakers there are two lights on the lectern; I will ask the Secretary-General to put on the white light when we reach 17 minutes and the red light after 20 minutes. In view of the increased number of speakers per meeting, as compared to previous Conferences, may I appeal to you to limit yourselves to the maximum indicated.

I shall now call on the first speaker, the Head of the Delegation of Switzerland, Mr. Piot, Director of the Agriculture Division, Federal Department of Public Economy of Switzerland.

J. C. PIOT (Suisse): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs Il m'échoit le redoutable honneur d'ouvrir la série des déclarations et j'y suis très sensible.

Au nom de la Suisse et de ma délégation, je vous félicite très vivement pour votre élection à la présidence de notre Conférence. J'ai confiance que sous votre conduite nous aurons un débat riche et fructueux.

Le Directeur général de notre Organisation, M. Edouard Saouma, a imprimé un nouveau dynamisme à la FAO. La réorientation qu'il a proposée va, à bien des égards, dans la direction que j'avais, parmi d'autres, proposée ici-même à plusieurs reprises. Monsieur le Directeur général, je tiens à vous réitérer ici mes félicitations pour l'énergie avec laquelle vous avez entrepris d'accroître l'efficacité de la FAO et de l'orienter toujours plus vers des activités susceptibles d'apporter des résultats concrets à court ou moyen terme. Mais en même temps, je dois vous informer, et vous le savez déjà, que mon gouvernement craint quelque peu le développement qu'ont prises certaines de vos propositions. J'y reviendrai tout à l'heure.

Avant d'aborder les points principaux de l'ordre du jour, j'aimerais exprimer quelques considérations sur le thème commun qui nous a été proposé, à savoir l'investissement dans le secteur agricole et ses incidences sur le plan national et international. Cela me conduira aussi à toucher très brièvement certains aspects de l'ajustement agricole international et du développement rural.

Dans mon pays, le capital investi dans l'agriculture par unité de travail est de l'ordre de 120 à 150 000 francs suisses, soit 50 à 65 000 dollars des Etats-Unis. Par hectare, ce capital représente aujourd'hui près de 21 000 francs suisses, contre 12 000 au début des années soixante. L'actif total moyen par exploitation a ainsi subi une croissance rapide du fait de la mécanisation, de l'agrandissement des exploitations et de l'inflation. En moyenne, un peu plus de la moitié de ce capital productif appartient à l'exploitant; l'endettement même s'il progresse en valeur absolue, est resté stable exprimé en pourcentage de l'actif. C'est dire que la capacité d'autofinancement de l'agriculture s'est accrue au même rythme que les capitaux investis dans ce secteur.

Pour assurer à nos agriculteurs des moyens d'investissements suffisants ainsi qu'un revenu équitable, nous avons dû fixer les prix payés aux producteurs à un niveau convenable et verser des subventions importantes dans les régions défavorisées par le climat ou la topographie. De plus, l'Etat a stimulé l'investissement par un système de crédit à des conditions très favorables.

Le résultat de cet investissement important ainsi que de l'amélioration continue des structures fut un accroissement très rapide de la productivité, à la fois productivité du travail, du bétail et du sol. Ce gain de productivité, lié à une diminution sensible des postes de travail, a permis d'assurer un

revenu moyen convenable à notre population agricole, à un coût supportable pour le budget de l'Etat. Je vous rappelle que nous venons d'introduire le contingentement des livraisons de lait. Sans doute cette productivité accrue a-t-elle eu d'autres conséquences, telle que l'apparition d'excédents sectoriels. Elle a cependant permis le maintien de notre taux d'autoapprovisionnement global, malgré un fort accroissement de la population résidente.

Il n'en reste pas moins que la Suisse importe 50 pour cent de ses besoins en produits alimentaires et que ses importations agricoles par habitant sont parmi les plus élevées du monde. Dans cette situation, et là je pense à l'ajustement agricole international, nous ne croyons pas qu'il soit de bonne politique de réduire notre investissement et notre production agricoles afin d'importer encore plus. Notre population agricole ne représente plus que six pour cent de la population active. Elle est un des moteurs essentiels à la vie de nos campagnes, de nos villages et de nos vallées. Nous désirons défendre notre mode d'occupation décentralisé du territoire, entre autres en maintenant une population agricole solide. Nos terres doivent rester en exploitation, prêtes à assurer notre autosuffisance alimentaire au cas où nos approvisionnements seraient compromis. Il s'agit là d'un élément d'importance stratégique pour notre pays.

Débordant le cadre national, nous voulons exprimer ici notre conviction que l'autofinancement doit être à la base de l'investissement en agriculture, investissement renforcé et appuyé par un système de crédit agricole décentralisé et une politique des structures et des prix qui permette à chaque famille d'agriculteur de vivre décemment, ce qui représente la base du développement rural. A long terme en effet, les campagnes ne sauraient vivre que de l'agriculture; une décentralisation des activités industrielles et de service est également indispensable.

Le principe du rôle prioritaire de l'autoinvestissement étant posé, nous reconnaissons aussi l'importance d'une aide internationale à l'investissement agricole, comme élément complémentaire ou catalyseur. La priorité accordée à l'activité d'investissement dans le Programme de travail et budget de la FAO rencontre ainsi notre assentiment.

La priorité d'un Programme d'action pour la réduction des pertes alimentaires semble être unanimement reconnue et je ne m'y attacherai pas. Les critères prévus par le Directeur général pour approuver les projets relevant de ce programme sont eux aussi tout à fait appropriés. Par conséquent nous accordons notre plein appui à ce programme.

Quant à la nécessité de la création d'un Fonds spécial pour financer ce programme, elle ne nous paraît pas absolument démontrée. Il nous semble que les avantages que l'on escompte d'un tel fonds sont la continuité du financement et la faculté qui en découle de planifier à moyen terme. Or à notre sens, les contributions que les donateurs fourniraient dans le cadre du Programme d'action - comme ils le font par exemple dans le cadre du Programme d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire - procureraient les mêmes avantages, à conditions qu'elles soient assorties annuellement de prévisions indicatives de contribution pour 2 ans. La Suisse est disposée à participer, sous cette forme et à bref délai au programme en question, dans le cadre d'un effort commun réunissant des apports d'autres Etats Membres ainsi que des ressources multilatérales.

Pour ce qui est d'allouer à un tel fonds spécial 10 millions de dollars à prélever sur le compte d'attente de l'Organisation, cette manière de procéder appelle d'importantes réserves de notre part. Les gains de change accumulés sur ce compte d'attente devraient, selon le Règlement financier de la FAO, être rétrocédés aux Etats Membres en étant bonifiés sur leurs contributions régulières pour le prochain biennium. Si cet excédent, constitué de contributions obligatoires à l'Organisation, devait être utilisé contrairement à sa destination initiale, il en résulterait un précédent regrettable et il ne s'agit pas là d'un point de vue de "doctrinaires financiers" mais d'une question de principe, qui concerne autant la FAO que d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies. Ma délégation pourrait en revanche accepter que les Etats Membres soient invités à verser au Programme de réduction des pertes alimentaires une contribution volontaire équivalente - ou même supérieure - à la quote-part d'excédent qui leur revient. La Suisse est, dans ce cas particulier, prête à verser immédiatement un multiple de sa quote-part au compte d'attente, et je ne doute pas que de nombreux pays sont disposés à agir dans le même sens.

Ne pensez-vous pas M. le Directeur général, que cette proposition procède aussi de l'esprit de conciliation que vous nous avez recommandé hier? Je pense qu'ainsi nous pourrions assurer, non seulement le bon départ, mais aussi la continuité du Programme d'action pour la réduction des pertes alimentaires, auquel nous tenons tous.

Mon gouvernement appuie les priorités à moyen terme définies dans le document sur les objectifs à moyen terme, ainsi que la stratégie exposée aux paragraphes 18 à 29 de l'introduction du Directeur général au Programme de travail et budget. Il désire toutefois que les divers éléments de cette politique et les

investissements qui les concrétisent soient inscrits dans une conception globale du développement rural, développement rural qui doit permettre une amélioration du taux d'emploi et des conditions de travail et de vie de l'ensemble de la population rurale.

Nous reconnaissons que le Directeur général a fait preuve d'une certaine modération dans sa proposition budgétaire. Toutefois, même si nous sommes de l'avis qu'il faut accorder une priorité au secteur agricole, nous devons insister sur la nécessité d'une saine et prudente gestion des moyens mis à disposition de l'Organisation avant que de songer à un accroissement notable du budget. A cet égard, un examen attentif du projet de budget nous amène à conclure qu'un effort supplémentaire de modération pourrait encore être fait.

Ainsi, nous constatons que 45 pour cent de l'accroissement réel du budget total provient de la mise en place proposée de 47 représentants FAO dans les pays avec toute l'infrastructure qui en découle. Même si l'on déduit de cet accroissement les économies réalisées par le PNUD, les charges réellement nouvelles qui en découlent sont considérables. Leur utilité ne nous paraît pas démontrée en regard des services que l'on pourrait obtenir des représentants intégrés aux bureaux du PNUD, quitte à renforcer ces Conseillers agricoles principaux en cas de nécessité. Si nous devons admettre les décisions prises par le Conseil de juillet 1976 concernant la mise en place de 17 représentants FAO dans les pays, nous sommes en revanche plus que réticents quant à l'augmentation de leur nombre.

Pour nous, l'important en définitive c'est la meilleure efficacité au moindre coût.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique/FAO, nous reconnaissons son utilité. Il donne du muscle à l'activité de l'Organisation. Les projets PNUD/FAO exigent en moyenne environ 2 ans pour être élaborés et examinés avant de faire l'objet d'une décision. Il est dès lors évident que des actions décidées rapidement, même si elles ne font qu'amorcer ou compléter des actions de plus longue durée, sont hautement appréciables. Une aide apportée à temps est doublement utile!

Ceci dit, le Programme de coopération technique doit demeurer d'une ampleur limitée, compte tenu de ce que les Etats Membres ont convenu dans le cadre du Consensus du PNUD, à savoir de fournir par le canal du PNUD l'essentiel de leur assistance multilatérale autre que proprement financière. Si un jour il devait s'avérer nécessaire d'apporter des ajustements au système en vigueur actuellement, il faudrait le faire après examen approfondi et dans le cadre approprié.

Tenant compte également du caractère encore expérimental du Programme de coopération technique, nous proposons que son volume annuel n'augmente pas en termes réels avant que ses résultats aient été évalués. Nous pensons à une évaluation par une instance extérieure à la FAO, comprenant des experts indépendants, provenant de pays en développement et de pays développés. On y gagnerait indubitablement en crédibilité.

Ma délégation voudrait en outre attirer l'attention de la Conférence sur une décision prise par le Conseil d'administration du PNUD à sa 24ème session et entérinée par l'ECOSOC à sa 63ème session.

Il s'agit de la décision sur le role et les activités du PNUD.

J'aimerais relever ce point notamment à cause d'un passage critique sur le système de "programmation par pays", contenu dans le document "Examen des programmes de terrain 1976-77", aux paragraphes 2. 51 et 2. 52.

Le cycle de programmation quinquennal du PNUD y est mis en doute, et un appel est fait pour une approche "plus pragmatique" de la programmation par pays.

Nous sommes certes en faveur d'une gestion réaliste et pragmatique des programmes FAO, mais pour autant que celle-ci respecte le cadre donné par la décision du Conseil d'administration du PNUD et de l'ECOSOC en juillet dernier.

L'examen des programmes de terrain de la FAO nous amène à constater avec satisfaction certains accents nouveaux, comme la responsabilité accrue confiée aux institutions nationales et aux experts nationaux dans la gestion des projets, ou encore la formation dirigée plus fréquemment vers les exploitants agricoles et vers les vulgarisateurs agricoles. En revanche, nous voudrions souligner une faiblesse persistante à notre avis, à savoir que les experts de la FAO résident trop souvent dans les capitales, hors du périmètre d'action prévu pour eux.

Enfin, nous voudrions appuyer tout particulièrement les programmes de la FAO ayant des effets directs sur la situation alimentaire et l'emploi. Nous nous réjouissons en particulier des premiers résultats du Programme d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire, programme constituant une des applications concrètes

de l'Engagement international sur la sécurité alimentaire auquel une grande partie des Etats Membres ont souscrit.

Il est temps de conclure, Monsieur le Président. J'aimerais souligner que si ma déclaration contient quelques observations critiques, celles-ci doivent être comprises comme des contributions constructives à l'amélioration de notre Organisation. Nous tenons en effet beaucoup à ce que la FAO puisse fournir une aide toujours plus efficace aux Etats Membres et un apport vigoureux dans la lutte pour le développement rural qui seul permettra l'eradication de la faim dans le monde. Sous la conduite dynamique et avisée de notre Directeur général, nous ne doutons pas d'être sur la bonne voie.

A. R. A. AL-SHEIKH (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic):

In the Name of the Merciful and Compassionate God

We are meeting today after a lapse of two years since we met in this hall, and it gives me great pleasure to welcome the new members who have joined this family and are participating with us today at this Conference. We wish them and the FAO all success.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia attaches particular importance to the development of the agricultural sector in order to be able to expand and develop the production base of the Kingdom and meet its basic foodstuffs requirements. We have set the priorities to this end so that we may overcome the problems we are encountering, chief among them the scarcity of water resources. The Kingdom has therefore intensified its detailed surveys for the development of possible water resources and is concentrating on defining the best scientific means for the ideal utilization of these waters, particularly in the field of agricultural production. In order to achieve this aim, the total budget allocation for this year has been 13 billion S. Rials, namely the equivalent of about 4 billion dollars. For the short term, however, clearly defined goals have been put for the accelerated increase of the productivity of the agricultural sector. One of the main goals was increased assistance to national farmers and an expansion of the policy of agricultural credits: we have allocated for this purpose this year 1.5 billion Rials.

It gives me great pleasure, after having briefly outlined what Saudi Arabia has undertaken for the development of agriculture in the Kingdom, to explain that it has, likewise, undertaken a positive and effective role in the economic development projects of the Third World. Our total contributions in these projects have amounted to over 14 percent of the G. N. P. of the Kingdom, it thus becomes evident that this rate is the highest of any other rate of foreign assistance in the world.

The World Food Programme is among the most important programmes of this Organization and Saudi Arabia is among the major contributors to it: our total cash contributions have amounted so far to over \$100 million. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, out of its conviction of the importance of WFP and of the effectiveness of the food assistance the Programme is giving to the countries that are in the most dire need of it, will be defining the attitude it will take towards its contribution to this Programme during the next period in the light of the evaluation of the results of the meeting of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and in the light of the results of this Conference.

Considering the great importance which this Organization assumes in coordinating and crystallizing the food security and agricultural development strategies in the world, it is incumbent upon us to be accurate in evaluating the work of this Organization and in orienting it towards the better fulfilment of its responsibilities. In spite of our appreciation of the efforts now being undertaken, we find that the Organization has not yet been able to fulfil what is expected of it, and this, in our appreciation, may be attributed to several causes, mainly:

First, FAO is characterized by an expansion in its establishment and administrative costs at the expense of its field services and agricultural projects. We appeal to the Organization to put a limit to this strength and to concentrate on its role as a large world experience house. This, in our view, is the ideal way to realize the wishes and hopes of the Third World in order to help it overcome the problems it is encountering in making the required quantities of foodstuffs available. We also hope that the Organization shall continue in its sound policy of equality of opportunities to all Member countries, be it with respect to employment, development project, or the providing of technical experience.

Second, although the Organization has established regional offices in order to facilitate and develop Its services in these regions, and in line with the purposes for which these offices have been established, we believe that they should be given sufficient authority and flexibility. There is no doubt

that this could be promoted through more emphasis on the principle of the centralization and by concentrating on the regional and country activities of the Organization in an attempt to promote investments and agricultural production in these regions still the more so that Saudi Arabia, who is contributing over 25 percent of the cost of the development cooperative programme cost for the Middle East region is well interested to see the projects of this programme implemented.

Third, continuous expansion in the establishment of a new financing programme and funds is considered, in our view, as a dispersion of our efforts and of our financial and technical resources; and this is in addition to the requirements of this new programme in manpower, particularly administrative manpower. We give by way of example here what has been proposed at this Conference in connexion with the establishment of special funds for reducing post-harvest food losses. We fully support the reduction of post-harvest losses on condition that this may be done within an existing programme, such as the World Food Programme or the Technical Assistance Programme, and we do not object to support this, activity out of the funds existing in the Suspense Account in the Organization. We therefore consider that the Organization should not follow the principle of expanding the establishment of more specialized programmes and funds but should seek to merge its new activities and requirements within its existing ones.

This Conference may be discussing certain constitutional and legal matters that may have considerable bearing on the very existence of this Organization and we therefore consider that it will be preferable not to be hasty in deciding on any radical changes unless these have convincing justifications in the same way that Member countries should be given sufficient time for the consideration and assessment thereof before the suitable decision could be taken,

IFAD is considered as a good living example of international cooperation and a splendid fund in the history of the United Nations. It is about to start its activities, and I cannot on this occasion help but pay a tribute to all efforts that have been begun for achieving the purposes for which this Fund was set up, namely to help developing countries to increase their food production through development of water and agricultural projects. We have no doubt that cooperation between FAO and the Fund will be close so as to achieve the noble objectives for which these organs had been set up, and we hope that this Conference will agree on the text of the cooperation agreement between the Fund and FAO.

Before concluding, I wish to refer to a particular point which is a result of the experience of this Conference and other conferences, namely, that we concentrate on practical recommendations and that these be limited instead of coming out with scores of recommendations and resolutions that are not practical, for I believe only one resolution bearing on the essence of the subject is better than scores of resolutions dealing with immaterial points.

A. MARNO (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. It certainly gives me and my delegation profound satisfaction to see you, Sir, a national of Indonesia and a highly experienced member of our Council of Ministers, chairing this most important international conference on food and agriculture. My delegation and Government feel honoured indeed by this show of confidence in you, Sir, on the side of the Conference who has just elected you to the chair.

Eight new members have just been admitted to the Organization: Angola, Comoro, the Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles. My delegation wishes to extend its warmest welcome to these new members and looks forward to their active participation in the work of FAO. We do believe that their joining our ranks will contribute to the further strengthening of the Organization as a whole.

This nineteenth Session of the Conference has as one of its main tasks the review and adoption of the FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium 1978-79. This is the first programme of work prepared by the new Director-General and as such can be considered to reflect the policy views and aspirations of the Organization's new Chief Executive, himself a distinguished son of the developing world, a man not only known for his dedication to the ideals of FAO, but also for his desire to give a much more action and development orientation to the work of the Organization, with a view to increase FAO's capability to assist the millions of farmers, particularly in the developing countries, in their struggle for a better life and a better future.

We welcome and support this emphasis as reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79. It is my delegation's opinion that the Organization be equipped with the necessary tools, i. e. the appropriate plan of operations and budget, to translate such aspirations into effective actions, not

only here at Rome Headquarters and at the Regional Office, but even more so at the country level where the actual battle against hunger and malnutrition is being fought. This is very important, because the need for such effective assistance and collaboration is great and urgent. While it is gratifying to note the progress achieved by world agriculture, especially in the sector of food production, there are, however, disquieting features which give rise to feelings of concern and hence deserve the careful attention of the Conference.

First there is the uneven progress in production of the most important foodgrains, wheat and rice. A look at statistical data over the last 15 years reveals that, while wheat production during that period has increased by 60 percent or by about 4 percent per year, output of rice on the other hand has only increased by 40 percent or at the rate of 2.6 percent per year. Such a trend in the course of 15 years is highly important. Bearing in mind the relatively low rate of increase in demand for wheat in developed countries and the high rate of increase in demand for rice on the other hand, such a trend may have two highly important implications, namely:

- (1) that marketable surpluses of wheat tend to grow year by year, and
- (2) that rice supplies on the other hand tend to be short of demand at an increasing rate.

This further implies that rice-eating nations in the developing world may have to supplement their diet in an increasing measure with other grains, particularly wheat.

This in itself would not be disturbing but for the fact that wheat is mainly, I repeat mainly, produced in the developed countries. If such a trend is allowed to continue unchecked, many of the developing countries will increasingly have to depend on external supplies to meet their food requirements. Bearing this in mind, my delegation would like to suggest that this matter be given the greatest attention by FAO and other International Organizations and Agencies concerned with a view to promoting the achievement of technological breakthroughs in the agriculture of developing countries producing staple foods, such as rice, maize, sweet potatoes, soya beans etc. This calls for considerably more investments to be made by the international world in this sector of agricultural development, including the accelerated development of high-yielding varieties of the crops I just mentioned.

Another disquieting feature in world food production and agricultural situation is the uneven progress made by the various countries. Adverse climatic conditions, often accentuated by widespread incidence of pests, have prevented many of the developing countries from equally sharing the welcome improvement in food production and food supplies enjoyed elsewhere. Indonesia is one of those countries.

Food and agriculture have generally made great strides in Indonesia since the country embarked on its First Five-Year Development Plan eight years ago. Except for a few commodities, substantial gains in production have been recorded in all fields: 35 percent for rice, 25 percent for fish, 80 percent for sugar, 150 percent for palm oil, just to mention a few examples. However, disturbing features have come up and increased in complexity in recent years, particularly in the sector of food. Widespread incidence of pests and pronounced drought in 1976 and 1977 have put considerable constraints to the national efforts to boost food production. As a result, the encouraging momentum in the production of rice achieved in the first five-year period 1969/70 - 1973/74 has considerably slackened during the last two years.

There are of course other factors beside drought and pests which have also contributed to the slackening process, like the limitations put by the scarce availability of well irrigated land, the mounting problems of managing an Intensification Programme expanding year by year. I wish, however, to draw particular attention to these two important constraints, viz, pests and the destabilizing effect of weather. Looking at the situation and development in other developing countries engaged in similar national efforts to increase productivity and agricultural food production, one is inclined to conclude that these two major bottlenecks are becoming a more familiar phenomenon in these countries. That is, the increasing vulnerability of intensive food farming to:

- (1) the irregularities of weather;
- (2) the increased incidence of pests and diseases.

This suggests the urgent need for increased activities and programmes and for substantially larger investments to be made:

- (1) to improve and expand controlled irrigation and drainage facilities;
- (2) to develop high-yielding varieties not only resistant against pests and diseases but also more tolerant against irregular supply of water;
- (3) to develop a more integrated and effective crop protection system.

In spite of the many problems besetting the successful intensification of our agriculture, there is no doubt that intensification will continue to remain a major national effort in the years to come. At the same time, however, the need for broadening the agricultural base in our country has been increasingly recognized. Of the total land area of 200 million hectares, two-thirds are at present under forests and only 18 million hectares (or less than 10 percent) is arable land and under permanent

crops. Most of the small-holders' farms are less than 1 hectare. And under the growing population pressure there is the tendency, especially on the densely populated island of Java, for these already tiny holdings to become further fragmented. It has been more and more recognized that this limited area of agricultural land, and hence the limited size of holdings, is becoming the most important and difficult bottleneck to a sustained growth and development of agriculture in Indonesia cq. Java.

The opening up at an accelerated pace of new agricultural land is therefore likely to be given increased priority in the coming years. Many of the new farms to be opened will probably have to depend on rain-fall, since technically controlled irrigation may be feasible only on a limited scale. This implies the need for developing a more productive system of farming on rain-fed lands, the need also for developing high-yielding varieties of foodgrains and other annual crops suitable for cultivation under rain-fed conditions.

These and other major policy issues are presently being reviewed, now that the Government is preparing its Third Five-Year Development Plan, scheduled to start in 1979-80. While a more detailed outline of the Plan, and its major programmes, especially in the agricultural food sector, will be ready only within a year, one can however already sense in which general direction further development is expected to go in the coming years. The general types of activities which are likely to be given greater emphasis, and hence will require increased development expenditures and investments, may well include the following:

- (1) Development of new agricultural land;
- (2) Expansion and improvement of irrigation systems;
- (3) Development of a productive system of farming under rain-fed conditions;
- (4) Development of high-yielding varieties of rice and secondary crops suitable for rain-fed agriculture;
- (5) Development of an effective, integrated plant protection system;
- (6) Development of human resources.

The review that I have just presented may give some indication of the areas of priorities expected to come up in relation to the need for increased investments in agriculture in the coming years. My delegation ventures to suggest that these priorities may be relevant and of importance not only to Indonesia but to many other developing countries as well. My deliberate restriction to the food sector does, however, not suggest that other sectors, like industrial crops, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry are not important. It does, however, wish to suggest that the food sector may probably deserve to be given the greatest attention, especially now that there seems to be a large measure of agreement among several international observers on the rather discouraging and even sombre prospect of food supply in the coming decade in developing countries, especially in Asia and the Far East.

I may also draw attention in this respect to the recommendation of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the World Food Council in Manila last July, that a world food reserve be established as soon as possible as one of the urgent measures to strengthen world food security. Such reserve would consist mainly of wheat, stocks of which are considered sufficient at present. In the meantime, member countries of ASEAN consisting of Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, aware of the high vulnerability of their region to wide fluctuations in the production of basic foodstuffs and hence to instability of the countries' food supply, have expressed their desire to establish a food security reserve, consisting mainly of rice, the region's staple food. Such a cooperative endeavour of developing countries to ensure food security on a regional basis would most likely need external assistance, financial as well as material; from bilateral as well as from multilateral sources.

Bearing all this in mind, my delegation cannot but feel deep concern that the flow of external resources to agriculture has not kept pace with the expanding need, but has on the other hand tended to stagnate, if not to decline. External commitments for agriculture, especially in the food sector, in developing countries are estimated to have reached only \$3.5 billion in 1976, which is less than half of the requirements as projected by the 1974 World Food Conference. This gross inadequacy of external commitments is deeply regrettable, especially now that agriculture in the developing world seems to have reached a highly crucial stage in its development. All possible efforts should therefore be made to promote the accelerated flow of such external resources, bilateral as well as international.

Taking all this into account, the suggestion made by the FAO Council, that this Nineteenth Session of the Conference should focus its attention on this fundamental issue of investment, can therefore only be welcomed. As the Director-General himself has stated: "one of the key prerequisites for progress in particular, all fields of agricultural development, is investment, both from domestic as well as from international sources". We therefore welcome the efforts he has made to increase the contribution FAO can render to the promotion of such investments. The Technical Cooperation Programme

initiated recently, and which we fully support, can be expected to increase FAO's capacity to respond on its own account, to request from countries in various fields, including the preparation and formulation of projects for submission to lending agencies.

One or two points I would like to mention in this respect: first that it is increasingly important for such external assistance to take full account of the desire of developing nations and the objective need for these nations to achieve a higher degree of self-reliance in the context of overall economic and social development. The expanding use of so-called national institutions in the utilization of such assistance will greatly promote the achievement of these objectives. Related to this is the long expressed desire by FAO Member Nations, especially from the developing world, to bring about a higher degree of decentralization within the Organization. Such decentralization should be reflected not merely in an increasing number of posts in the regions, but even more so in an expanding number of field activities and increased decision-making at the regional and country level. The strengthening of FAO's country representation, decided upon during the Director-General's brief tenure, should be seen as an important step in the desired direction.

In conclusion, Sir, my delegation would like to bring to the attention of the Conference, a highly important international event, that is the Eighth World Forestry Congress to take place in Indonesia in October next year. My Government feels honoured and grateful for the great confidence shown by the international world, which has elected our country to host this World Congress on Forestry. The main theme of this world gathering will be "Forests for People", which will focus on the important role of forests for the economic and social welfare of mankind in general, and of local rural communities in particular.

The Indonesian Government will do its utmost to secure the greatest possible success of the Congress and is deeply grateful to the Director-General of FAO and his staff, especially in the Forestry Department and its Forestry Industries Division, who are collaborating with us in the preparation of this great international event.

I may add, Sir, that a number of programmes is being prepared by our Government in relation to the Congress, so as to give the largest possible opportunity to participants to acquaint themselves with the various aspects of developments and the progress we have been able to make in the field of forestry and forest industries.

Allow me to assure this august assembly that our Government and people are looking forward to welcome as large a number as possible of foresters and policy makers from all over the world to the Eighth World Forestry Congress to be held in Indonesia from 16 to 28 October 1978.

Mgr. A. FERRARI-TONIOLO (Holy See): Thank you for giving me the floor in this distinguished Assembly of the Delegations of State-Members called together in Conference to exercise their decision-making power on policy choices both for within the FAO and internationally.

In this Conference, guidelines for common action must especially be drawn up within the immediate perspective of the next two-year period, but also for further ahead into the eighties into the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

This Delegation, of course, looks at the decisions to be made and the tasks to be accomplished by considering the moral requirements which emerge from the FAO's constitutional goals. We are happy to note that, along with the analyses on the economic and technical levels and with the concrete execution of projects, the more specifically human aspects of the issues are more and more detectable; that from strictly economic material points of view, there is a move towards more directly cultural and social non-material ones; from food, health and shelter, to active and aware participation in all levels of the Community, to education and formation: in a word, toward the total growth of all men.

In line with the ethical vision which inspires the Holy See's presence, our focus is brought on the effective attainment and satisfaction of the basic needs of the integral human being.

It pleases us, therefore, to note in its Regular Programme and in its operational activity, the role which FAO is taking on more and more with a great sense of responsibility, not only to favour all efforts aimed at greater functionality and at more concrete and realistic operations, but also explicitly to attain more decidedly human objectives. In fact, in the preparatory documents of the Conference, a much wider reference can be noted whereby agricultural activity widens up to the "rural world", repeatedly calling attention to the poorest sections of rural peoples, especially those who are landless or small farmers, with realistic support for the problems of local Communities and small villages, to agriculture at the level of the small farmer. Many of the statements made during the various FAO Regional Conferences during the past year bore witness to this broader reference.



The Holy See is so sensitive to these problems that it shares the conviction that agriculture still suffers from underestimation, as Pope Paul VI said to the World Food Conference on November 9, 1974 (cfr. AAS, 6 6-174, p. 650). It continues being a depressed sector in many places. Thus it is important to continue to rehabilitate agriculture - in industrialized countries where there is a decrease in cultivated lands and in the number of farmers, and, more so, in developing countries where it represents the most under-developed economic sector. The political will of governments must be encouraged to give agriculture its fair place, to assure workers the possibilities for formation and the advantages comparable to those for workers who leave for factories, in order to avoid that agriculture pays the price for the development of other economic sectors.

But, an authentic moral vision requires a universal concept of life which is open to a global vision of the world, even when decisions are made which tend to strengthen the characteristics and the autonomies of initiatives made by Groups, Nations and Continents.

Even when the importance of a "collective self-reliance" is being emphasized in forms of regional and area solidarities, the capacity for judgment on a world-wide scale, reflective of basic values common to all, must be preserved and cultivated.

The programmes and funds relative to regional projects should be conceived, executed and utilized in such a way so as to accelerate concretely the development of the most backward countries, but without ever losing sight of the global vision so that the emergence will not be favoured of new isolations based on the nationalisms of individual nations which can lead to new forms of collective selfishness with its rigid exclusions and discriminations of one group of countries against others.

The Holy See Delegation looks favourably on technical cooperation programmes precisely because technical and organizational problems, too, necessarily involve human problems. Concrete achievements are the basis for resolving many fundamental needs of peoples and can take part in effectively reducing the distance between rich and poor nations which, unhappily, still seem to be potentially growing while, on the other hand, this distance is referred to in the Work Programme as a "morally unacceptable gap" - a judgment which should be fully concurred upon.

Thus, technical cooperation and the renewal of structures should be carried out for human purposes in their socio-economic and institutional aspects. For this reason, we are pleased that the forthcoming 1979 Conference has the double and joint aspect of "agrarian reform" and, more widely, of "rural development", with clear reference to the populations in predominantly agricultural countries and especially to small farmers and landless workers.

It is gratifying to note how the third guideline of agricultural adjustment recalls reducing social inequalities and fuller integration of the rural population into the national economy when speaking of the adaptation of structures and techniques for a growth of agricultural production.

Furthermore, the fourth guideline explicitly indicates the adjustment of food consumption for all socio-economic groups, to which could be added the appeal to limit the high consumption and wastage which occur in more advanced countries brought about by the expensive and irrational life styles of some privileged groups. Once again we wish to strongly recall the need not to squander the resources necessary for investments in burdensome ways deriving from the arms race, while the same capital could instead offer the world Community a much vaster use of the resources of the lands and seas.

The fifth guideline emphasizes the need for an urgent improvement of the nutritional levels of poor and undernourished groups, as well as the so-called "vulnerable" ones.

Concerning food security, this delegation expresses its opinion that the re-establishing -- which today seems easy -- of the minimum level of world grain reserves be made to function according to criteria of real solidarity. It is not only a question of building up national reserves on one's own territory, but of putting them at the disposal of the international Community.

Concerning food aid, this delegation notes with pleasure that in the last two years a marked increase has taken place in the quantity of cereals given as food aid.

We hope that the multi-lateral means of inter-governmental Organizations will be used increasingly, trusting in their ability to collaborate in defining internal and international projects and programmes and in being efficient Agencies of execution.

The FAO's own activity must be defended, but considered and carried out more and more in close relation--ship with other entities of the entire world Community and its various International Organizations.

This Holy See Delegation particularly wishes to call attention to the harmony required between the FAO and the World Food Council, established as a UN Organ at the ministerial level.

And also between the FAO and IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), which will soon be in operation as a new autonomous specialized Agency in the United Nations system.

All efficient international cooperation certainly requires coordination of the various specializations but in such a way as to avoid useless duplications or, on the other hand, centralizations which hinder a multiplicity of vital initiatives.

But this presupposes a new relationship of cordial good will to be established, which avoids inflexible and opposing positions and aids a constructive convergence between advanced countries and developing ones; for only through open solidarity and good will toward all will the basic and most urgent human needs be met.

Thank you for your attention. I should like to remind you that you are cordially invited to the traditional Audience in the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City for all the participants in this Session of the FAO Conference.

A. HUMBLET (Belgique): Avant toute chose, j'aimerais joindre ma voix à celles des personnalités qui m'ont précédé, à cette tribune, pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la direction des travaux de cette 19<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, lorsqu'en novembre 1975 votre Assemblée a doté la FAO d'un nouveau Directeur général, je crois qu'elle a fait bon choix.

Il n'était pas facile de succéder à Monsieur BOERMA et, par ailleurs, la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde, douloureusement mise en lumière par la Conférence alimentaire mondiale de 1974 léguait à Monsieur le Directeur général Saouma un lourd héritage.

Aujourd'hui, après deux ans d'une expérience qui se poursuit chaque jour sous son impulsion, nous pouvons considérer que nous sommes dans la bonne voie pour réaliser un des objectifs majeurs de la FAO: la sécurité alimentaire.

C'est en effet dès sa création que la FAO a poursuivi le double objectif du développement agricole et de l'indépendance nutritionnelle.

Certes, à l'époque, les impératifs et l'environnement économiques étaient différents, mais les problèmes étaient les mêmes. Or, comme l'homme a une fâcheuse tendance à oublier les leçons de l'Histoire et que la domestication des animaux est plus aisée que celle de la météorologie, l'Humanité semble soumise à cette perpétuelle alternance qui, dans les années soixante douze à soixante quatorze a pris des proportions tragiques, suite à la conjonction malencontreuse de circonstances néfastes.

La prise collective de conscience de novembre 1974 nous a en tout cas incités à construire des structures à la mesure de nos imprévoyances. Et déjà, nous pensons qu'elles portent leurs fruits.

Où en sommes-nous aujourd'hui? Les perspectives de la FAO établies grace notamment au Système mondial d'information agricole sont relativement rassurantes pour les céréales et le riz. Et la reconstitution progressive des stocks semble offrir, enfin, la possibilité de donner consistance aux différents engagements relatifs à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Cependant, comme Monsieur le Directeur général Saouma nous l'a rappelé hier, nous ne sommes pas au bout du combat contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Ceci demandera encore à la Communauté des Nations efforts et disciplines, et c'est dans cet esprit qu'il faut, je crois, envisager les pourparlers qui s'engageront - après la phase préparatoire actuelle - pour tenter d'aboutir à de nouvelles règles internationales pour le commerce du blé et l'aide alimentaire.

En effet, les experts de la FAO nous le confirment, l'expérience a prouvé que la marge entre pénuries et excédents reste étroite et qu'une situation globale favorable peut cacher des difficultés régionales, des bavures, comme nous l'apprennent les rapports des Commissions et Conférences régionales. Il nous faut donc rester vigilants!

S'agissant des pays membres de la Communauté économique européenne, et parlant en qualité de Président du Conseil de cette Communauté, qu'il me soit permis de rappeler, dans la ligne des résolutions de la Conférence alimentaire, les intentions, réaffirmées dans les différentes enceintes internationales, mais aussi les réalisations en ce qui touche: la sécurité alimentaire, l'aide au développement rural et à la production alimentaire, sans négliger pour autant les autres aspects agro-économiques du développement. Sur le seul plan de l'aide alimentaire globale, les pays de la Communauté européenne ont, en toutes circonstances, maintenu le volume de leur contribution en céréales, et amplifié ou diversifié leurs efforts pour une meilleure utilisation de leurs aides, soit directement, soit au travers des organes internationaux chargés de ce genre d'interventions.

Nous poursuivrons nos efforts à cet égard, et je rappellerai en passant que les fournitures communautaires au titre de l'aide alimentaire sont faites sous forme de dons, et livrées CAF, ce qui correspond bien à l'esprit et à la lettre des recommandations du Conseil alimentaire mondial de Manille, en juin dernier.

Par ailleurs, pour ce qui est de la négociation d'un nouvel accord sur le blé, les conceptions de la Communauté européenne sont bien connues et seront confrontées avec celles de nos partenaires à cette discussion, dans l'esprit des résolutions de l'UNCTAD et de la Conférence alimentaire mondiale, dans une perspective de régularisation des marchés.

Mais, Monsieur le Président, notre vigilance peut aussi s'exercer d'autre manière, par exemple, en développant les systèmes actuels de répartition des aliments disponibles et aussi, à plus longue échéance, en revoyant les schémas de l'auto-financement des importations alimentaires nécessaires, ou les possibilités de développer l'autosuffisance par la promotion des productions vivrières locales.

Car en effet, Monsieur le Président, pour importante qu'elle soit, l'aide alimentaire n'est pas tout, l'essentiel étant le développement lui-même, c'est-à-dire l'investissement dans l'agriculture et les infra-structures connexes, de manière à répondre non seulement aux résolutions XVII et XVIII mais aussi I et II de la Conférence alimentaire.

Déjà, dans sa participation aux actions d'urgence des Nations Unies, la Communauté européenne avait orienté ses interventions vers le développement rural. C'est aussi dans ce sens, mais dans une conception et des structures à plus longue échéance, qu'elle a conclu avec ses partenaires le réseau de relations préférentielles, que chacun connaît, que certains critiquent, mais qui en définitive représente de la part des pays de la Communauté un effort constant. Cet effort, elle a l'intention de le poursuivre, en dépit d'une conjoncture adverse persistante qui lui imposera sans doute des choix et des contraintes.

Le renouveau agricole de vastes régions où règne encore la malnutrition nous impose cependant de prêter une attention particulière à certains types d'actions, pour lesquelles d'ailleurs les nouvelles expériences de la FAO sur le terrain peuvent nous aider. C'est dans ce sens que vont les actions d'assistance financière et technique des Fonds européens de développement qui agissent dans le cadre de l'accord de Lomé, lequel associe aujourd'hui la CEE à 52 pays en développement de l'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique. Déjà pour la période allant de 1971 à 1975, près de 2 milliards d'U. C. européennes ont été consacrés à des actions visant le transfert de technologie et de connaissances agronomiques, la fourniture de semences sélectionnées, d'engrais, etc.

Cet effort financier, auquel contribuent à la fois le budget communautaire, le Fonds européen de développement et la Banque européenne d'investissement, est encore appelé à se développer d'ici 1980, conformément aux dispositions financières de la Convention mais également en fonction des modalités des accords de coopération conclus entre la CEE, les pays du Maghreb et d'autres pays de la zone méditerranéenne. Mais ce n'est pas tout, car notre effort s'est porté aussi vers des pays avec lesquels nous n'avons pas de relations conventionnelles mais dont la situation difficile a retenu l'attention du Conseil de la Communauté. Les montants prévus pour l'assistance à ces pays non associés ont d'ailleurs été relevés dans des proportions importantes pour 1977, en mettant là aussi 1 accent sur les besoins du secteur rural, notamment en matière de stockage des grains et des engrais. Et ceci, Monsieur le Président, a une résonance particulière si l'on se réfère à la décision de principe prise par le Conseil de la FAO sur le problème des pertes après récolte et la création d'un Fonds à cet effet. Cette décision, il nous appartiendra de la confirmer et d'examiner, dans les organes techniques de cette Conférence, les moyens éventuels à mettre en oeuvre.

En matière d'investissement dans l'agriculture, on peut citer aussi la participation communautaire au Fonds spécial d'action, issu des délibérations de la Conférence de Paris pour la Coopération économique internationale, puisque, dès à présent, on peut escompter une intervention dans le domaine rural, selon les zones éligibles et leurs besoins particuliers.

Et c'est sans doute aussi dans le même esprit qu'il faut considérer les premières manifestations concrètes d'un autre Dialogue qui est susceptible d'ouvrir à certaines régions particulièrement démunies du monde arabe de nouvelles perspectives de production agricole, et de croissance.

Et puis, et surtout, il y a le FIDA, ce Fonds international de développement agricole voulu par la Conférence alimentaire et auquel les pays de la Communauté européenne contribuent pour près de 200 millions de dollars, et qui pourra, dès le mois prochain, prendre des initiatives en ce domaine.

Monsieur le Président, l'aide au développement de la Communauté européenne, ce n'est pas seulement une assistance financière et technique. C'est aussi un investissement intellectuel et humain. La recherche scientifique appliquée à l'agriculture et la vulgarisation des méthodes et des connaissances en sont les témoins constants.

Cette coopération ne serait cependant pas globale si elle négligeait les aspects commerciaux du développement agricole. Bien sur, c'est aux intéressés qu'il appartient de faire des choix entre l'autosuffisance alimentaire par la production vivrière locale, et l'autofinancement des importations alimentaires par des exportations commerciales. A cet égard - mais je n'en tire aucune conclusion absolue - les dernières années ont montré combien grande pouvait être notre dépendance réciproque, mais aussi combien capricieux pouvaient redevenir les marchés des produits de base. Stabilité ou instabilité: là est toujours la question.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai souvent, et hier encore à cette tribune, entendu mentionner "le nouvel ordre économique international": ce n'est pas, après tout, un vocable très nouveau dans cette Organisation puisque - si ma mémoire et la documentation de mes collaborateurs sont fidèles - c'est en 1964 déjà qu'une étude de la FAO sur les arrangements mondiaux de produits en faisait mention, étude que Monsieur le Directeur général SEN transmettait au Secrétaire général de la CNUCED, Monsieur PREBISH à l'époque. Et dans cette étude transparaissait déjà l'origine de tous nos soucis d'aujourd'hui.

En vérité, Monsieur le Président, parvenir à un équilibre rationnel dans un monde qui ne l'est guère, ce n'est pas chose facile. Pour réaliser un ordre économique, il faut le situer par rapport à l'instabilité que nous connaissons depuis quelques années, dans les domaines monétaire, économique, social.

C'est donc là aussi que notre vigilance doit s'exercer. Et c'est dans cette optique que la Communauté économique européenne a envisagé sur différents plans, des orientations ou des actions susceptibles de nous faire retrouver à tous un peu de cette stabilité perdue. Oui, sur différents plans, car les approches varient selon les circonstances et la dimension des problèmes.

Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne les accords de produits, nous persistons à penser que la forme de ces accords et les mécanismes dont on les dote, doivent s'inspirer davantage de la logique économique que du marchandage. Faute de mécanismes suffisamment élaborés, et faute d'un consensus suffisant pour les mettre en oeuvre, il sera bien difficile d'éviter le retour de ces fluctuations erratiques des cours sur les marchés, et de ces soubresauts spéculatifs, qui sont peut-être profitables à certains, mais certainement néfastes à une croissance véritable de l'économie et du développement. Et si l'on se réfère à la situation difficile des cinq dernières années, et si l'on se souvient des séquelles de situations semblables dans le passé, alors on doit se persuader que ce n'est pas la bonne voie vers un meilleur/ordre économique.

La Communauté européenne, pour sa part, continuera à rechercher les moyens de parvenir à une régularisation des marchés de produits. Mais elle ne peut y arriver seule, et invite chacun à faire des choix.

Et choisir, Monsieur le Président, nous pensons que cela veut dire: rechercher des approches comparables, sans perdre notre sens de la relativité des situations, sans perdre de vue non plus la finalité de nos actions.

C'est ainsi que la Communauté a été amenée, dans ses relations avec les pays ACP associés, à envisager d'autres moyens alternatifs de stabilisation ou de récupération des recettes d'exportation, pour éviter précisément aux producteurs de certains produits sensibles les effets des variations de cours sur les marchés mondiaux. Elle a pris à cet égard des engagements, financièrement limités et réduits à un certain nombre de produits, mais qui ont permis jusqu'ici un rattrapage suffisant dans des secteurs qui, faute peut-être d'un effort commun de diversification, représentent encore un pourcentage considérable du potentiel d'exportation et donc des rentrées de devises des pays concernés.

Par ailleurs, pour un produit particulier, le sucre pour ne pas le nommer, un régime spécial assure aux producteurs associés, dans le cadre d'un contingent annuel, une garantie d'achat au prix intérieur de reprise dans la Communauté.

Sous un autre aspect de la commercialisation, faut-il rappeler que conformément aux résolutions de la CNUCED, la Communauté maintiendra et améliorera sa participation au Système de préférences généralisées.

En résumé, Monsieur le Président, qu'il s'agisse de la sécurité alimentaire, de la coopération au développement par l'assistance financière ou technique, d'aide alimentaire ou de protection des recettes des producteurs, et que cela concerne le développement rural ou celui de la commercialisation, la Communauté européenne a entrepris ou a participé à un nombre considérable d'actions, qui toutes ont pour objectif d'accélérer l'accession des pays en développement à un statut économique équilibré.

Elle a sans doute réparti inégalement ses efforts et ses contributions. Mais nul ne peut tout faire, ni tout faire à la fois. Nous pensons néanmoins que certaines de nos contributions garderont une valeur exemplaire. Il n'y a de notre part aucune vanité à le dire et nous croyons avoir rempli honorablement notre contrat.

Monsieur le Président, parlant cette fois au nom du gouvernement belge, je dirai que la BELGIQUE a, pour sa part, poursuivi, soit en actions bilatérales, soit en participations multilatérales, sa contribution au relèvement économique et social de pays en voie de développement avec lesquels elle entretient des relations particulières, au centre de l'Afrique entre autres. Les participations financières et techniques, mais aussi la collaboration active de milieux scientifiques et d'experts, ou l'accueil de stagiaires et une collaboration constante avec la FAO font que la Belgique réalise à cet égard une oeuvre considérable. La vulgarisation de la recherche agronomique constitue en l'occurrence une contribution de choix, dans l'optique d'un meilleur développement rural. Deux cents millions de F. B. financent des projets d'aménagement rural et d'entreposage, tandis que l'ensemble de la coopération bilatérale atteint 70 millions de dollars, enseignement compris. Bien sûr, la Belgique contribue à concurrence d'un pourcentage fixé, aux opérations communautaires d'aide, en matière alimentaire notamment.

D'autres actions ponctuelles d'assistance permettent d'élargir ce cercle. D'une façon générale, on peut dire que l'orientation de la coopération belge vers le domaine rural n'a rien de récent ni d'accidentel. Et nous sommes de ceux qui avons salué avec sympathie le rapprochement des activités de la FAO vers les problèmes de terrain et les communautés humaines directement concernées.

Comme vous le savez, Monsieur le Président, la Belgique, avec les autres membres de la Communauté, a procédé à une série d'ajustements des structures agricoles, par des mesures d'assainissement dans le domaine socio-économique, en accélérant parfois un processus de désengagement agricole déjà en cours depuis deux décennies. Les effets de ce processus se feront sentir à moyen terme, certes. Il y a cependant aujourd'hui des limites à ces transferts, limites imposées soit par la nature, soit par des difficultés sociales conjoncturelles. Car déplacer l'exode rural vers le chômage technologique ou structurel d'autres secteurs économiques n'est évidemment pas une mesure d'ajustement recommandable.

A l'inverse si l'on peut dire, et cela aussi Monsieur Saouma nous l'a rappelé, il existe d'autres problèmes d'ajustement des structures agraires. En effet, si l'agriculture sans terre n'est pas encore pour demain, et si les programmes de production d'engrais, les transferts de matériel et de technologie, ou le rétablissement des termes de l'échange cautionnent l'avenir du développement rural dans les pays en développement, il apparaît que le premier investissement en agriculture, c'est la terre, c'est à dire la disponibilité directe ou indirecte du sol cultivable.

Fondamental est donc le problème des structures physiques, biologiques, économiques et sociales de la production agricole, là où cette production est la plus nécessaire.

Déjà, il est vrai, des organismes internationaux comme l'OCDE se sont penchés sur la question de l'utilisation des sols en agriculture, dans les régions où la terre arable rétrécit chaque jour, comme peau de chagrin.

Déjà aussi les Commissions et Conférences régionales se préoccupent de ce genre de problème.

Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, compte tenu des recommandations II et VI de la Conférence alimentaire, et des lignes d'orientation de l'ajustement international, et s'agissant des populations plus particulièrement concernées par le développement de la production vivrière, nous estimons que la Conférence sur la réforme agraire, que l'on se propose d'organiser ici même en 1979, doit éveiller à cet égard un intérêt considérable. Nous espérons pouvoir en suivre la préparation et les travaux. Le thème n'est pas nouveau, certes. Mais, compte tenu des impératifs de la sécurité alimentaire, une nouvelle étude des concepts socio-économiques du milieu agricole n'est pas sans importance; car, Monseigneur le Président, le but de la FAO, sinon sa devise, c'est aussi de rendre à la terre son rôle nourricier.

M. BELKHODJA (Tunisie) (interprétation de l'arabe):

Au nom du Dieu clément et miséricordieux,

Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs: Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de joindre ma voix à celle des chefs de délégations qui vous ont déjà félicité à l'occasion de votre élection pour présider aux travaux de cette session. Je formule l'espoir que vos efforts soient couronnés de succès et je suis persuadé que, grâce à votre expérience, à votre compétence et à votre sagesse, vous allez ouvrir la voie d'un dialogue fructueux et d'un débat constructif qui vont caractériser cette 19ème Conférence générale de la FAO.

Je voudrais saluer également ici les nouveaux membres de notre Organisation, pays avec lesquels nous entretenons des liens très solides, et ceci ne fera que consolider notre Organisation.

Cette conférence revêt un caractère particulier puisque c'est la première Conférence générale qui se tient après l'élection du Directeur général actuel, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, et cette Conférence va certainement nous permettre d'évaluer ce que la FAO a déjà accompli et voir quelles sont ses perspectives d'avenir. Cette conférence est d'autant plus importante qu'elle se tient juste après la réunion de conférences internationales qui ont traité de questions vitales telles que la question de l'habitat, du commerce, et du développement, des eaux, du droit de la mer, de l'environnement et de; la désertification; ceci, bien sûr, parallèlement au Dialogue euro-arabe et à la Conférence Nord-Sud en cours. Mais, malgré l'importance des thèmes débattus au cours de ces conférences et de ces rencontres, les problèmes alimentaires restent au premier plan des préoccupations de la communauté internationale. En effet, c'est depuis dix ans environ que nous avons dû faire face à cette question complexe. Nous avons alors retroussé nos manches et nous nous sommes attelés à la tâche avec autant de sérieux que d'entrain. Malheureusement, les efforts que nous avons ainsi déployés ne nous ont pas permis d'atteindre notre objectif, à savoir faire disparaître le spectre de la famine qui menace notre monde. Cet effort n'a pas été l'apanage de quelques individus ou de quelques pays seulement, mais c'était un effort collectif puisque cette question a été traitée par la majorité, sinon la totalité, des organisations tant nationales que régionales et internationales et dont la principale est l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Il n'en reste pas moins que les ressources et les possibilités mises à la disposition des peuples les moins développés étaient insuffisantes.

Pour remédier au problème de la faim et de la malnutrition, il nous faut, à notre avis, ne pas perdre de vue les deux éléments suivants: 1°) combler le déficit alimentaire par des mesures rapides et directes ne permet pas de subvenir aux besoins de ceux qui souffrent vraiment de la faim; 2°) il faut fournir aux pays en développement les moyens de production nécessaires pour qu'ils soient en mesure d'assurer à leurs populations les aliments dont elles ont besoin.

La dignité des pays en développement et leur fierté font qu'ils n'accepteront jamais que la solution de ce problème soit limitée à l'aide directe, comme ils n'accepteront pas non plus que l'aide qui leur est fournie pour leur permettre d'acquérir les moyens de production soit une aide accordée au compte-gouttes et d'un volume insignifiant.

La sécurité sociale et politique dans le monde en général et dans les pays en développement en particulier ne peut s'instaurer que si nous arrivons à l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition dans les délais raisonnables qu'on ne peut prolonger indéfiniment. C'est là l'objectif que nous nous sommes tous assigné et pour lequel doivent être mobilisés tous les efforts de tous les pays: les pays menacés doivent s'efforcer de compter sur eux-mêmes et les pays riches se doivent de leur fournir l'aide appropriée.

Nous pensons que la FAO peut jouer dans ce domaine le rôle de coordinateur entre pays en développement et pays développés. La FAO a déjà fait la preuve depuis deux ans de son efficacité dans le domaine de l'aide directe et ce, par le programme de coopération technique et le programme de coopération entre pays du Proche-Orient. Ces deux programmes ont permis d'exécuter d'importants projets dans les domaines de l'aide d'urgence, de la formation, de la recherche et de la production.

Je voudrais me prévaloir de cette occasion pour exprimer nos remerciements les plus sincères aux pays arabes producteurs de pétrole et au Directeur général de la FAO ainsi qu'à ses collaborateurs pour cette heureuse initiative qui a déjà porté ses fruits.

L'appui fourni à ces programmes est en fait un appui fourni à notre Organisation et une garantie de progrès pour nos pays. Nous sommes convaincus que la FAO peut être le meilleur conseiller pour tous les pays membres. Elle peut jouer le rôle d'agent d'exécution dont la tâche essentielle consisterait à élaborer des programmes de développement et à coordonner entre les pays développés et les pays en développement pour mettre tout en oeuvre afin d'éliminer la pauvreté de notre planète et ce, dans un délai raisonnable.

La FAO est à nos yeux le trait d'union entre les pays développés et les pays en développement. Son rôle ne peut pas consister uniquement à grouper deux catégories dont l'une est démesurée dans ses demandes et l'autre avare dans ses donations.

Ceci nous amène à parler du budget de l'Organisation que nous devons discuter à la lumière du succès et de l'efficacité des programmes pour lesquels ce budget a été élaboré. Si les programmes sont réalistes et efficaces et qu'ils débouchent sur des résultats positifs et bénéfiques pour tous les peuples, et surtout pour les peuples les moins développés, il est alors du devoir de toute la communauté internationale de trouver le financement nécessaire à ces programmes, car bien souvent certaines activités importantes sont annulées par manque de financement, ce qui, par voie de conséquence, fait reculer les objectifs que nous nous sommes fixés.

Pouvons-nous accepter cela alors que nous savons tous pertinemment que le secteur agricole ne peut pas enregistrer un taux de développement important? Pouvons-nous accepter cela alors que nous savons que ce sont les pays en développement qui souffrent de l'explosion démographique? Allons-nous faire cela alors qu'il nous revient, à nous, d'améliorer le sort de nos peuples en développement et de répondre, ne fût-ce que partiellement, à leurs aspirations?

En outre, le développement des différents moyens d'information a eu une influence très importante sur les peuples. En effet, depuis un quart de siècle environ, ces peuples, et surtout les plus déshérités d'entre eux, savent maintenant qu'il existe un mode de vie plus opulent dans les pays industrialisés. Leurs besoins se sont développés en conséquence et leurs responsables se sont vus dans l'obligation de réaliser leurs espoirs. Donc, il va de soi que cette évolution inéluctable des mentalités débouche sur la nécessité d'assurer les besoins impératifs qui ont vu le jour, non seulement dans le domaine de l'alimentation, mais également dans d'autres domaines tels que la santé, l'éducation et la culture, et ce pour permettre à l'individu de recouvrer sa fierté et sa dignité. C'est la raison pour laquelle des programmes intégrés pour l'accroissement de la production et de la productivité, basés sur une nouvelle méthodologie et des techniques modernes, tout en veillant à la conservation des sols et à l'aménagement des ressources en eau, c'est la raison pour laquelle ces programmes ont nécessité des travaux également importants tels que la construction des routes, l'approvisionnement en eau potable, l'électrification, la construction d'hôpitaux, de dispensaires, d'écoles et de maisons de culture.

C'est là la politique que nous poursuivons dans le domaine du développement rural intégré qui garantit parallèlement à l'essor économique l'élévation du niveau de l'individu et, par conséquent, l'équilibre économique et social des peuples. Mais force nous a été de constater que ces programmes se heurtent à la réticence des institutions de financement qui s'accrochent aux critères de rentabilité financière alors qu'en fait de tels programmes nécessitent la mise sur pied d'une infrastructure dont le rendement n'est ni rapide ni direct, mais dont l'intérêt est capital pour d'autres projets qui ne peuvent être entrepris en l'absence d'une telle infrastructure.

Il faut donc étudier ces programmes avec souplesse et compréhension car leur rendement n'apparaîtra qu'à long terme. En outre, ces programmes ne visent pas seulement à l'accroissement de la production, mais également à forger de nouvelles mentalités et à mobiliser les populations pour qu'elles deviennent un outil de développement efficace.

Je voudrais également ici saluer la création du FIDA, formulant l'espoir qu'il commencera ses travaux dans les plus brefs délais, et ce pour financer des projets visant à l'amélioration de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Je voudrais également me féliciter de l'initiative prise par la FAO pour organiser la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural ainsi que la Conférence relative à la coopération internationale.

L'échange de vues au cours de ces réunions est enrichissant et constructif, et permet de connaître les exigences du développement intégré et surtout du financement de l'investissement qui constitue la pierre angulaire de tout effort de développement consenti par les pays en développement. Donc, les conditions d'octroi et de financement de ces investissements doivent être conformes à la situation de ces pays.

Il ne faut pas non plus exclure de cette aide certains pays sous prétexte que le revenu par habitant y a dépassé le niveau minimum, car l'accroissement de ce revenu découle des efforts propres déjà déployés par certains de ces pays qui se sont quelque peu avancés. Aussi, nous n'avons pas le droit de les priver de cette aide qui leur a permis de progresser; bien au contraire, il est de notre devoir de leur fournir notre appui, de fournir notre appui à tous les pays en développement sans exception.

Cet appui peut se faire sous forme d'aide financière et technique, et de transferts de technologie, et devra permettre de garantir la dignité de l'individu, donc l'équilibre économique des pays en développement, et de garantir la paix et la sécurité dans le monde.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, pour conclure, je formule l'espoir que les travaux de cette session soient couronnés de succès. Les regards de tous les peuples du monde sont dirigés vers nous, vers l'Organisation internationale qui oeuvre à l'élévation de l'homme et à l'amélioration de son niveau de vie. Nous sommes en mesure de prendre, au cours de cette session, les résolutions qui nous permettront d'atteindre ce noble objectif dans des délais déterminés et précis.

Je ne peux ici que rendre hommage à la FAO et, à sa tête, à Monsieur SAOUMA, pour les excellents documents et programmes de travail qui ont été mis à notre disposition, et qui contribueront certainement à réaliser l'objectif du développement et à alléger les souffrances de la faim et de la malnutrition. Ceci ne peut se faire qu'en respectant les droits de l'homme et son droit fondamental, à savoir le droit à l'alimentation.

B. O. W. MAFENI (Nigeria): Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: On behalf of my Delegation, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your well-deserved election to preside over the affairs of this Conference. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen on their election. We of the Nigerian Delegation will do all we can to cooperate with you to ensure the success of the Conference.

As you are aware, Nigeria has put up a candidate for the post of the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. My Government is most grateful to member countries for the overwhelming support given to Dr. Bukar Shaib's candidature long before the date of the election.

We are gathered here again to review the state of food and agriculture in the world during the past biennium and the outlook over the next biennium and the medium-term. We shall also consider the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the same period.

The global food crisis which led to the convening of the World Food Conference in 1974 has receded to such an extent that some developed countries are now talking of cutting back their production of grains.

This improvement in the food situation is, however, largely confined to the developed countries. Most developing countries do still suffer from food shortages. In some cases there have been localised incidences of droughts and bad weather, but the main reason for the food shortages is the lack of capital for investment in the agricultural sector in most developing countries.

The World Food Conference of 1974 identified the lack of capital for investment as one of the major factors limiting the growth of agricultural production in the developing countries.

Most developing countries depend almost entirely on the export of agricultural primary products to the industrialised countries for the generation of capital for investment. It is a well-known fact, Mr. Chairman, that the industrialised countries not only control the world market for agricultural primary products, but they also control the prices of the manufactured goods which the developing countries need to increase their agricultural production.

Under this trading arrangement, the prices of manufactured goods are always going up and up while the prices of primary products are always fluctuating violently to the disadvantage of the developing countries. Since there is no correlation between the prices of primary products and manufactured goods, the developing countries are forced to borrow heavily from the industrialised countries to be able to buy the manufactured goods necessary for their development.

For example, statistics recently released by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa showed that African countries have accumulated a total external debt burden of more than thirty-four billion U. S. Dollars (\$34 000 million) because of fluctuations in the prices of their primary products on the world market.

The story is the same for other developing regions of the world such as Asia and Latin America. The debt servicing by the developing countries to the industrialised countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is now of the order of one billion U. S. Dollars (\$1 000 million) a year. Under these conditions, is it surprising, Mr. Chairman, that most developing countries lack the necessary capital to invest in the agricultural sector or in any other sector of their economy for that matter?

Now, at least two industrialised countries have realised the seriousness of the situation and have decided to write off their debts to the so-called "most seriously affected" of the developing countries. Sweden's Minister for International Development Co-operation, in announcing his country's decision to write off such debts amounting to about \$200 million, made the following statement - and I quote:



"If all donor countries joined in an action to cancel Official Development Assistance debts to the poorest, it would mean a nearly 20 per cent increase of aid to these countries. For the rich it would mean foregoing a mere 0.02 per cent of their gross national product. "

Nobody can deny the force in the Swedish Minister's arguments.

In recent years, the United Nations Development Programme has become utterly unreliable as a source of technical assistance to the developing countries and many agricultural projects financed by the UNDP have had to be abandoned.

The FAO also has failed to produce any results with the International Agricultural Adjustment which had been debated in this Conference over the past three or four biennia.

The net result of all these is that the state of food and agriculture has not improved in most developing countries during the past biennium.

The concrete steps taken by Sweden and Canada to write off their debts to the poor developing countries and the impending launching of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, as well as the new policy of the World Bank to channel more capital investment into the agricultural sector, give us some hope for the future.

But so long as the present economic system which is based on the neo-colonialist principle of exploitation of the developing countries by the industrialized countries continues, it will be impossible for the developing countries to generate sufficient capital of their own to invest in their development.

We believe that the only permanent solution to the problem is the establishment of a New International Economic Order as called for by the United Nations General Assembly. We appeal to the industrialized countries to take concrete steps to facilitate the achievement of the following goals in the shortest possible time as part of the New International Economic Order:

- The cancellation of all so called "Development Assistance" Debts owed by the developing countries to the industrialized countries, as has already been done by Canada and Sweden.
- The full implementation of the principle of International Agricultural Adjustments as worked out by the FAO.
- The exportation of processed agricultural products by the developing countries to the industrialized countries.
- The indexation of the prices of primary commodities against the prices of manufactured goods produced by the industrialized countries.

Unless a New International Economic Order is established, the widening gap between the developed and developing countries can never be closed.

Turning to the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the 1978-79 Biennium, I wish to congratulate Dr. Edouard Saouma for the speed with which he has been able to reorientate the activities of the Organization since he assumed the office of Director-General barely two years ago.

There is no doubt that most of his proposals in the Programme of Work and Budget are designed to assist the developing countries to increase agricultural production. In this connection, my Delegation strongly supports the creation of the Technical Cooperation Programme by the FAO. Some developing countries have already benefited from the Programme, and the Director-General should take steps to expand the scope of the Technical Cooperation Programme so that more developing countries can benefit from it in the next biennium.

The FAO should also develop a close and strong relationship with the International Fund for Agricultural Development so that the Fund can benefit from the experience and expertise of the FAO in making capital investments in developing countries.

My Delegation supports the Director-General's action programme for the prevention of food losses. In particular his proposals for reducing post-harvest losses. This is a field in which the FAO can assist the developing countries to produce tangible results within a fairly short time.

We, however, do not think that any concrete result can come out of the proposed World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. This is because Agrarian Reforms are based on social and political principles which differ widely from country to country. It is not a subject which lends itself well to technical discussions. The Director-General should therefore bear these facts in mind and keep the expenditure on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform to a minimum.

The actions so far taken by the Director-General to decentralize the activities of the Organization to the country level is most commendable, and my Delegation fully supports the proposals for the appointment of more FAO Country Representatives in the coming biennium.

A situation which continues to cause concern not only to my Delegation but also to all other delegations from the Africa Region is the poor representation of our Region in the FAO staff structure at the Headquarters level.

For many years there has not been anybody from the Africa Region holding the post of an Assistant Director-General at Headquarters. Professional staff from the Africa Region are also few and far between at lower levels in the structure. In the Operations Division the Chiefs of three of the Regional Desks are nationals from their own Regions, but that is not so with the Africa Desk.

My Delegation and many others have raised this matter in previous Conferences here in Rome and also at the last Africa Regional Conference in Freetown. We call on the Director-General to look into this unsatisfactory situation and take steps to correct it so that professional staff from the Africa Region can play their full part in the affairs of this Organization at all levels alongside their colleagues from other Regions.

Finally, I would like to welcome all the new member countries which have just been admitted into the Organization. Our special congratulations go to Angola and Mozambique which have gained their freedom after more than 500 years of colonial domination.

It is our fervent hope that Free Zimbabwe and Free Namibia will take their seats in this Organization at the next Conference.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The general debate is among the most important functions of the Conference. At this session, I am encouraged to note that not only will all delegations take the floor, but the overwhelming majority of the country statements will be delivered by the Ministers themselves.

I need not emphasize, therefore, my desire to follow in person this general debate and to take careful note of each country statement.

However, as it is well realized, the time when the distinguished ministers leading their delegations to the Conference and there are more than 80, are in Rome is extremely limited.

I therefore find myself in the position of wanting to be present in the Plenary Session and at the same time of wanting to meet individually with as many ministers as have expressed their wish to see me.

Moreover, at times when the commissions of this Conference consider Agenda items of major interest, I consider that it is also essential for me to participate, for limited periods, in their debates.

Faced with these conflicts, I have regretfully come to the conclusion that it will not be possible for me to be present at all times in the plenary. Of course, at times, when I am not here, I will be represented by the Deputy Director-General, Mr. Jackson.

I also need hardly add that I shall carefully study each country statement, through our verbatim records.

I trust, Mr. Chairman, that you and the distinguished delegates will appreciate my position and extend me their fullest cooperation and understanding.

I. MARGINEAU (Roumanie): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'éprouve une satisfaction particulière à vous adresser, Monsieur le Président, au nom de la délégation de la République socialiste de la Roumanie mes félicitations cordiales pour le mandat qui vous est confié de diriger les travaux de la 19ème session de la Conférence générale de la FAO.

Connaissant votre prodigieuse activité sur le plan national et international, ainsi que l'expérience que vous possédez dans le domaine de l'économie en général et de l'agriculture en particulier, je suis convaincu que sous votre présidence et avec la contribution de nous tous; les travaux de la Conférence seront couronnés de succès.

Permettez-moi de féliciter également les autres personnalités distinguées auxquelles ont été confiés des mandats pour le déroulement de notre importante réunion.

Je désire exprimer en même temps notre satisfaction profonde pour l'admission dans les rangs de la FAO de la République populaire démocratique de Corée, du Mozambique et de l'Angola, pays avec lesquels la Roumanie entretient d'étroites relations de collaboration sur des plans multiples. Nous éprouvons également une grande satisfaction pour l'admission dans notre Organisation de la République des Comores, de la République de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, de la République des Seychelles, de la République de Djibouti et de la Namibie.

Convaincus que leur participation à l'activité de la FAO sera importante pour la réalisation des objectifs de l'Organisation, je souhaite à tous les nouveaux membres une chaleureuse bienvenue.

Monsieur le Président, l'analyse de la situation de l'économie mondiale et des relations économiques entre les pays met en évidence l'existence dans le monde de problèmes graves et complexes qui attendent d'être résolus d'une manière efficace dans l'intérêt de tous les pays, de la paix et de la sécurité.

Comme le font remarquer les documents élaborés par le Secrétariat, ces derniers temps la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation s'est améliorée. Malgré cela, ainsi que l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU l'a récemment relevé, "600 millions de personnes souffrent de la faim dans les pays en développement; il existe encore au monde plus de 800 millions d'analphabètes, 300 millions de chômeurs et le revenu moyen par habitant dans les pays les plus pauvres est d'environ cent fois inférieur à celui des pays industrialisés".

Ces problèmes sont de grands problèmes de l'humanité, et ce sont en même temps les nôtres qui nous occupons et qui avons la responsabilité du développement de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation mondiales.

A notre avis, on ne pourra trouver une solution effective et réaliste à ces problèmes que dans la mesure où cette solution sera conçue comme partie intégrante des efforts visant à l'instauration dans le monde de rapports fondés sur la justice et l'équité.

Ainsi que le Président de la République socialiste de la Roumanie, Nicolae Ceausescu, le faisait remarquer! "l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international est de la plus grande importance pour la garantie de la promotion d'une collaboration internationale équitable, le respect du droit de chaque peuple d'être le maître de ses richesses naturelles et de son destin, parce qu'elle assure les conditions exigées par le progrès économique et social plus rapide des peuples attardés".

L'expérience de la Roumanie, pays socialiste et pays en voie de développement, ainsi que celle d'autres pays, nous indiquent d'une manière précise que la solution des problèmes, auxquels ces pays sont confrontés, y compris le problème de l'alimentation, suppose avant tout la mobilisation au maximum, dans le contexte des priorités nationales du développement, des efforts propres à chaque pays pour assurer les moyens modernes de production à haut rendement et leur utilisation sur une grande échelle dans l'agriculture.

C'est justement dans cette direction que la Roumanie a orienté sa politique de développement agricole vers la modernisation de l'agriculture, réussissant de la sorte cette année aussi à obtenir une production agricole satisfaisante, malgré les conditions climatiques peu favorables. Conscients du fait qu'on devra se donner de la peine par la suite, nous nous sommes proposés d'augmenter les années suivantes le poids des cultures irriguées et de prendre d'autres mesures destinées à la mise en valeur accrue des terrains, à l'augmentation de la mécanisation et de l'utilisation de la chimie dans les travaux destinés à la production végétale, animale et dans d'autres activités.

Convaincue que l'effort personnel constitue le facteur déterminant dans la réalisation des objectifs du développement national, la Roumanie considère également qu'une contribution importante peut et doit être apportée à l'accélération du développement de l'agriculture en général, et en particulier dans les pays en développement, par l'accroissement sur le plan international d'une coopération entre tous les pays, tant sur le plan bilatéral et multilatéral d'une part, que sur le plan sous-régional, régional et interrégional d'autre part.

Dans le cadre de cette coopération, il s'impose à notre avis que les pays développés augmentent leurs participations aux efforts faits par les pays en développement visant à la modernisation de leur agriculture, en garantissant l'accès sans restriction et dans les meilleures conditions à la technologie la plus moderne capable d'assurer à travers son utilisation l'augmentation substantielle de la production.

De grandes possibilités pour augmenter cette participation proviendraient, à notre avis, de l'arrêt de la course aux armements et des dépenses qu'elle provoque, en permettant d'affecter une partie des ressources qui en résulteraient, au développement agricole des pays en développement.

De l'avis de la délégation roumaine, la FAO, la plus grande institution spécialisée du système de l'ONU, peut et doit apporter une contribution décisive, à travers des actions concrètes ayant pour but d'aider les pays en développement dans leurs efforts pour mettre en valeur leurs ressources naturelles, à l'utilisation la plus complète possible des surfaces destinées à l'agriculture et qui ne sont pas encore utilisées dans toute leur étendue.

En ce sens, il faut souligner l'initiative positive de la FAO concernant la création d'un réseau scientifique international auquel la Roumanie participe activement et qui compte les cultures les plus importantes pour l'alimentation de l'homme (blé, maïs, tournesol, fèves et autres).

Parlant de l'importance de la coopération internationale, nous devons relever que dans le cadre de cette coopération s'est développée et continue à s'épanouir la coopération entre les pays en développement eux-mêmes. L'élargissement de cette coopération devient à notre avis toujours plus importante et nécessaire.

Nous constatons avec satisfaction que la présente Conférence l'a également relevé et nous retenons qu'il est absolument nécessaire d'adopter ici des mesures concrètes dont l'application contribue effectivement au développement de cette coopération. Dans l'esprit de notre pays, de telles mesures pourraient comprendre, entre autres, la création de grandes entreprises pour la production agricole, la croissance et la différenciation de la production agro-alimentaire, l'épanouissement de la recherche scientifique et la formation de personnel pour le secteur agro-alimentaire, l'organisation de secteurs de projection et l'exécution des objectifs pour la production agricole, et la mise en oeuvre des moyens nécessaires pour arriver à ce but.

Selon l'avis de mon pays, une des mesures importantes visant au développement de la coopération entre les pays en développement dans le domaine de l'agriculture serait l'organisation de réunions spécialisées à différents niveaux qui puissent identifier et proposer des solutions pratiques aux problèmes auxquels les pays en développement doivent faire face dans ce domaine. En ce qui nous concerne, la Roumanie est prête à recevoir une réunion consacrée à la coopération internationale visant à l'élaboration et à la mise en pratique des programmes de collaboration en vue de la croissance de la production agricole dans les pays en voie de développement.

Je viens d'énumérer les problèmes qui devront constituer, selon nous, les objectifs prioritaires de la coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'agro-alimentation.

La FAO qui, par sa vocation et son statut, doit réaliser cette coopération, devra orienter son activité en tenant compte de cette nécessité pour contribuer toujours davantage à la solution des problèmes auxquels doivent faire face les pays en développement.

Considérant qu'une série de suggestions faites par le Directeur général concernant le programme de travail, le programme de terrain et les objectifs FAO à moyen terme, correspondent en grande partie à ces exigences, nous sommes toutefois de l'avis que des améliorations seraient nécessaires afin que ces programmes soient orientés avant tout vers des actions dont l'application représente une contribution directe de l'Organisation aux efforts visant à la croissance de la production agricole des pays en développement. En ce sens, il nous paraît souhaitable que le programme de coopération technique commencé par le Directeur général soit élargi davantage de manière que la FAO puisse participer plus largement et opérativement à la réalisation des projets consacrés au développement agricole.

Nous considérons aussi comme une initiative digne d'être prise en considération la proposition tendant à instituer un programme d'action pour la prévention des pertes de récoltes ainsi que le Fonds spécial nécessaire.

En ce qui concerne le Programme alimentaire mondial, la Roumanie soutiendra son développement et y participera par des contributions en produits. A notre avis, dans le cadre de ce Programme, il sera nécessaire d'y intensifier nos efforts pour une utilisation meilleure de l'aide au développement, sans pour autant diminuer l'aide accordée dans les situations d'urgence.

Nous pensons que ces aspects devront se refléter dans le futur budget de la FAO. Nous pensons qu'une rationalisation et une meilleure orientation de ce budget sont possibles afin qu'une part toujours plus grande soit attribuée à des actions tendant à aider directement le développement agricole. Nous considérons qu'en ce sens il serait opportun de réaliser une organisation plus efficiente du Secrétariat de la FAO, de telle sorte que le personnel soit davantage employé dans des actions telles que celles que je viens de citer.

En ce qui concerne l'activité de la FAO pendant ces deux dernières années, nous voulons exprimer ici notre satisfaction pour les efforts déployés par Monsieur le Directeur général pour canaliser les activités de l'Organisation par des actions concrètes, vers la réalisation de ses buts fondamentaux, en aidant les pays en développement et en oeuvrant pour la promotion de la coopération entre les nations.

Selon la délégation de la Roumanie, l'aide accordée par la Communauté internationale dans son ensemble, y compris l'aide accordée par la FAO, devra être orientée de préférence vers les pays les moins développés. Il est nécessaire de soutenir en même temps tous les autres pays en développement dans leurs efforts vers la réalisation de l'agriculture moderne.

Il est également nécessaire que dans son activité future tout entière, la FAO coopère de manière étroite avec les autres Organisations ou organismes qui s'occupent de l'agriculture, en particulier le FIDA, le PNUD, le CMA, les commissions régionales de l'ONU, etc.

En ce sens, nous sommes heureux de constater que les conditions nécessaires pour que le FIDA devienne opérationnel sont pratiquement réalisées. Je désire mentionner qu'en ce qui la concerne, la Roumanie a récemment ratifié l'accord portant création de ce Fonds.

Ainsi que nous l'avons mis en évidence à l'occasion de la dernière Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe, la FAO devrait insister davantage sur le développement de la coopération agricole entre les pays de ce continent, de manière que l'on puisse aider tant les pays européens en développement que les pays en développement situés dans d'autres régions du monde. Cela s'impose d'autant plus que les pays de ce continent disposent du plus grand potentiel et sont en majeure partie des pays développés. C'est en tenant compte de ces prémisses que la Roumanie a présenté à la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe une série de propositions concrètes qui peuvent servir de base à d'éventuelles actions.

A notre avis, la présente Conférence générale devrait adopter des mesures concrètes dans cette direction.

D'autre part, la Roumanie prête une attention particulière à la prochaine conférence mondiale pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural dont l'importance exige une préparation minutieuse. Il s'impose donc de créer les conditions nécessaires pour que tous les pays puissent participer à la préparation de cette conférence et fassent connaître leurs points de vue.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai fait brièvement l'exposé de quelques considérations présentées par la délégation roumaine sur l'ensemble des problèmes relatifs à l'agriculture en général et sur les problèmes qui se trouvent à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence en particulier.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais mettre l'accent sur la conviction inébranlable que les problèmes auxquels l'humanité doit faire face aujourd'hui, y compris le problème de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, réclament la participation active et directe de tous les Etats. La délégation roumaine est prête à apporter, avec tous les autres pays, sa contribution afin de trouver des solutions viables et durables à ces problèmes.

J'exprime l'espoir que notre réunion aboutira ainsi à des décisions de fond qui remplaceront ce que vous avez si joliment nommé "la liturgie des conférences".

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

The meeting rose at 12. 30 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12 30 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIER  
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(15 November 1977)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 50 hours,

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La sixième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50 sous la présidence de

T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14. 50 horas, bajo la presidencia de

T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION(continued)

DEBAT GENERALT(suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)]

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the Sixth Plenary Meeting to order. We will continue with the item General Discussion. I give the floor to the speaker for Turkey.

...(Turkey): On behalf of my Government and of my delegation, I would like to express our best wishes for the success of the 19th Session of the FAO Conference.

It gives me a particular pleasure to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your well-deserved election to the chair of this important Conference. We are confident that, under your able guidance, our deliberations will achieve positive and constructive results.

My congratulations go also to our eminent colleagues, upon their elections as vice-chairmen, who will contribute to the success of this Session.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome on behalf of my Government to the new members of FAO, who are joining us, for the first time, in this Session. With the participation of Angola, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, and Djibouti, Namibia and Seychelles our Organisation will be more representative of our small planet and their contributions will make our work fuller and richer.

It is always pleasant to welcome new members to our Organization and to see this Organization established 32 years ago with only 42 members, becoming year by year, the most efficient and leading organ of the United Nations's family, in the struggle of countries for their economic development, in the struggle of man against poverty and hunger.

We are gathering again here, in this beautiful and eternal city of Rome, 3 years after the convocation of the World Food Conference.

The World Food Conference was a very important step forward in the search of new international action to fight the poverty, malnutrition and hunger that afflict more than half of the world's population. The decisions taken at that Conference and subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, have led to the creation of the World Food Council, of the Consultative Group of Food Production and Investment in the developing countries and of the International Fund for the Agricultural Development.

It is too early to evaluate properly the activities of these new bodies, as they are either at their initial stage of functioning, or not yet entered into force.

In this context, Mr. Chairman, we would like to express our strong conviction, that the primary responsibility for the questions of food and agriculture rests with the FAO and that our desire is to see the Organization as the leading Agency in these matters. It should be understood that the role of the new organs should be restricted only to the tasks that went beyond FAO's mandate. It is of utmost importance not only for the waste of energy and resources but also for the viability and effectiveness of the new bodies that there should be no duplication of functions and activities between them and FAO as the leading Agency.

As regards the IFAD agreement whose entry into force is imminent, we attach importance that the greatest number of developing countries could benefit from the financing of their development projects. We are sure that with the effective cooperation of FAO, IFAD will be a promising Organization for the rural development of our countries. We believe that contribution of necessary funds will significantly help efforts by the developing countries to improve their agricultural structure and consequently to increase their food production. We have already informed the Organization that my Government has earmarked in the 1977 budget, a sum equivalent to US\$ 100 000 in turkish liras.

I wish to recall that, when the World Food Conference was convened, 3 years ago, it was a period of expectations for the developing countries which have put their hopes in the efforts for the establishment of a more just world economic order. It is regrettable to note that, the results of these efforts



undertaken by the international community to lay the foundation for a new economic order are getting less encouraging, today. North-South dialogue has produced no tangible results yet. On the other hand, as far as the world agriculture situation is concerned, the forecasts are less optimistic than what was expected. Unfavourable weather conditions in recent months resulted in shortfalls in the total value of production, particularly of food crops.

In this general bleak picture, where expectations of the developing countries have often led to deceptions, we must all unite our efforts and deliberations to see more room for hope at the end of the 19th FAO Conference. We are confident that our fresh dedication and endeavour in response to international community for a renewed priority accorded to rural development in the developing countries will be reflected in constructive policy initiatives.

As a representative of a developing country which heartily and readily supports the efforts for agricultural development, I wish to stress that it is highly desirable to see FAO undertaking more and more initiatives in the field of investments and also coordinating and supervising cooperations between the developing countries on the basis of regional development projects of common interest.

We attach special importance to the action-oriented activities of FAO and we are pleased to note that the re-orientation of FAO programmes with greater emphasis on field activities is beginning to bear fruit.

In this context, Mr. Chairman, let me take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the work of the Director-General Mr. Saouma, who has more than deserved the confidence we have placed in him. I want to assure him that Turkey will continue to support him actively in his action-oriented efforts, in his quest for ^-bureaucratization that assists the real transfer of activities to the country level. In fact, we are ready to give our full support for all the efforts of this nature which assure us that our contribution is fully spent for operational, concrete and action-oriented projects.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express, also, our appreciation for the activities of the Technical Cooperation Programme which is fulfilling a very important function in providing a quick and effective response to requests for urgent, small-scale technical, assistance. TCP is one of the initiatives of the Director General that we fully support and expect a larger emphasis be given to its development.

Let me briefly comment on some developments in FAO and in World Food Programme developments which seem to us of particular importance.

We note with satisfaction the International Fertilizer Scheme, recommended by the Commission on fertilizers. We are happy to see also that again the Commission is in the process of evolving specific policies and measures aimed at ensuring price stabilization and at reducing price differentials for fertilizers paid by farmers in developing, importing countries.

We take note, also, with satisfaction that a great deal of progress has been accomplished in the "preparation for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to which we, in Turkey, are attaching a particular importance.

The dimensions of this vast question of agrarian reform necessitate an enlarged scope of preparatory work to be accomplished. So, instead of a limited technical- meeting as it was envisaged before, it becomes. apparent that a broader conceptual approach is required for the organization of the Conference.

We believe that FAO must have a minimum security against persistent currency fluctuations; that is why we consider favourably the establishment of a special reserve account of 5 million US\$, allocated to this end.

As far as the reduction of food losses is concerned, we note with pleasure efforts of FAO on this matter and give our support for 10 million US\$ earmarked for the special fund for reduction of food losses.

My Government has a particular interest in the activities of FAO regarding Forestry and Fisheries. We observe, with satisfaction FAO's continuing programmes to assist countries in improving their planning, administrative and research capabilities and to strength forestry education and training system indeveloping countries. .

As for the fisheries, coming from the Mediterranean and the Black Sea area, where the fishery problem is one of management and protection of the environment, I am convinced more that ever that FAO must lead the member countries of the region in solving their complicated fishery and environmental problems in

an integrated fashion. My delegation favours an orderly and coordinated approach to matters concerned with overall ocean affairs, now handled by various UN Agencies and intergovernmental bodies -consolidated under one big programme for which FAO should remain as the leading agency.

As far as the World Food Programme is concerned, Turkey has, since the early years of its existence, contributed actively to the efficient functioning of this programme, in conformity with its humanitarian objectives. The target of US\$ 950 millions for contributions in the biennium 1978-80, as approved by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, could be considered as a promising indication in the wide support of WFP in channelling multilateral food aid in an effective manner. We are happy to see the increasing role of WFP in the multilateral food aid to the developing countries for their struggle against malnutrition, hunger and poverty.

Another satisfactory development in the WFP context is the outcome of the considerable discussions on the revision of the general regulations. The revised general regulations, in the manner they are intended to be adopted, may give a flexibility of action to the Executive Director in considering the requests other than those coming normally from member countries of the United Nations.

We are of the opinion that such flexibility will contribute to the efficiency of WFP in its humanitarian objectives. At this point, I would like to congratulate Mr. Garson Nathaniel Vogel, upon his election as Executive Director of WFP, and wish him all the success in his important duties. Turkey has played an active role in the work of WFP as a member country of WFP, and will not spare its full support to the programme as an observer for the coming years.

Mr. Chairman, Turkey is an agricultural country, an agricultural country where two-thirds of the population is living in rural areas dependent on agricultural production. Turkey possesses rich resources and potentials in agricultural fields.

However, Turkish agriculture is subjected to adverse weather conditions which cause nutrition problems. Although in Turkey we have given priority to the development of a strong infrastructure of high productivity to agricultural output, the expected increase has not been achieved yet. Turkey thus represents a country which exports food and even gives food aid on several occasions, yet needs to import periodically food items as well. This situation stems from the fact that the transfer of technology is still inadequate and that serious difficulties continue to exist in financing necessary investments in agriculture.

This fact is valid for most of the other developing countries. Financial difficulties continue to be the main obstacle for the realization of many well-conceived investment projects. Some of the projects cannot be implemented before accomplishing some large-scale and long-term infrastructure investments. These infrastructure investments necessitate the mobilisation of internal and external financial resources.

In this context, promotion of export of agricultural products could be a question that can be easily tackled in the framework of FAO. Even though UNCTAD and, to some extent GATT, are the main fora for such deliberations, we believe that FAO as far as marketing of agricultural goods is concerned could reasonably play a more important role and contribute more actively to the work of these bodies. In fact, the measures to be taken for increasing food production, for its efficient marketing and raising the developing countries' shares in the global exportation of agricultural products, all these issues have been discussed in detail in international bodies such as UNCTAD, GATT and FAO. Nevertheless, an integrated and coordinated programme of action for the developing countries in order to enable them to improve agricultural production and its exports has never been prepared and implemented. We believe that FAO could very well be an appropriate forum to prepare, with the coordination of other competent bodies, such an integrated programme of action.

Mr. Chairman, before concluding I would like to state that my Government observes with satisfaction and joins with a constructive spirit the efforts put forward by FAO and other international organizations for more effective cooperation to meet challenges of the world food production and feeding problems. The basic solution to the problem in the field of food and agriculture, rests on the increasing food production. Both the developing and developed countries are in full agreement on these views. It is hence imperative that a proper channel be set up between the developed and developing countries, for an effective transfer of technologies, capitals, as well as provisions and suitable prices of such inputs affecting agricultural production like fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides, machinery and equipment.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to emphasize once more that in order to achieve a substantial increase in the food production of the developing countries, FAO should place more emphasis on its action-oriented activities.

I am confident that our frank and full discussions, inspired with a fresh spirit of compromise, cooperation and a renewed dedication to our ideals, will indeed be instrumental, under your enlightened chairmanship, for a successful completion of the work of the Nineteenth Session of FAO. Such a result will usher in new vigour and determination to our joint and sustained efforts with a view to alleviating the suffering and misery of our world.

C. STAVROPOULOS (Greece): It gives me great pleasure to take the floor on this important occasion. It is indeed edifying to hear and exchange views about important matters, concerning agriculture and thus share from the experience of others in the effort to promote development and to improve the wellbeing of our peoples.

In the first place I wish, on behalf of the Greek Delegation, to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to this high office. Our congratulations go also to the Vice-Chairmen for their election. We are certain that under your able guidance the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of FAO will achieve our common expectations.

At the same time I would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma, who has spared no efforts in restructuring the Organization, extending the FAO's objectives and reorientating its activities. I would like also to commend his staff for the valuable work in preparing this Conference.

Last, but not least, I wholeheartedly congratulate and welcome the new Member Nations for their incorporation to this world family.

Mr. Chairman, the Greek Delegation has noted with satisfaction the improvement made during the past two years in world food and agricultural production. This situation has led to the improvement of the food consumption level in many developing countries, to the decline of international prices of several food commodities and to the creation of sufficient stocks.

However, despite this encouraging situation of world food production, the long-term perspectives remain unstable. Efforts should, therefore, be made in improving the infrastructure of the rural areas, which will limit the annual fluctuation of the agricultural production and will assure, in the long run, a satisfying rate of increase of the world agricultural output and a remarkable improvement of storing facilities, as well as marketing conditions.

The creation of this necessary infrastructure affects both directly and indirectly the improvement of agricultural productivity and leads towards increased food supplies in the world market. This is determined by the level and the extent of investment activities of each country as well as by the international institutions.

Under these circumstances, it is obvious that the increase of agricultural productivity will contribute significantly to agricultural development as a whole and, therefore, to the development of individual national economies.

It has recently been recognized that agricultural development is a basic prerequisite for the development of a national economy. Consequently, agriculture cannot be sustained for industry's sake. Nevertheless, it seems that the balanced and parallel development of both sectors, is considered today as more profitable. The increase in agricultural productivity contributes to the movement of productive resources towards industry, thus assisting the development of the industrial sector. Consequently, a priority system must be applied in the development programmes of every country and especially in programmes concerning investment, which should be based on the rational exploitation of all productivity resources. Among these priorities, the issue of food production and supply must come first.

Beyond the investment programme aiming at improving agricultural productivity and increasing agricultural output, additional policy measures are considered necessary in order to create a well-organized and efficient service of agricultural applications and training, a more comprehensive soil management, improvement of irrigation, a rational use of fertilizers and pesticides, mechanization, plant improvement and field research and improvement of loan facilities and subsidies.

Therefore, it is not sufficient to secure investment resources that require a great deal of effort. What is also necessary is to ensure the proper application of such investment resources in the rural areas of each country, thus achieving a more rational increase of world agricultural output, sufficient to fulfill the basic nutrition needs of peoples, and also assisting the establishment of a new international economic order for the benefit of all the peoples of the world.

The role of FAO in the field of agricultural investment is, in the view of the Greek Delegation, multipurpose and significant. FAO's efforts should be intensified in order to increase the world investment resources which are used for agricultural development and to face effectively the problem of food supply

All member countries must be assisted more effectively by FAO for a more rational planning and carrying out of public works and other development programmes, as well as securing more financial resources under more favourable terms.

In some countries, mainly in the major rural areas, a relatively small amount of expenditure in the field of agricultural training and practical education, could show spectacular results in food production. In other countries, land reclamation projects are strongly required. And finally, there are countries that dispose of a relative infrastructure and need only to carry out certain supplementary works. The group of the countries mentioned first might be ranged among the poorest countries of the world. The latter might be in a more advanced stage of economic development but perhaps they would not belong to the economically advanced countries of the world. Nevertheless, they should all enjoy proper attention and care. The adoption of appropriate measures will permit a more rational consideration of priorities for achieving our targets on food production without abetting international antagonisms.

For all these reasons the Greek Delegation feels that the priorities given for investments in agriculture through a reorganized and wider programme prove very successful. We are convinced that FAO's activities in the field of promoting investments will contribute to the stabilization of world markets and the maintenance of international prices. In this way the terms of trade will not function against the developing agricultural countries.

The Greek Delegation welcomes with great satisfaction the intention of the World Bank to increase its loans in the agricultural sector and hopes that the International Fund for Agricultural Development will become a decisive element to secure additional financial resources for investments in food and other agricultural products.

Furthermore, the Greek Delegation believes that FAO must allocate a great part of its budget to further assist the scientific research activities that are being carried out in several regions and especially in Europe. This will produce favourable results not only for the European agriculture, but also for the world food and agricultural production.

We should always keep in mind that in Europe there are not only economically developed countries, but also developing countries, which need additional assistance for their agricultural development. Also in many European countries there are less-favoured areas that need to be assisted in order to develop their agricultural production, protect agricultural population centres and preserve their natural environment.

Before concluding this Statement, I would like to elaborate briefly on the agricultural policies of the Greek Government. The main objective has been the increase of the agricultural income. This is based on the system of price-policy. The increase of production of certain crops in order to satisfy the needs of the home market together with the development of exports of agricultural products of higher quality standard, have been the two main aspects of this policy.

A parallel stimulus was given to this policy with the granting of substantial credits and other financial measures which are initiated by the Agricultural Bank of Greece. At the same time a process has been undertaken aiming at the harmonization of the agricultural policy of the country with that of the European Economic Community.

The agricultural programme for the ending year has been planned on the basis of long-term prospects for the development of the agricultural income and the amelioration of the living conditions of the farmers, while, at the same time, attention has been given to confront the short-term market fluctuations and the stabilization of the real agricultural income.

In order to achieve in particular the long-term objectives, concrete economic and institutional measures have been taken. These measures aim at crop reorientation, infrastructure projects, land consolidation, improvement of marketing conditions, of fresh and processed agricultural products and, in general, the establishment of the necessary institutional framework and the real conditions which will permit the farmers to raise and sell their products directly to the consumers. The most important of these measures are the following:

- a) A special law has been enacted as regards the modification of land tenure and the modernization of farm exploitation.
- b) In the field of agricultural cooperation, new legislation has been adopted aiming at the development of agricultural cooperatives, and their activities in the field of production, marketing and processing of agricultural products.
- c) In the field of processing of agricultural products, the relevant legislation aims at the protection, support and standardization of the production of certain basic products.

d) In order to better assist the increase of productivity and the protection of the prices of agricultural products emphasis has been given to announce well beforehand the relevant decisions of the government so that farmers can plan their production accordingly, thus determining in advance the area to be cultivated for the sake of a stable income.

Although the forecasts of the 1977 Programme, as regards the level of production, will have to be readjusted because of adverse climatic conditions, in general, the 1977 agricultural programme still aims at the realization of the long-term objectives, better working conditions, higher productivity, improvement of the income of the farmers and a better future for the agricultural population of our country.

In concluding Mr. Chairman, I wish to assure you that the Greek Delegation will do its very best to contribute positively to the successful conclusion of the 19th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations thus participating in our common efforts to solve successfully the pressing world food problems, with which humanity is today still confronted.

P. DALSGER (Denmark): First of all, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and your Vice-Chairman, on your election to the Chairmanship of this Session, and I, on behalf of the Danish delegation, would like to thank the Director-General for the work carried out in the FAO Headquarters in order to arrange the Nineteenth Conference of FAO.

My major impression from the documents we have received is that FAO has become a more active organization. FAO wants to strengthen the various measures which may increase agricultural production and hereby help the economic development in the Member Countries. This will, of course, be supported by Denmark.

There is a reason for optimism, since both 1975 and 1976 showed an increase of approximately 4 percent in world food production, and the outlook for 1977 seems promising if you take the world as a whole. The favourable yields of these years have made many empty stores full again. This has given a basis for a better planned and more long-term effort to meet food shortages which prevail in many developing countries.

However, in spite of a better supply situation in the world as a whole, it should be stressed that hunger and malnutrition still exist in many parts of the world, and the development of the latest months in the Sahel countries is a serious reminder.

Food production in developed countries is by and large going in the right direction, but the growth in the developing countries is not satisfactory. The fluctuations in the food prices in the international market create insecurity which ought to be changed.

I am therefore in agreement with the Director-General when he stresses that one of FAO's most important tasks is to help the poorest developing countries more directly in their efforts to increase food production faster. Only through this can their dependence on grain import and food aid be reduced. I therefore find the strengthening of FAO's Investment Centre to be right. FAO's role as an independent investment service agency may consequently be of crucial importance to FAO's Member Countries. I am here thinking of the task to effect an increasing flow of capital from both traditional and new sources for investment in agriculture and the developing countries. Through the regional banks, IBRD, private banks and in other ways.

Further, I attach great importance to the fact that this transfer of capital should be made at reasonable terms so that production is not impeded unnecessarily on account of the repayment obligations. It is an important task FAO has taken up here.

I would further like to stress the importance of a close cooperation between FAO and IFAD. From the Danish side we feel satisfied to hear that the pledging target of one thousand million dollars has been reached. Such a development will increase the purchasing power and lead to greater independence and freedom of action. Further, it would stimulate the international trade to the benefit of all countries. I find it necessary, though, to ask you to remember that increasing production in the developing countries on the whole does not automatically lead to a better standard of living and a better nutrition of the poorer population of the poorest countries. We actually know that an increased production in unfortunate situations leads to an even worse position for the poorest people. Often not even the basic human needs are covered. I do hope that FAO therefore will pay attention to the poorest people in the poorest countries. I shall return to this subject in connexion with FAO's work in the field of nutrition and integrated rural development.

The efforts made to advance and support the production and export of the developing countries are displayed in many international negotiations. The idea of the fund - that is, that the means on easy terms are at disposal of the poorest countries in order to increase food production - is right. I have further noted with satisfaction that the developing countries themselves to a larger extent will get the responsibility for planning and implementation of the projects which are financed by the Fund. This is a step in the right direction, but it is not going to be easy to carry it through.

I feel, however, that the efforts of the developing countries are determining whether the necessary progress will be reached. The technology and know-how of the industrial countries can intensify these efforts of these countries and must naturally be put at disposal whenever possible. It should be stressed that many developing countries still have unused production resources. We must use these resources in future so that growth in production for a longer period of time can reach at least the four percent per annum which was the measure set up in the Second Development Decade of the United Nations.

As an example I can mention the North-South Dialogue which in spite of certain disappointments has resulted in a renewed resolution from the countries to carry through a substantial increase of their development aid.

It should also be mentioned that the industrial countries have agreed on placing an extra one billion dollars at the disposal of the poorest countries.

Further, may be mentioned the present negotiations to establish a raw material fund for the products which need stabilizing measures. The North-South Dialogue has not yet been concluded.

I do hope that in the next round we shall have more dynamic negotiations so we shall have new constructive proposals to improve trade.

The cooperation between FAO and UNCTAD is also important, especially the responsibility of FAO in preparing the UNCTAD negotiations on the integrated commodity programme.

I am attaching great importance to the future multilateral trade negotiations at which I hope there will be an understanding on the necessary international commodity agreement.

The developing countries need to have their trade problems solved in a sensible way which will contribute to a reasonable stability of production.

Finally, it is also important for the developing countries that the problems existing among Japan, the United States and the EEC countries be solved in a way which will secure a stable economic growth in the world.

It is with satisfaction that in the proposed Programme and Medium Term Objectives, I have read that FAO's activities are not only to be viewed as short-term measures, but as a link in a more long-sighted planning.

The Medium Terms Document is, though, according to my opinion too inaccurate in the sense that it seems to be more of a broad catalogue on the future tasks. But without making clear exactly what FAO wishes to give priority to in the years to come. I would request that FAO's next draft on Medium Terms concentrate on the activities which are to be given priority. We shall in Commission II explain our wishes.

I wish to mention, however, that education, nutrition and investment together with an increased effort on fertilizer and seed will get priority from the Danish side.

I should like to recommend that COAG, COFO and COFI be given the possibility to study the new draft on Medium Terms prior to its presentation in FAO's Council and the next Conference.

I find the budget proposal for 1978 and 1979 acceptable, although I would have found it more correct to include all the activities which the Conference has been asked to approve. I advise the Secretariat to do this in connexion with the presentation of the next Programme of Work and Budget.

The cost increase in the proposed budget of 28 million dollars or more than one million dollars a month is tremendous. I do hope that inflation will be less in future. FAO must, however, still keep check on overdrafts due to other circumstances and keep these at a minimum.

I have noted with satisfaction that the number of meetings and documents have been kept at a reasonable level.

I would now like to comment on some of the FAO activities in 1978 and 1979. It seems right to me that FAO should dispose of a technical cooperation programme which fast and effectively can be used in developing countries which are suddenly in a critical position - for instance because of droughts or ruining animal diseases. It is yet too soon to tell whether TCP is the best instrument to solve this type of problem. In order to value the projects and actions which are carried through in future I find it necessary to ask for an evaluation report at the next Conference.

As regards FAO's Field Programmes I regret to find the UNDP financed part of these programmes for the time being reduced in real terms, I hope this will change and that the basis of UNDP-financing will improve ahead. The fact is that the UNDP-financed projects - also in the years to come - in spite of a relatively decreasing importance still will form an important part of FAO activities in the developing countries. It is therefore an interest for all of us that a good and close cooperation between UNDP and FAO shall prevail.

I am fully supporting the statement of the Director-General expressing that coordination and cooperation with UNDP on country level is of decisive importance as to how the means are administered most advantageously for the developing countries.

I can give my full support to FAO's new - I hope dynamic and competent - country representatives. As we all know a good cooperation is a question of having the right people in the posts.

FAO's image and effort in the various countries will further depend upon the ability of the country representatives to cooperate with governments and multilateral and bilateral organizations - also non-governmental organizations.

This leads me to comment on a number of fields at which FAO should pay special attention in future -- fields which will be supported from the Danish as well as the Nordic side. The proposal on post-harvest losses should have high priority. It is unreasonable to work for an increased production without making sure that it will get to the people.

I can support the programme of action and at the same time recommend that the main effort concentrates on the Farm Level where the largest effect can be reached most effectively. Of course, this activity should not stand on its own. It must be an integrated part of all the things we must work on in order to obtain a real progress for all groups of people in rural districts of the developing countries. I am here referring to small farmers development and the necessity for this programme to be integrated in integrated rural development.

From the Danish and the Nordic side we wish all groups of rural people to be included in the economic development and also that FAO to a larger extent pay attention to the woman's role in food production, food handling as well as in nutrition. This is the only way in which FAO can succeed in improving nutrition and an increased standard of living.

It is unsatisfactory that international help - also FAO's - has not improved living conditions in rural districts much more than is the case. So therefore there is a need for a closer international cooperation in order to carry through the integrated rural development programme in which FAO naturally must play an important role. It gives many problems when carrying out such large programmes.

FAO should show inventiveness and ability in order to inspire all groups of rural people to participate.

It is also important to remember that a village society functions as a whole and must grow in harmony. That is why we must look upon the whole - that is agriculture, craft, forestry and maybe also fisheries. At the same time areas such as infrastructure, education and health must be included in the development schemes.

In this connection I would like to mention another important aspect of FAO's work which we in Denmark have always looked upon with a special interest - and that is the question of food and nutrition planning. It is my opinion that this area of FAO's work has been somewhat overshadowed by easier technical tasks.

I do hope that FAO now will live up to the leading and central role which the organization has been given after the Manila Meeting of the World Food Council. It is essential that nutrition be given a much higher priority in the work of the international organizations. FAO's next move in this area is expected with the utmost interest in Denmark.

In connection with the development of agriculture in the developing countries I find it extremely important to pay attention to an area I feel must be looked into in connection with the usage of

agricultural land. I do recommend that FAO intensify its help to the developing countries in their planning of the usage of farm land. The ecological aspects must to a greater extent be included in the planning. I would like to stress though that it is necessary for all countries to preserve farm land in order to secure future food supply.

May I give a few remarks on the activities within the Trust Fund projects, which we from the Danish side consider to be an important part of FAO's policy. Being a small country we find that in some fields where we have a special expertise we can make a contribution through FAO. Such activities we cannot cope with alone.

I would like to mention the Dairy Training Programme and the Fertilizer Programme where Danish experts for a long time have made their contribution. From the Danish side we shall continue to assist the Dairy Training where we find we have obtained good results.

As regards the Fertilizer Programme we are happy to find that FAO uses the proposal put forward from the Nordic side - that is that the activities of the Fertilizer Programme must be integrated with a larger effort in the other productivity factors.

We have with interest received the Director-General's proposal of new procedures of negotiation in connection with agreements of Trust Fund projects. We hope that this will form a good basis for a continued, cooperation on well-defined work and projects.

It is furthermore important that trust fund projects are integrated in FAO's overall policy. I have mentioned the need for the establishment of satisfactory food security stocks to meet with hunger situations in the developing countries. The present favourable food situation must be used in order to establish an international food reserve in order to cope with price increases and with shortages. The new American grainstocks might in our opinion contribute to the stabilization of the international grain market. It is of great importance to food security and price stability that we can now agree upon a new international grain agreement.

It is my hope that the differences of opinion which may still exist as regards the means of reaching the goal may disappear so that a solution may be found. I would like to stress the importance of having all countries working for these goals which are implied in FAO's undertaking on food security. The setup for the International Food Reserve of up to 500, 000 tons is a step in the right direction.

Let me also say a few words on the World Food Programme which Denmark since its start in 1962 has considered a very important programme. First I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Vogel, the new Executive Director, with his appointment. It is a very important international organization you are now going to run. We are from the Danish side looking forward to a close cooperation on food aid both in regard to actual tasks and in regard to food policy problems.

At the same time Denmark wishes to thank the former Executive Director, Mr. Robinson, with whom we have had an excellent cooperation.

At this Conference we shall take a decision on the pledging target for 1979-80. I can give my support to the increase from 750 to 950 million dollars. We feel convinced that WFP can administer such an amount and the developing countries need a larger multilateral contribution in the food aid area.

The Danish Government has agreed upon an increase of the Danish contribution to WFP. It has proposed to the Folketing an increase to 100 million Kroner in 1979 and to 110 million Kroner in 1980.

WFP's work in international development is highly recognized in Denmark and I can therefore assure you of a continued active cooperation.

Mr. Director-General, may I finally wish you and, the members of your staff all the best in your fut' work,

L. C.J. MARTIN (United Kingdom): Can I first of all begin by apologising for the fact that my Minister, Mrs. Hart, is not able to be with us today. This is no formal apology because she is devoted to the cause of development. She is particularly concerned that all that we do to try to help the developing countries should be specially directed at eliminating poverty and at helping the poorer people, and that means also being especially concerned with FAO. She was looking forward very much to being here, but there is important parliamentary business back home, concerned with our own problems of self-government, and so she had to stay there.



Mr. Chairman, I should like to take this opportunity to welcome the new members of FAO, and Conference will understand if I extend a special word of welcome to the Seychelles, because it gives us in the United Kingdom particular pleasure each time a part of the world with which we have had long historic associations takes its rightful, independent part in a gathering of this kind.

Mr. Chairman, I find it difficult, especially in the absence of my Minister - because I am mindful of what was rightly said yesterday about bureaucrats, of whom I am one - to know what there is to add to our discussions after your own vigorous and refreshing speech last Saturday, when you were elected, after the stimulating McDougall memorial address given to us yesterday by Ambassador Young, and after the Director-General's own intervention yesterday afternoon. It would seem to me that on the broad lines of policy we are in the main all agreed and that in many ways there is not a great deal more to be said. But perhaps there are one or two words that need to be added for our benefit during the time that we are here in Rome.

One of the other reasons why my Minister would have wished very much to be here herself was that we wanted to express our appreciation of all that Dr. Saouma has done in his first two years of office to increase the ability of FAO to meet the challenge of the world situation in respect of food and agriculture. It is indeed - and I am not the first to say it - Dr. Saouma whom we must thank for the fact that FAO is now action-orientated. We think that he was right to reduce the number of meetings and to limit the volume of publications, although on the other hand we would not want to underestimate the importance of the basic intellectual activity that goes on in FAO which is of value to both developed and developing countries alike.

Mr. Chairman, Dr. Saouma took office at a time when there were traumatic problems about the main thrust of technical cooperation through the United Nations' system and in particular through the voluntary funding from the UNDP. My Government is one of those that consider the UNDP should indeed be a main source of funding for technical cooperation; but equally we would like to pay tribute to the Director-General's efforts to ensure that FAO plays its essential part in the system of the United Nations without detracting from the work of other parts of the system and without leading to duplication and waste of effort.

The Technical Cooperation Programme is a case in point. We first had some doubts about it but we have now come round to the view that so long as it remains of reasonable size and is essentially for urgent action, then it is a good thing. We have watched it begin with interest; it now has our support. But this brings me on to the general question of money, and we do have financial problems to think about at this particular Conference. It is a matter of the budget for the Regular Programme, the question of a special Reserve Account and the question of the funding of a programme of action for post-harvest losses. Some of us who were here last week for the meeting of the Council before the Conference know just how much time this matter took up. So far as concerns the United Kingdom, the residual problems after the discussions that went on last week are about the post-harvest losses fund and the special reserve, and if these difficulties can be overcome, then I think that the United Kingdom will have not too much difficulty - if any at all - with the level of the budget for the Regular Programme; and believe me, Mr. Chairman, that is quite a big thing to say because it is true that the budgets of the agencies increase all the time and the rate of increase, first of all because of inflation but second also because of determination to have a rate of real increase, means that the budgets each two years seem to be so enormously bigger than they were two years before, and to cause problems. But if the agencies are really doing their developmental job, if they are really being efficient, we are not wasting money. If they are not overloaded with international bureaucrats - and I can hit international bureaucrats because I am simply a national bureaucrat! - then it is money worth spending. And it is one of our tasks to see that the budget that emerges is one that we can defend.

As I have said, Mr. Chairman, I think that so far as concerns FAO you will find that the United Kingdom does not have too much difficulty at this time. On the special Reserve Account, it is possible that just even one adjective would help us to accept the proposal that has been made. There is need for safeguard against unexpected drops, against inflation being worse than you thought it was against the exchange rate not being what you thought it was going to be. But these pockets of money are always looked at a little circumspectly and, so long as it is clearly stated that the Reserve Account is there for purely technical, financial reasons, again I think the United Kingdom will not have a great problem with it.

I said that we would not have too much trouble with the regular budget because as I understood the Director-General last week, when I for one would have liked to have seen him absorb more additional costs than he thinks he can, he did say that already he has to absorb within the budget level- that he has perhaps some extra \$800 000 for projects that he knows- will be there but which in fact are not in the printed book and that there may be others coming along, and I appreciate his problems of absorption. Equally there is always a problem for those of us who come here with instructions from our Governments. If at one point in time you have persuaded your Government that it is reasonable to support a budget level of \$206. 8 million and then you ring them up and say 'Oh, by the way, that is \$211 million now, and what is more there could be two or three million dollars before we're finished". That makes life very difficult for us- But if you have a Director-General who says "No, I have fixed my level and I will cope with that situation" then it does become tremendously more easy for us.

Now, I come to the business of post-harvest losses, which has caused us a lot of thinking in the last week and for that matter in the Council of June of this year. There is absolutely no doubt whatever about the importance of having a fund of this kind. You have only to go back to what the Director-General himself said only a day or so ago about the amount of money that could be saved if the losses after harvests were reduced. So no argument at all about the fund. The question is how we start putting money into the fund. Again when Governments like mine are likely to be told "You will contribute your share of \$10 million" that would otherwise come back to you they begin to be a little uneasy. I do not think there is any doubt at all about the willingness of my Government to contribute to the fund at least our share of the \$10 million. It is a question of whether you hit us on the head and say we must, or whether you rely on us to do what in any case we want to do, that is to contribute voluntarily. I hope we are all going to come out of this particularly unfortunate problem and that indeed all member states of FAO will say "Yes, we might have received back our share of \$10 million, but please keep it and use it for funding the post-harvest loss programme ". This is an important psychological point.

I said at the beginning of my intervention that a cornerstone of the British Government's aid policy is help for the poorest people and the poorest countries and we really are trying to do our best to help. We have voluntarily pledged £18 million for the initial stage of IFAD. We announced last week in the Council that we shall also be contributing £ 5 million more towards the continuation of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. Today I can say that additionally - I can say it today because I only just know it - that we are pledging £3 million towards helping to achieve the target of 500 000 thousand tons for an International Emergency Food Reserve. It helps us, who do our best for the United Nations in the specialized agencies, if we are at least allowed to think we are doing something voluntarily rather than being forced to do it.

Can I make one or two final remarks on the question of "basic needs". I do not want to enter into a discussion of exactly what we mean by the phrase and perhaps in many ways this is a matter for the developing countries themselves. We in the United Kingdom think that our policy of poverty-orientated aid in some ways was already ahead of its time. We think we anticipated the "basic needs" approach without having thought about the phrase "basic needs" but it will be no good increasing agricultural production if there is still unjust and unfair distribution of what is produced. Again this is really a matter for developing countries and it is hardly for us in the developed countries to lecture them about it, to tell them how to organize and run their lives but in fact we do all have a common problem. There is no need for me to elaborate it, the Director-General said it much more effectively yesterday afternoon. It is simply a question of ensuring that those millions in this world who today still go hungry are enabled to have a better standard of living: one could put it even more bluntly and say, today are enabled to start living. I think with that note there is no need for me to say more, especially on top of the eloquence that we had from you, that we have had from Ambassador Young and from the Director-General. The message is quite clear, we know what the challenge is, let us get on with the job.

J. ERTL (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): First of all I would like to associate my voice with all those who have congratulated you, Mr. Chairman, and the Vice-Chairmen on their election. My good wishes also include my expression of gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General and to his staff for the preparation of this Conference and for the work that has been carried out in the interval between the two Conferences.

The world food situation has improved somewhat since we last meet two years ago at the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference. While stating this we must recognize the efforts that were made by all concerned. Developing countries as a whole succeeded in the last two years, even though with results that vary from country to country in increasing their agricultural production by an average of 4 percent. Thus they have for the first time reached the target of an annual 4 percent increase in

production which has been set for this decade. This is a remarkable achievement because the result obtained is by no means based exclusively on more favourable weather conditions. On the contrary, substantial efforts of their own were made and these efforts were effectively supported from outside.

However, the improved world food situation, which is marked by an increase in production, by larger stocks, by an increase in trade and an increase, albeit a very slight one, in per capita consumption, does not give rise to satisfaction or even to complacency. On the contrary, one-eighth of mankind is still suffering from hunger or from malnutrition. Hunger still is the cause of an inadequate level of education and knowledge of part of the world population. Hunger therefore still is the reason why millions of people lack the ability or do not recognize to help themselves in an effective way.

The favourable results obtained so far in the fight against hunger should and must, therefore, be an incentive for us to continue this fight even more intensively and even more effectively. In this respect it is necessary first and foremost for each country individually and for all of us together in the community of nations to reflect on what has still to be done and which individual practical measures should be taken.

The broad framework for this has been defined. On the one hand, there are the results of the World Food Conference which was held in 1974. This Conference stated very clearly that the world food problems could be solved in the long term only through a sustained increase of agricultural production in the developing countries themselves and in particular in those where there is a food deficit. The Conference recommended that priority should be given to that task and that the necessary measures should be studied and taken jointly. The response to this challenge was a positive one: most recommendations of the World Food Conference have meanwhile been put into practice or have at least been tackled.

The framework defined also includes the Manila communiqué of the Third Session of the World Food Council which contains further concrete recommendations for a programme of action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. My Government recognizes in this connexion that agricultural assistance" has to be increased. An important basic pre-requisite for this is that recipient countries should further develop their absorptive capacities and propose appropriate, concrete projects. The necessary support will then not fail to come. In this connexion, let me recall the creation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to which my country contributes 55 million US\$. This Fund will become operative still this year.

Last but not least there is the mandate and the work of FAO which plays the key role within the United Nations System in our efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

We are grateful to the Director-General for having submitted to us in good time and in a clear form the Programme of Work for the biennium 1978-79 which aims at expanding the activities of FAO and at orienting them more strongly to practice related measures in member countries.

My Government can support these objectives in principle. As to individual estimates, my delegation still has to express its views. The proposed budget volume - and let me say this quite clearly - provides for the presently highest rate of growth in the United Nations system, and I would like to stress in this connection what was said by the previous speaker from the United Kingdom. The fight against inflation cannot always be carried out by increasing expenditures. We feel that the reorientation of activities should however not lead to FAO's neglecting its unique role as a worldwide forum for agricultural policy, as was shown again this year. Where else if not here, I wonder, should the intellectual preparatory work be done for basic decisions with regard to international food and agricultural policies?

In connection with the planned decentralization and strengthening of work at the country level, I would like to make the following remarks. First, the responsibility of recipient countries for reasonable and effective coordination of all support measures for agriculture at the country level will thus increase further. We welcome this, because we also consider this measure a decisive step towards self-help. It is important in this respect that the measures for the agricultural sector to which priority is due should be incorporated in the overall development policy concept.

Secondly, decentralization and strengthening of the work of our Organization at the country level should not lead to the establishment of new bureaucracies at the country level. This is something I want to stress. The best use should be made of existing facilities. No doubt internationally we have a very strong competition of conferences, of new administrations, and all this costs unnecessary money which could be better used.

We are confident that member states and the Director-General will direct the same special attention to this fact as to the objective assessment of the pilot programme for technical cooperation, (TCP) which the Conference will consider at its next session in two years time.

The mandate as laid down in the preamble to the FAO Constitution reminds us that each one of us individually and we all together should take responsibility for improving the world food situation and rural development. There is enough room and there are enough possibilities for the necessary constructive cooperation in this connexion.

Among the important future tasks, I feel, we should focus our special attention on the following: first, an optimum use and in particular conservation of our natural resources; second, the reduction of food losses, in particular post-harvest losses.

It is difficult, it is perhaps even impossible, to quantify the production areas or rather the production potential which we lose in whole or in part every year as a result of improper use. Land reclamation is no adequate compensation. The areas for land reclamation are limited and are often located in other regions which furthermore are often not suited for long-term agricultural use. The fertility of the areas under cultivation must therefore be maintained and improved. In this connection I also think in particular of the water balance. We all know enough examples where attention was unfortunately only paid to short-term production success of irrigation projects and the importance of adequate drainage measures was underestimated. However, attention is also necessary in the case of arid agriculture if soil structures are to be maintained and erosion is to be prevented. Therefore, I consider the conservation of natural resources as a basis for the desired increase of production a priority task for all of us. We wish and thus must see to it that the basis of living will not be limited for future generations. In this connexion, I would like to recall the discussions at the United Nations Conference on Desertification which was held in Nairobi two months ago.

I believe that the same priority is to be attributed to the second task which I already mentioned, and that is to prevent by all means that food commodities already produced are lost or perish. Without such losses the world food balance situation could be substantially better. The need for a drastic reduction of harvest and post-harvest losses has been clearly recognized above all since the World Food Conference.

The orders of magnitude involved have been shown by the Director-General. A reduction by less than half would already diminish the import requirements for cereals into developing countries by 50 percent expected for 1985. Expressed in monetary terms this would mean an annual saving of some 7.5 billion U. S. dollars. This is about the amount of money which according to various estimates is deemed necessary as external aid with a view to achieving the intended 4 percent growth of agricultural production in developing countries.

Concrete measures for this priority task have been suggested by the Director-General in the Programme of Work for 1978-79. These proposals are a very good approach. Therefore, my Government gives its support to this Programme, but we have somewhat different ideas with regard to the financing of this Programme. Nevertheless, we shall not oppose a consensus for initially financing the Programme. This should, however, not be considered as a precedent for future programmes or future approaches. I also would like to stress that the voluntary approach is of the greatest importance in this connexion.

In all development policy measures at the country level, priority should be given to this task unless it has already been done. The fight against food losses thus obtains the necessary attention in the countries concerned, in international organizations and among bilateral donors. Such support from outside which goes beyond the proposed measures will in my opinion become necessary. In this connexion I think particularly of the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank. Measures to reduce food losses have been incorporated for long in my Government's bilateral cooperation with developing countries. Let me quote as an example of a supra-regional project of that kind a three-year programme on post-harvest protection for small farms in Africa, the planning stage of which has just been concluded.

The world food situation can be ensured in the long run only if efforts to increase production in developing countries are supplemented by building up adequate stocks, allowing such, countries to surmount unavoidable harvest fluctuation. For some years now we have been cooperating with several developing countries in implementing food security programmes with this aforementioned objective. We are thus one of the active supporters of these FAO programmes. For this purpose we have made available this year an amount of about US \$22 million. These food security programmes prevent famine and at the same time they promote greater agricultural production and employment opportunities.

Measures for self-help in developing countries are supported effectively and increasingly by voluntary donations of the German population. In 1976, about DM 400 million alone were raised by the churches for development work. The "Deutsche Welthungerhilfe", our national committee of the FAO Freedom from

Hunger Campaign, likewise received many donations. Under the patronage of our Federal President, Walter Scheel, it is one of the most active committees of this Action for Development of the FAO. It also supports on an institutional basis national committees in other countries, for example in Ecuador, Kenya, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Upon the successful and worldwide appreciated work of the World Food Programme which my country supports fully, I would only like to touch briefly, but I do wish to stress in particular the successful work of the food-for-work programmes within the framework of the World Food Programme, which strengthen self-reliance.

With regard to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development scheduled for 1979, I would briefly like to say this: the Government of my country has always given priority to the promotion of integrated rural development, the aim of which is to raise the standard of living of the rural population, to ensure an adequate agricultural production, to preserve landscape and natural resources, to bring about a balanced settlement structure between country and town, and to contribute in this way to a social balance. In this connection, the development of agriculture toward higher productivity can only be brought about within the framework of overall economic development by improving infrastructures and in particular by raising the level of education. Integrated rural development requires, therefore, specially careful preparatory work. It does not only require measures in the agricultural policy sector, but also in various fields of economic and social policies. Experience has shown that uncoordinated individual measures do not lead to the development which is desired in the long-term. Therefore, my government has supported the convening of regional meetings of experts, and one supra-regional meeting of experts dealing with that subject which were organized jointly with FAO. The results obtained there are an important contribution to the Conference. With satisfaction we note that prior to the Conference, as was suggested by us, all important subjects should be discussed at the regional level.

Now I come to my conclusion. The frank exchange of experience on success and failure so far between countries with similar conditions promises, in my view, the greatest benefit. The subsequent worldwide discussion could then lead to a varied palette of possible solutions from which every country can choose the most suitable for itself.

I would like to make a few brief remarks on my own country's agriculture. After a moderate harvest in 1976, we were able to bring in a good harvest this year. Irrespective of certain fluctuations in yields, we are always in a position to make our contribution to food aid and to international agricultural trade. Our own agriculture contributes 77 percent to overall domestic food consumption, including production from imported foodstuffs. We continue our endeavours to make it possible for exporting developing countries to find adequate outlets for agricultural products in our markets. Our imports of food commodities from developing countries have continuously increased in 1976 compared to 1975 by 23 percent in terms of value.

My country has cooperated so far in a constructive way and wherever necessary and possible in solving the world food problems. In this common fight against hunger and malnutrition you can continue to count on us in future.

I wish you and everybody who participates in this work the greatest possible success.

G. HAIDEN (Austria) (interpretation from German): On behalf of the Austrian delegation, I also should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the Vice-Chairmen on your election to these responsible posts, and I would also like to express to the Director-General and to his staff our great gratitude for the careful preparation of this Conference. Also, on behalf of my delegation I would like to welcome the new members of this Organization.

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to explain to the Plenary of the FAO Conference the principles of Austrian agricultural policy, and to deal with the problems of world agriculture and food economy. In the previous Session of the Conference the hope was expressed that national delegations should report on their investment activities, and this is why I would like to make a few remarks on this situation first.

The general economic situation in Austria in 1977 was obviously also caused by world economic developments. I am, however, fully justified in remarking that in our country we have succeeded in recent in maintaining full employment in spite of the sweeping international economic decline. The rate of unemployment of 1.8 percent in Austria is one of the lowest in Europe. We are satisfied with the dynamics of industry and the economy in our country, and have concentrated our economic policy on the maintenance of full employment and ensuring stability and prosperity, as well as on the reduction of our deficits in the balance of goods and services.

Agriculture and forestry in Austria are essential parts of our economy, although in 1976 the share of agriculture and forestry in the gross national policy amounted only to 5.3 percent, the value of the final production reached \$3.25 million and set a new record. Our agricultural policy concentrates on the further improvement of incomes of rural families by means of a well-balanced production, marketing and price policy, the improvement of agricultural structure and the continuing modernization and rationalization of farms, the promotion of cooperation within and between farms in all fields, the development of rural infrastructures and the development of education in all areas on the rural levels.

The Austrian Government has reinforced its firm position for mountain regions with the intention of reducing regional income disparities. This shows we also have such disparities. In order to achieve these targets, we make use of a well-balanced instrument of promotion which is based upon our Green Plan. The promotional policy of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is implemented mainly in the form of low-interest loans or allowances. Next year, the volume of low-interest agricultural investments and the loans will amount to \$153 million, while within the framework of the Green Plan and of a mountain farm programme, Austrian agriculture will have available \$86 million in 1978. In 1976 alone, agricultural investment loans amounting to \$123 million were granted to nearly ten thousand farmers. The interest rate is usually 5 percent, the loan period is on the average ten years.

Austria is traditionally an agricultural exporting country. In large parts of our country farmers have to rely on livestock breeding and husbandry and timber production. They do not have any production alternatives, and we have therefore always supplied livestock for slaughter and the breeding purposes as well as timber to neighbouring countries.

Throughout the world agricultural production and agricultural trade is changing. Countries which used to be traditionally agricultural exporters now have importing requirements. Countries which were major purchasers of agricultural products now export them themselves.

What we desire for our country is that agriculture be not cut off from its traditional foreign markets by protectionist measures. An OECD study which deals with world trends for measured supply and demand of agricultural products, and which is necessarily of special interest for the orientation of production also arrives at the following conclusions: the production capacity of OECD members will enable them in future also to cover the food deficit in other regions. Western Europe will have no import requirements for grains in 1985. The Western European beef deficit will oscillate around the same figure in 1985 as in the early 1970s. The surplus problem with dairy products will still not be solved by 1985. Of course, the actual trends will depend upon the future developments of economic growth and the rate of increase of the world population.

As far as the world food situation is concerned, we all must be aware of the fact that coordinated international measures are necessary to lead mankind out of the situation of instability of food supplies. In this connection, it is interesting to point out that this OECD study indicates that in 1985 the demand of developing countries for grains exceeds their domestic production by 200 million tons. This fact shows how important the measures announced by the Director-General for the prevention of food losses are.

Since agriculture plays an important part in the foreign trade in the countries of the Third World, terms of trade are of essential importance. International efforts to achieve assured sales at assured prices for raw materials thus needs to be given priority. Austria therefore emphasizes the necessity of computing international commodity agreements as rapidly as possible.

The success of the recently completed International Sugar Agreement can be taken to be an encouraging example for all of us. Austria will give its support to all measures which bring the world closer to a new economic order by concerted measures such as an integrated raw materials programme and a common fund as in the programme of IFAD.

My Government welcomes the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO as submitted to us in document C 77/3. We should make all endeavours to solve agricultural and food problems by means of selected priorities.

As regards the involvement of national institutions in the work of FAO, may I be allowed to point out that I appreciate this initiative. It is in Europe that the creation of scientific networks has shown how useful this cooperation can be, not only for the European region, but primarily for the developing countries.

As to the appointment of FAO country representatives, we welcome cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, since we believe that this will avoid a certain degree of duplication. As far as the work of the Technical Cooperation Programme is concerned, we are of the opinion that this means should be used only for specific projects to be sure that the financing would have to be fully in accordance with FAO regulations.

As regards the strengthening of technical activities, I should like to point out that for some years now my country has advocated the strengthening of technical work and a reduction of FAO's administrative expenditures. Therefore I should like to congratulate the Director-General of FAO on his consistent policy of stopping the increase of administrative expenditures. Starting with the finance of the 1973 Seed Symposium my country gave particular support to activities in this field. This is of course within the possibilities of a small country.

In this connection I may mention that within the framework of the projects of the Austrian National Committee with the Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign/Action for Development, next year a seed training course will be financed in two developing countries. Furthermore, I hope that the teaching material for these courses, which will be completed very soon, will prove an essential training instrument in this sector. Likewise activities designed to reduce crop losses were given full support by my country in recent years. Thus in cooperation with the People's Republic of Benin a project concerning the establishment of eight maize silos was successfully completed.

In support of FAO's Fertilizer Programme Austria provided experts, and a demonstration project in Nigeria was launched in cooperation with FAO. Furthermore, a demonstration project in Indonesia was assisted by Austria with a substantial contribution in kind.

Let me now make some remarks concerning the forestry sector. With 44 per cent of the national territory covered by forests my country has many years' experience in the field of forestry, starting with the experience of the first training course on forest roads and logging in mountain forests, which was organized in Austria in June 1975, and which gave excellent results. The second course is now being prepared in consultation with the FAO competent bodies. This course will be held in June 1978 at Austrian federal forest training institutes.

Finally, I should like to mention that within the framework of the FAO expert scheme the Austrian forestry experts have in recent years assisted FAO in its activities in the developing countries.

As regards the work of the European region, we attribute particular importance to the activity of the European Commission on Agriculture and of the European Forestry Commission.

I have read with interest the policy statement of the Director-General of FAO on the occasion of the Tenth FAO Regional Conference in Europe held in Bucharest in 1976. Austria shares the view that the work of the European Region is of special importance for the other regions of the World. The work of the European Regions should here not be underestimated. In particular, the activities of the scientific networks seem to me to be specially worth mentioning. Austria has therefore declared its willingness to act as the European Coordination Centre in the pesticide network.

Furthermore, we attribute particular significance to the activity of the working party on Home Economics. I trust that this work will be given its due place in the FAO budget. Moreover, my country endorses also the efforts of FAO to reduce administrative costs as mentioned before.

As to the increase of the number of members in the FAO Council, Austria supports this increase from 42 to 49 members. This would seem to guarantee that smaller countries also would have the possibility to cooperate actively in this governing body of FAO.

Concerning the activities of the World Food Programme, I should like to emphasize that from the Austrian point of view the use of food for projects at the promotion of economic and social development is fully endorsed. Austria has supported the activities of the World Food Programme actively since its foundation. In 1977/78 a total of about 3.7 million dollars being provided, partly in cash and partly in kind, and I believe that this is very important.

As regards the activities of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, I should like to state from the Austrian point of view that we give our full support to the close cooperation with IFAD with already existing organizations, especially with FAO. Subject to the consent of Parliament, the Austrian Federal Government has provided an Austrian contribution amounting to 4.8 million US dollars for the initial phase of IFAD.

The industrialized countries jointly, as well as the countries in the process of industrialization which have the necessary financial resources, clearly have the moral obligation to give their long-term support to the mobilization of the production potential of developing countries and thus to help in reducing the worldwide disparity between the developed regions and the developing regions. Today it is widely agreed that we need a new international economic order, which is of the most important prerequisites for the establishment of better and more equitable social economic conditions. Such an order aiming primarily at satisfying the basic need of mankind will call for new form of international cooperation, above all for the creation of infrastructures which are necessary for social and economic progress in the developing countries.

At a very early stage of international discussion on these matters, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Federal Chancellor, proposed that developing countries, particularly those in Africa, should be enabled within the framework of a large-scale international plan to develop their infrastructure rapidly, mainly in the field of communications. In view of the size of the task before us, and above all of the means required, this approach should best be compared with the Marshall Plan, which was decisive for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II. We noted with great satisfaction that following an African proposal the Conference for International Economic Cooperation agreed in principle on such international measures designed to improve infrastructures in Africa, mainly in the field of communications.

Finally, the summer session of ECOSOC envisaged the adoption of a resolution concerning promulgation by the General Assembly of the United Nations of a transport and communications decade in Africa for the years 1978 to 1988. My country emphatically endorses the resolution, and the Austrian Federal Government is willing to cooperate actively and constructively in the implementation of these objectives, since this would be an essential part of the integrated development of rural areas. All these questions cannot be separated from those which are of immediate concern to FAO. However important the World Food Programme, however essential food supplies are at the present stage of development, what we need is the development of agriculture itself, and the development of agriculture will be possible only if an adequate infrastructure exists and the necessary communications network is available.

You may see from my statement that Austria will continue to attribute the greatest importance to the work of FAO and will always endeavour to make a constructive contribution to the activities of the Organization. I should like to express the hope that my country could thus assist in the promotion of agricultural development as well as in maintaining peace and security in a just world. Austria will always give its support to the measures taken by FAO.

N. FUJIYAMA (Japan): Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for giving me the floor.

First of all, I wish to associate myself with the previous speakers in congratulating you on your unanimous election to this high post.

Let me also pay sincere tribute to Director-General Mr. Saouma for his continuous efforts towards the practical implementation of FAO policy.

I should also like to extend a hearty welcome to the representatives of those countries which have become new members of this Organisation. It goes without saying that the more countries that participate in FAO activities, the more useful will the Organization be in solving food and agriculture problems, which have a multiplicity of aspects, differing from region to region throughout the world.

The tight world food situation since 1972 has been tending to ease owing to good weather conditions in most regions, in addition to the decline in the cost of agricultural input with the end of the oil crisis which began in 1973. This has resulted in a substantial increase in cereal stocks, with the present level at 18% of world consumption. We are of the view that the world is now in a fairly favourable situation regarding food and agricultural production.

However, when we look at human economic activity, we see how vulnerable or sensitive are agricultural activities to natural phenomena, in comparison with other areas of production. Agricultural produce is one of the basic human needs, and price levels fluctuate considerably in response to supply movements. Bearing this in mind, we must do our utmost to ensure a stabilized supply. In this respect, I should like to emphasize again that it is desirable that all countries should participate in the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, which was established according to our proposal at the WFC, and should also exchange information which will enable us to cope promptly with an emergency.

My delegation believes that the stockpiling of agricultural produce as a safeguard against shortages will help to ensure a greater stability in food supply. There also exists the necessity to promote research activity to harness natural conditions, within the bounds of possibility, and thus we believe that the goal of increased food production may be achieved.

Since my country has to secure a stable supply of food for more than one hundred million people with very limited land resources, domestic agricultural productivity must be increased. In awareness of this fact, in May 1975, my Government drew up "The Long-Term Prospects for Agricultural Demand and Production", with 1985 as the target year for its programme. Since then, the Government has endeavoured to improve domestic production systems and to increase over-all agricultural self-sufficiency. In other words, taking into account the fact that the agricultural sector was weakened in the process of achieving an industry-oriented high growth rate economy, my Government has resolved to bring out



the potential capacity of the agricultural sector through an agricultural policy for production, structure and prices. Furthermore, taking into consideration that our domestic consumption of certain agricultural products is considerably dependent upon overseas sources of supply, and that Japan imports a large volume of agricultural produce, costing \$11.6 billion, the Government of Japan exchanges information with major food-exporting countries in order to be prepared for fluctuation in the supply of food from abroad. There is also an endeavour to maintain the necessary stocks in accordance with the International Undertaking on World Food Security.

I should now like to refer to food and agriculture problems in the developing countries, which still remain unsolved.

To the developing countries, food and agricultural problems have a dual significance. One is that food problems are directly related to survival. Miserable crop failures have often been experienced, and a way of prevention has yet to be found. The other significance is that their economic development is based on agriculture. That is, agricultural development is an indispensable factor in the economic growth of the developing countries.

My Government, fully recognizing the importance of food and agriculture problems in the developing countries, has given food aid and also economic cooperation for increased food production, aiming at agricultural self-sufficiency in the developing countries.

In the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, my Government committed itself to increase effectively and substantially its Official Development Assistance over the years, and expressed its intention to more than double its Official Development Assistance in five years. Furthermore, my Government expressed its intention to make efforts to the best of its ability to realize the Special Action Programme, which contributes to the solution of the balance of payment problems of low-income developing countries, and to make positive contribution to such concerted efforts, promising a total of \$114 million in concessional bilateral assistance. In the OECD, together with other member nations, we emphasized our awareness of the necessity of aid meeting basic human needs in the Declaration on Relations with developing countries. We believe that food and agricultural aid is part of aid meeting basic human needs and that it must be increased in the future.

In this connection, the Government of Japan contributed positively to the establishment of IFAD and has deposited the instrument of ratification of IFAD with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and at the same time informing him that our contribution will amount to \$55 million.

In addition, during the official visit of Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda to the ASEAN nations and Burma, our Prime Minister promised various economic cooperation in food and agriculture, including a food loan and assistance programmes for increased food production.

However, it is clear that the developing countries themselves should take an active part in their food and agricultural development. We sincerely hope that the developing countries will promote their own agricultural development plans, with the goal of achieving agricultural self-sufficiency.

I now wish to touch briefly on some of the major agenda items of the Conference.

First, with regard to International Agricultural Adjustment, the progress of which is to be reviewed here, my delegation is of the view that the agricultural adjustment should be carried out under the responsibility of the Member States, in keeping with their natural, economic and social circumstances. Moreover, we believe that policy guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment should be regarded as general principles, which the Member States should voluntarily take into account when formulating relevant policies and taking necessary action, and that the data obtained in the course of FAO monitoring should also be regarded as a reference, which the member countries will voluntarily take into account in the formulation and implementation of their agricultural policies.

Second, with regard to the prevention of food losses, my Government has given economic cooperation in such fields as food processing, with the full recognition that the prevention of food losses is a significant factor in solving the food problems of the developing countries.

It is expected that the developing countries will carry out basic research and surveys and work towards making national plans and establishing adequate domestic systems for agriculture. FAO is to play an important role, cooperating with the developing countries by providing technical knowledge. The agricultural cooperation of the developed countries should always be coordinated with the efforts of the developing countries.

The 200 mile fishing zone has now been established as a new order of international law. In line with recent international developments in the maritime order, my Government has also decided to set up a 200 mile fishing zone. My Government is determined to make positive efforts in the creation of a fair and stable order of the sea which will be acceptable to all countries.

Japan, as a country which obtains half of its animal protein "in the form of fish protein, is deeply concerned with, conservation and optimum utilisation of the marine resources. These resources are and will continue to be important as animal protein resources under any order of the sea. It is the sincere hope of my Government that each country will also give due consideration to conservation and optimum utilisation of marine resources.

Accordingly, we would like FAO to analyse the state of marine resources in the world and assist the developing countries in promoting their fishing industries.

I should like next to mention some aspects of the FAO 1978-79 budget which are of particular interest to my Government. We believe that budget growth could be avoided by curtailing unnecessary expenses and by internal transfer of resources. In this respect, we fully support the Director-General in

his firm determination to economise in the organisation of FAO, and we earnestly hope that such efforts will be further continued.

With regard to the TCP and food losses which are of concern to many member countries, we realise the need for efficient and flexible management of the budget. However, it is also important to abide by the budget principles which are common to any organisation. Therefore, we should like to point out that if our budget principles are changed in an attempt to respond to every passing need and changing circumstances, there is even the possibility of endangering the very financial resources of FAO,

Mr. Chairman, I have given our comments on major aspects of world food and agriculture as well as the policy which is now being implemented in Japan. I have to recognise that there is no quick remedy to solve the world's food and agricultural problems. It will take a long time to attain our goal, a world in which all people will enjoy sufficient food. But, if we are to attain that goal, I firmly believe that constant dialogue and co-operation between the nations of the world must be maintained.

P. MEHAIGNERIE (France): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués. Je tiens tout d'abord à vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Conférence et je suis sûr que vous mènerez à bien la lourde mission qui vous a été confiée.

Pourquoi sommes-nous si nombreux, Ministres de l'agriculture de nos pays respectifs, à être venus participer personnellement à cette 19ème session de la Conférence de l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, en ce mois de novembre 1977?

- Pour le plaisir d'être à Rome - bien sûr. . .

- Pour l'intérêt de nous retrouver entre responsables politiques compétents, proches des producteurs agricoles et familiers des problèmes concrets - certainement. . .

- Mais également, je le pense, pour deux autres raisons:

. parce que nous sommes tous, à des titres et à des degrés divers, soucieux des perspectives d'évolution de la situation de l'agriculture dans le monde et dans nos pays et que nous sommes conscients de la nécessaire solidarité qui doit nous réunir, comme elle doit réunir les producteurs agricoles eux-mêmes,

. et aussi pour saluer l'importance et la qualité du travail accompli depuis deux ans au sein de cette Institution.

Il y aura bientôt deux ans, en effet, Monsieur le Directeur général, que vous avez été porté à la tête de la FAO. Les pays qui vous avaient donné leur appui ne peuvent être déçus des espoirs mis en vous car, avec un dynamisme et une énergie inlassables, vous avez su donner à cette grande maison de la famille des Nations-Unies une impulsion nouvelle et lui faire prendre un véritable tournant.

La lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde passe en effet avant tout par des actions concrètes, sur le terrain, au coeur des vrais problèmes, au niveau des producteurs agricoles et des populations rurales. Vous avez eu raison de mettre en oeuvre un programme de-coopération technique en mettant l'accent sur la production de semences, la mise en valeur des terres et des eaux, la protection des plantes, la santé animale et la formation des hommes. Il est judicieux d'orienter ce programme vers les actions d'urgence et les projets d'action rapide, en veillant à la cohérence des opérations et à leur réelle insertion dans les politiques de développement de la production agricole et de promotion du monde rural.

La crise des années 1974/1975, dont nous nous relevons lentement, tous autant que nous sommes, pays en développement comme pays développés, a mis en lumière le rôle fondamental de l'agriculture. Nous n'avions pas nous-mêmes à en être persuadés mais, et c'est peut-être paradoxalement l'un des effets positifs de cette crise, les hommes politiques, les grands responsables de nos économies et de nos finances, et l'opinion publique en général ont redécouvert l'importance et l'intérêt de maintenir et de développer leur potentiel agricole dans un contexte de lutte contre, le sous-emploi, de rétablissement des balances de commerce extérieur, de sécurité et de garantie des approvisionnements. A cela s'ajoute bien sûr, pour les pays en développement les plus gravement touchés et victimes en outre de grandes calamités naturelles, la nécessité vitale de lutter contre la famine.

Devant cette situation la FAO avait, et a toujours, une mission particulière à remplir, celle de catalyseur et d'aiguillon pour orienter les actions et les politiques, nationales et internationales, dans le sens de la priorité à l'agriculture.

Cela ne doit pas cependant faire perdre de vue l'effort de rigueur budgétaire qui s'impose à nous dans la conjoncture actuelle, qu'il s'agisse de nos nations ou de nos organisations internationales. Je ne puis qu'approuver, à cet égard, ce qui a été dit par plusieurs de nos collègues européens.

Il en est de même de votre programme de lutte contre les pertes après récoltes. L'objectif est légitime: je sais qu'il est inadmissible que les augmentations de rendement soient parfois anéanties par des pertes après récoltes atteignant ou dépassant 40 pour cent. Le stockage et la conservation des récoltes sont les prolongements indispensables de l'activité de production; ils doivent être mis en oeuvre le plus possible par les agriculteurs eux-mêmes; ils sont indispensables, non seulement à la sécurité d'approvisionnement, mais aussi à la stabilisation des marchés, sans laquelle il ne peut y avoir de développement ordonné et maîtrisé de la production.

Cependant, en ce qui concerne la procédure de financement, nous souhaitons qu'une formule respectueuse des règles adoptées par la Conférence elle-même il y a 2 ans, se dégage des discussions que les délégués vont avoir dans la Commission compétente. En effet, lorsqu'il s'agit de procédure financière, tous les états membres et l'institution elle-même ont le plus grand intérêt à rechercher un consensus.

La France souscrit à vos grandes orientations, Monsieur le Directeur général. Elle le fait d'autant plus volontiers que, vous le savez, Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, elle a pris l'initiative, il y a deux ans également, de proposer que s'instaure un véritable dialogue pour la recherche d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial. La Conférence de Paris pour la coopération économique internationale, encore appelée Dialogue Nord-Sud, a eu des résultats certes incomplets mais tangibles qui doivent être approfondis et matérialisés au sein des diverses instances compétentes des Nations-Unies ou de négociations économiques internationales. Dans le secteur agricole un consensus s'était dégagé à Paris, il a été confirmé et renforcé à Manille lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. Je suis sûr que la présente Conférence avancera dans la même voie.

Le thème général que vous nous avez proposé est à cet égard parfaitement judicieux. Comment en effet ne pas placer le problème des investissements au coeur de nos actuelles préoccupations?

Dans la conjoncture défavorable que nous traversons il est fondamental de faire les bons choix, de ne pas sacrifier le moyen terme au court terme, car nos ressources sont limitées et les besoins, dans le secteur agricole comme ailleurs, sont immenses.

Mais avant de s'interroger sur les choix, ne faut-il pas réfléchir sur les conditions de la réussite des investissements, quels qu'ils soient? J'en vois pour pa part deux, la liberté et la sécurité.

Par liberté je n'entends pas anarchie, ou libéralisme, ou "laisser faire - laisser aller", mais possibilité de pleine expression de la responsabilité individuelle. En agriculture toutparticulièrement rien ne peut remplacer l'initiative des producteurs, mais si elle doit être orientée ou canalisée, et les fruits de l'initiative ne doivent pas être confisqués ou détournés au profit unique de l'Etat ou d'une autre catégorie sociale. Il ne peut y avoir développement de la production agricole si les agriculteurs se découragent et le découragement naît souvent de l'inexistence ou de la dilution de liens personnels entre l'homme, la terre et sa production.

La liberté ne va pas sans risques et ces risques doivent être consciemment assumés. Ce qui veut dire qu'il ne faut pas produire n'importe quoi, n'importe comment. . . et à n'importe quel moment.

Mais il faut néanmoins à l'agriculteur, plus qu'à tout autre agent de production, un minimum de sécurité. Sécurité de ses biens ou d'un minimum de pérennité de son outil de travail qu'est la terre, sécurité de sa personne devant la maladie, les accidents et la vieillesse, sécurité de son revenu face aux aléas climatiques et aux fluctuations brutales des prix.

Liberté, sécurité et j'ajouterai l'indispensable considération pour les agriculteurs, se conjuguent pour créer la confiance et la confiance est le préalable à l'investissement.

Cette confiance doit être créée ou améliorée au sein de chaque pays; elle doit également exister au niveau international, de façon que les aides publiques ou privées, en nature ou en espèces, se dirigent réellement vers les secteurs estimés prioritaires. A ce titre la stabilisation des cours des produits agricoles de base sur les marchés mondiaux est un impératif absolu, en veillant au maintien d'un équilibre entre les intérêts des producteurs qui souhaitent les prix les plus élevés possibles, et ceux des consommateurs dont le pouvoir d'achat, surtout en ce moment, est fragile et limité. Pays exportateurs et pays importateurs doivent s'entendre et se répartir harmonieusement les responsabilités qu'implique la stabilisation, mais je ne fais ici que rappeler les principes de la résolution 93 IV de la CNUCED à Nairobi, à laquelle la France a entièrement souscrit.

Quant au problème des investissements, je distinguerai les trois domaines suivants: l'homme, le produit, l'espace, et je vous ferai part brièvement de ce que je vois comme priorités dans chacun d'entre eux.

L'homme, tout d'abord. Quoi de plus naturel, et de plus urgent, que d'investir pour améliorer sa dignité? Qu'il s'agisse de sa santé, de son éducation, de son logement et de ses conditions de vie en général, d'énormes efforts restent à entreprendre. Et cela n'est pas indifférent pour le développement de la production agricole, nous le savons tous et connaissons les exemples de vastes territoires impropres à l'agriculture du seul fait de l'existence de maladies endémiques, de l'insuffisance d'infrastructures générales, d'équipement et de communications. La sous-nutrition, bien évidemment, est-elle aussi une atteinte à la dignité humaine et les actions d'aide alimentaire doivent être renforcées essentiellement pour permettre de briser le cercle vicieux de la faim. Il faut saluer, à cet égard, l'activité du Programme alimentaire mondial et concentrer les interventions, autres que celles d'urgence, sur les projets permettant de faire véritablement décoller les productions vivrières. Il a souvent été dit que l'aide alimentaire ne doit pas décourager la production agricole des pays bénéficiaires: cela est vrai, mais ne doit cependant pas servir d'alibi aux éventuels donateurs. L'essentiel est que l'aide alimentaire et les actions de développement qui leur sont liées s'appliquent au niveau des petits paysans eux-mêmes.

Mais je veux surtout insister sur l'investissement de formation des hommes et le rôle que peut jouer la coopération technique en ce domaine.

Le plus sûr moyen d'assurer sur des bases solides et durables le développement de la production agricole est de donner aux agriculteurs, et à ceux qui les encadrent et les assistent, les connaissances et la technologie adaptées à leurs problèmes. Les expériences d'assistance étrangère n'ont malheureusement pas toujours été positives, sans doute parce qu'elles avaient été conçues et réalisées de façon trop hâtive, en oubliant ou en analysant insuffisamment les données locales, humaines et techniques, en se contentant de plaquer des modèles pré-établis. Et pourtant, et je pense que personne ne le conteste, la coopération technique est indispensable et enrichissante lorsqu'elle est conçue comme un partage d'expériences, aussi bien entre pays en développement eux-mêmes qu'entre pays développés et pays en développement. Et les expériences en question ne doivent pas seulement être celles des ingénieurs, des administrateurs ou des techniciens mais aussi, et surtout, celles des agriculteurs. Je commençais mon propos en parlant de solidarité, je crois profondément à celle qui peut réunir les hommes de la terre où qu'ils soient et d'où qu'ils viennent. Et je me félicite que dans mon pays des initiatives de ce genre aient été prises, tendant au rapprochement et à la collaboration d'organisations professionnelles agricoles, familiales et rurales, à l'échelle de petites régions et pour des projets certes limités mais bien définis. Je crois à l'avenir de telles opérations et je pense que, mieux que d'autres, elles permettront d'assurer le réel transfert de technologie sur lequel repose l'idée même de coopération.

Dans le domaine des produits j'insisterai tout particulièrement sur les investissements nécessaires en matière de recherche, et notamment pour les productions vivrières. Tout le monde a en mémoire les résultats spectaculaires de l'introduction des nouvelles variétés par la "révolution verte" mais, outre que l'on s'était mal préparé aux conséquences des augmentations de rendement, cela n'a pas empêché les effroyables famines qui se sont produites peu après dans certaines régions du monde. Il ne faut pas cesser d'améliorer nos connaissances en matière de semences, d'utilisation d'engrais et de pesticides, de lutte biologique contre les ennemis des cultures, d'état sanitaire des troupeaux, de pratiques culturales, de toxicité des produits agricoles, et, là encore, le faire par un échange d'expériences et non en transférant purement et simplement des expérimentations faites sous d'autres climats et avec d'autres hommes. Il ne s'agit pas de faire de la recherche au rabais, loin de là, mais de promouvoir une recherche adaptée aux conditions locales. Il faut se garder cependant de tout gaspillage en hommes et en moyens et mettre en oeuvre la plus grande coopération internationale en ce domaine, sur des thèmes bien précis. Je crois que celui des économies d'énergie et de la protection de l'environnement est à cet égard devenu prioritaire pour nous tous car il n'est pas incompatible avec le développement de la production agricole. Ici encore je me félicite que la France, dont le potentiel de recherche agricole est important, contribue sans relâche à l'amélioration des moyens mis à la disposition des pays en développement.

Et enfin, l'espace. J'ai déjà évoqué l'importance de l'aménagement rural pour que la bonne volonté naturelle de l'agriculteur ne soit pas stérilisée par les difficultés inhérentes à de mauvaises conditions de vie. Mais la maîtrise des facteurs de production agricole n'est pas moins indispensable et, en premier lieu, vient la maîtrise de l'eau. L'imagination de l'homme a toujours été fertile en ce domaine et certaines régions du monde, en particulier dans les pays en développement, sont depuis longtemps des modèles d'aménagement hydraulique, grâce à la ténacité et aux prouesses des hommes qui les habitent et les mettent en valeur.

Il reste néanmoins énormément à faire, à l'échelle de vastes zones, en Afrique notamment où la production agricole a le plus de difficultés à augmenter. Il y a certes de grands investissements à réaliser pour de grands ouvrages d'irrigation mais l'accent ne doit-il pas être mis en même temps sur une meilleure utilisation des ressources existantes, notamment par le drainage et par l'exploitation des nappes souterraines? Tout le monde en convient et l'on se préoccupe plus que par le passé de ce qu'il a été convenu d'appeler la petite hydraulique, mise en oeuvre au niveau des parcelles par les agriculteurs eux-mêmes.

Facteur de production encore plus important, bien sûr, est le sol. Rien ne doit être épargné pour lutter contre sa disparition, contre l'érosion et la désertification. Des "barrages verts" sont en projet ou en cours de réalisation dans les principaux pays concernés et l'effort d'assistance internationale à ces entreprises capitales doit être augmenté. La France, là-aussi, a des expériences et des hommes à mettre à la disposition de ceux qui le désireraient.

L'espace, c'est aussi un problème de structures agraires. Presque tous les pays, développés ou en développement, sont à cet égard confrontés à des situations difficiles; chacun doit trouver, en fonction de ses propres contraintes politiques et humaines, les solutions qui conviennent. Il serait vain d'investir sans que parallèlement une amélioration fondamentale des structures foncières ait été menée à bien.

Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, je ne sais si j'ai répondu à ce que souhaitait le Directeur général sur le thème des investissements nationaux et internationaux. Je me suis exprimé en ingénieur agronome que je suis, avec la modeste expérience de coopération technique que j'ai acquise, et permettez au Ministre, représentant le Gouvernement français, de conclure en affirmant la volonté de mon pays de souscrire sa contribution à la réalisation de l'objectif d'accroissement des engagements internationaux en faveur de l'aide au développement, et tout particulièrement en faveur de l'agriculture et du monde rural, comme cela a pu être vérifié au cours des récentes années.

Je ne veux pas terminer, Monsieur le Président, sans saluer l'entrée de nouveaux Etats Membres au sein de notre Organisation et souhaiter à la Conférence de conclure heureusement ses travaux.

M, FARIS (Maroc) (interprétation de l'arabe): Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre assemblée, élection qui est un hommage rendu aussi bien à vos qualités personnelles qu'à votre pays. Je voudrais également souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux Etats qui viennent d'être admis au sein de notre Organisation et les féliciter de leur brillante élection.

Je voudrais aussi exprimer notre amicale sympathie au Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, qui a assumé depuis bientôt deux ans la lourde tâche de diriger notre Organisation ainsi que notre considération pour les efforts qu'il ne cesse de déployer pour entamer la décentralisation des structures de la FAO, renforcer " l'action de terrain" et mobiliser ainsi toutes les potentialités de notre Organisation en vue d'un accroissement rapide de la production alimentaire dans le monde.

Au cours de ces dernières années, nous avons assisté à plusieurs rencontres internationales touchant directement ou indirectement le domaine agricole et aboutissant dans la plupart des cas à la création de Fonds d'investissements agricoles ou d'organismes intergouvernementaux permanents. La Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, le Dialogue Nord-Sud, la Conférence sur la lutte contre la désertification et, bientôt, la Conférence sur la Réforme agraire sont autant de rencontres internationales qui aboutissent à des plans d'action visant la protection de notre monde contre la faim et la misère.

La mise en oeuvre de ces plans d'action est subordonnée dans une large mesure à la mobilisation et à l'orientation vers le secteur agricole de nouvelles et importantes ressources humaines et financières.

C'est ainsi que le programme d'action qui vise à réduire les pertes de denrées alimentaires et qui constitue le thème principal de notre conférence nécessiterait selon l'estimation de notre Conseil une dotation spécifique de 20 millions de dollars. Sa mise en oeuvre permettrait, par le simple fait de réduire de moitié les pertes actuelles après récolte, une économie de 7, 5 milliards de dollars par an aux pays importateurs de céréales. Ces chiffres extraits des documents présentés à notre Conférence montrent l'intérêt que nous avons tous à soutenir de telles initiatives.

Par ailleurs, le Fonds international de développement agricole a pu atteindre l'objectif financier qu'il s'était fixé initialement. Ceci témoigne, si besoin est, de la solidarité des Nations Unies qui s'est renforcée ces dernières années face au spectre de la faim et de la misère.

Cependant, parallèlement à la constitution et à l'organisation de ces Fonds, nous devons nous pencher sur les modalités de financement des projets et sur les conditions qui doivent être appliquées aux pays en développement. Il paraît en effet de plus en plus discutable de donner au critère "rentabilité interne des projets" l'aspect prépondérant dans le choix des programmes à financer. La sécurité alimentaire et la couverture des besoins internes devraient constituer à notre sens, avec l'aspect social, les principaux critères à prendre en considération par les organismes internationaux de financement.

Nous pensons donc qu'il est du devoir de notre Organisation de développer son action dans deux domaines essentiels:

- aider les pays en développement à mettre en valeur leurs ressources naturelles en vue d'une satisfaction meilleure de leurs besoins alimentaires internes;
- contribuer à l'instauration d'un système de stabilisation des prix de matières premières et des produits agricoles. Cette double action suppose le renforcement des liens de la FAO avec les organismes spécialisés et plus particulièrement avec les "Fonds" d'investissements. Pour ce faire, il paraît indispensable de revoir le programme envisagé pour les années 1978 et 1979 pour le centre d'investissement et de le doter de moyens humains et financiers suffisants afin de lui permettre de jouer pleinement son rôle dans la préparation et le lancement des projets agricoles.

Nous approuvons en outre les initiatives prises par Monsieur le Directeur général qui a assoupli et multiplié les interventions du Programme d'assistance technique.

Ce sont là, Monsieur le Président, quelques réflexions sur les thèmes de notre Conférence et sur les documents qui nous ont été présentés.

Permettez-moi maintenant, Mesdames, Messieurs, de vous entretenir très brièvement des efforts déployés par mon pays pour atteindre ses objectifs en matière d'autosatisfaction et d'amélioration du niveau de sa population.

L'agriculture joue dans mon pays un rôle prépondérant et jouit de ce fait de la première priorité dans nos plans de développement économique et social.

Compte tenu des aléas climatiques, de nos ressources en eau et de la pénurie des terres cultivables, nous avons axé nos efforts sur l'irrigation. C'est ainsi que notre rythme annuel d'irrigation sera accéléré au cours des prochaines années en vue d'atteindre l'objectif du million d'hectares dans une quinzaine d'années. L'irrigation de nos terres nous permettra de satisfaire d'ici 1985 nos besoins alimentaires essentiels, notamment en sucre et en huile végétale.

De même, en zones non irriguées, la généralisation des semences sélectionnées, l'emploi de l'engrais et de techniques culturales adaptées, combinées avec les réalisations d'infrastructure socio-économique et la vulgarisation, nous ont permis de relever les rendements dans des proportions importantes et plus particulièrement dans le domaine céréalier.

Des projets intégrés où l'action est concentrée sur l'aménagement des structures foncières, l'infrastructure à l'amont et à l'aval de la production végétale et animale, sont en cours de réalisation avec l'aide de la FAO et les autres organismes internationaux.

Nos efforts ne se limitent pas aux seules zones favorables en sec mais englobent aussi les zones arides et semi-arides qui occupent une grande partie de notre pays. Ces zones profiteront de techniques particulières basées sur des méthodes d'aridoculture associées à une fertilisation appropriée et à l'emploi de semences spécifiques.

La recherche agronomique, l'élevage et le reboisement profitent aussi dans mon pays de programmes spécifiques à travers lesquels l'objectif principal visé demeure l'autosatisfaction de nos besoins internes.

La distribution des terres aux petits agriculteurs dans le cadre de la Réforme agraire, les subventions accordées à travers un code des investissements agricoles et la réalisation des infrastructures constituent nos principales interventions qui permettent d'accroître nos productions par une participation directe et volontaire des agriculteurs.

Enfin, un dernier domaine qui revêt pour nous une importance capitale est celui de la formation des techniciens indispensables à l'encadrement des agriculteurs et à la vulgarisation des techniques modernes de production. Notre pays dispose désormais de vingt et un établissements assurant la formation des cadres à tous les niveaux et dans toutes les disciplines.

Toutes nos actions sont guidées par le souci d'un équilibre régional et d'une répartition équitable des ressources du pays en vue d'un relèvement généralisé du niveau de vie de la population rurale.

Les résultats atteints ces dernières années nous paraissent satisfaisants. La création en trois ans de plusieurs Fonds d'investissements dans le secteur agricole, la constitution de stocks de sécurité alimentaire, le lancement de centres régionaux de recherche et d'expérimentation sont autant de mesures nouvelles qui concrétisent notre volonté d'oeuvrer pour le bien-être de nos populations.

Nos débats devront donc aboutir à orienter les activités de la FAO pour qu'elle réaménage rapidement ses structures dans le but de profiter des potentialités nouvelles qu'offre la coopération internationale.

A notre avis, ses efforts durant le biennal prochain doivent porter en particulier sur les points suivants:

- développer ses relations avec les organismes de financement et stimuler l'octroi des prêts à des conditions favorables aux pays en développement;
- accroître l'aide aux pays les plus touchés par la sécheresse comme les pays du Sahel pour lutter contre la désertification et élaborer des programmes pouvant être financés par l'aide extérieure;
- multiplier ses démarches pour l'accroissement de l'aide alimentaire et la constitution de stocks de sécurité alimentaire. De même, il est souhaitable que les contributions des pays donateurs soient relevées d'une façon substantielle;
- appuyer les actions menées par les organismes spécialisés tels que le GATT, et ceci dans le cadre de "l'ordre nouveau" préconisé par la CNUCED lors de la réunion de Nairobi en mai 1976, en vue d'assurer une stabilisation des prix des produits alimentaires de base et des matières premières.

Ainsi, en plus de l'activité normale de notre Organisation, nous souhaitons une action particulière dans ces domaines qui nous paraissent représenter un impact certain sur notre développement.

Je suis persuadé, Monsieur le Président, que grâce à notre volonté commune de résoudre les problèmes qui se posent en matière d'amélioration de la productivité de nos terres, et de lutte contre la malnutrition de nos populations, notre Organisation renforcera davantage son action sur ces options vitales pour le bien-être de l'humanité.

S. ESSIMENGANE (Gabon): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Ministres, Monsieur le Directeur général, Honorables Délégués et Observateurs, Mesdames, Mesdemoiselles, Messieurs, Avant d'aborder le fond de mon allocution, je voudrais accomplir, avec beaucoup de plaisir, un certain nombre de devoirs, non seulement en mon nom propre, au nom du Gouvernement et du peuple gabonais, mais aussi en qualité de Membre du Gouvernement du pays qui assume la Présidence de l'Organisation de l'Unité Africaine.

D'abord, celui de vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre brillante élection aux hautes responsabilités de Président de la dix-neuvième session de notre Conférence, Ce n'est certes pas le hasard qui vous a porté à ce poste, car vous n'êtes pas un inconnu pour la FAO,

A travers vous, c'est non seulement votre beau pays, mais aussi le Tiers Monde qui est honoré. C'est aussi le Professeur et le Responsable éminent du Gouvernement de l'Indonésie, dont les qualités ont été mieux que je ne saurais le faire, mises en exergue par les orateurs qui m'ont précédé à cette tribune, sans oublier le Président du Groupe des 77.

Je voudrais vous assurer par delà toute la sympathie fraternelle du Gouvernement gabonais, de notre entière collaboration et de notre contribution dans la mesure de nos possibilités pour la parfaite réussite de la présente session.

J'adresse ensuite, très sincèrement, mes plus vives félicitations à Monsieur le Directeur général, le Docteur Saouma, pour les résultats éloquentes de ses deux premières années à la tête de notre Organisation. En effet, la FAO, nul ne l'ignore, avait besoin à la fois, Monsieur le Directeur général, de

vosre sagacité, vosre hardiesse, vosre dynamisme, vosre sens aigu de discernement et d'appréciation, de vosre vision éclairée et mesurée des problèmes, vosre capacité extraordinaire de travail, de vosre ténacité, enfin de vosre foi en la mission, th'à l'unanimité, la dix-huitième session de la Conférence vos a confiée.

Grâce a toutes vos qualités, nous pouvons aujourd'hui apprécier l'oeuvre méritoire de réforme des structures et des habitudes de travail que vos avez accomplie, ainsi que'tontes les innovations que vos avez apportées dans la conception et la mise en oeuvre des programmes de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués, je ne voudrais pas reprendre chaque chapitre du Programme de Travail et de Budget pour le biennum 78-79. Je voudrais cependant mentionner tout particulièrement le Programme de Coopération Technique, le Programme des Pertes après récolte, la création et le financement d'un Fonds spécial pour sa mise en oeuvre immédiate, la continuation des réformes approuvées par le Conseil, le renforcement des liens de coopération entre la FAO et le FIDA. Le Gouvernement Gabonais souhaite que la Conférence manifeste son soutien unanime au Directeur Général en adoptant ses propositions et lui renouvelle ainsi toute sa confiance.

Soyez assuré, Monsieur le Directeur Général que, nous, nous vos apporterons toujours notre appui total dans les initiatives que vos serez amené à prendre dans l'intérêt bien compris de notre Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués,

LOUA comprend environ le tiers des Etats Membres de la FAO. Point n'est besoin de faire son historique et de souligner la place de plus en plus importante qu'elle occupe dans le concert des organisations internationales. Cependant, pour la première fois dans son histoire et dans celle de la FAO, je pense qu'il est opportun, en cette solennelle occasion, de souligner combien l'OUA a apprécié l'initiative pertinente du Directeur Général qui a tenu à participer, personnellement, auc dernières assises de Libreville.

Le docteur SAOUMA n'a pas été u η simple invité, mais il a fait, au sommet des Chefs d'Etats de l'OUA, une communication fort appréciée pour laquelle, au nom du Président de la République Gabonaise, Président en exercice de l'OUA, l'honneur m'échoit une fois encore de le remercier et de le féliciter de cette heureuse initiative.

Je ne saurais oublier de mentionner tous les fonctionnaires des organisations internationales qui ont pris une part active à la préparation de cette importante session.

Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués,

Des améliorations ont été enregistrées depuis la crise mondiale de l'alimentation. Mais ces améliorations ont été enregistrées dans les Pays matériellement riches d'une part, et sont d'autre part, la résultante d'éléments peu stables que les techniques les plus élaborées ne peuvent pas maîtriser (conditions atmosphériques par exemple).

Pourtant, depuis que l'homme est sur la terre, les denrées alimentaires ont toujours existé; depuis que le monde est monde, chaque être vivant a trouvé sa nourriture, tout comme il a trouvé l'air, l'eau, le soleil et la terre. Ces éléments existent aujourd'hui, ils existeront toujours malgré les variations que l'homme leur inflige. Certes, le rapport du "Club de Rome", ("Halte à la croissance"), fait observer que la croissance démographique et celle de la consommation vont épuiser les ressources naturelles de la terre et prévoit comme conséquences: la famine, un taux massif de mortalité, l'effondrement de l'économie mondiale etc...

La Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme n'a pas attendu que l'on injecte aux ordinateurs les statistiques et les tendances actuelles pour proclamer le droit de chacun à une alimentation suffisante et adéquate. Ce que d'ailleurs Monsieur Mac NAMARA n'a fait que reprendre dans une allocution prononcée à BOSTON en janvier de cette année; je cite:

..."Le principe de l'égalité pour tous, non seulement à l'intérieur de chaque pays, mais à l'échelle du globe, domine de plus en plus la pensée et l'action des habitants de la planète et il est en voie de devenir l'un des principaux sujets de préoccupation du monde contemporain". . .

..."De nos jours, cette aspiration se traduit, notamment, par la recherche'de solutions nouvelles au problème obsédant de la pauvreté matérielle". . .

La projection de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture met en relief cette pauvreté par une production déficitaire, une malnutrition endémique. Les réactions seraient différentes bien sûr si les victimes de la pauvreté et de la malnutrition mouraient d'une épidémie quelconque.



Excluons l'Afrique du Sud et son fléau que la communauté internationale connaît, condamne d'un côté, tolère de l'autre et dont, toujours à BOSTON, Monsieur MAC NAMARA disait ". . . La lutte contre la discrimination raciale, le progrès des droits civiques tous ces mouvements et d'autres encore, ont ceci de commun que, chacun d'eux marque une étape vers une "Société plus juste, une répartition plus équitable des possibilités économiques". . . La région africaine, sans cette plaie de l'humanité, compte au moins 280 Millions d'habitants dont un cinquième a moins de cinq ans. Dix pour cent de ce cinquième souffrent de malnutrition et 500 000 au moins, même si tous les soins nécessaires leur étaient apportés, ne survivraient pas. Plus nombreux sont ceux qui resteront handicapés à vie, physiquement ou moralement, voire les deux.

Il est difficile d'ignorer, Monsieur le Président, qu'au moment où la situation s'est améliorée dans certaines régions du globe, en Afrique, et en particulier au Sahel, les problèmes alimentaires demeurent entiers, à telle enseigne qu'en août dernier, le Gouvernement de la Gambie, déclarait le Pays "Zone frappée par la Sécheresse".

C'est sur cette toile le fond, un tantinet inquiétante et déprimante, que les records des exportations agricoles sont considérés comme des objectifs primordiaux malgré le fléchissement général des prix sur le marché mondial, alors que la pénurie alimentaire sévit dans presque tous les pays démunis et que les morts de la faim ne sont pas toujours annoncés, soit parce que l'on n'ose pas le faire de manière complice, soit parce que l'on a honte de donner des informations de cette nature et on préfère confondre la honte à l'hypocrisie.

En 1968, Son Excellence le Président NYERERE disait cependant: "C'est à nous qui sommes encore vivants aux privilégiés qui jouissons d'une alimentation suffisante et adéquate, qu'il incombe d'oeuvrer pour la Déclaration des Droits de l'Homme se traduise dans les faits, pour tous les hommes".

Ce n'est pas aujourd'hui seulement que la malnutrition ou l'insuffisance alimentaire a marqué l'Histoire.

- En 1892, en plein été, la ville de New York a connu une mortalité infantile de 340 pour 1 000, taux comparable à celui des pays démunis. En recourant à une meilleure alimentation, très rapidement, ce taux fut ramené à 170 pour 1 000.

- En 1925, en Tanzanie, un taux de mortalité élevé chez les prisonniers affectés à des travaux pénibles fut à l'origine d'une loi rendant obligatoire une meilleure alimentation de tous les prisonniers. Deux ans après, ce taux de mortalité avait diminué des deux tiers. Cette loi fut alors appliquée à tous les travailleurs des plantations afin d'accroître leur puissance de travail.

Aujourd'hui, peut-on faire un bilan réconfortant ? . . .

A Manille, à la Conférence Nord Sud comme à la CNUCED IV, pratiquement après une année d'intenses négociations, on n'a pas réussi à résoudre les problèmes de base.

Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués,

Si nous en sommes là, n'est-ce pas à cause d'une mauvaise conception du développement ?

L'aspiration à l'équité doit se traduire avant tout par la recherche de solutions nouvelles au problème obsédant de la pauvreté car la formule propre à une situation donnée n'est pas applicable à une autre situation. En d'autres termes, ce qui peut convenir à un pays matériellement riche ne peut pas convenir à un pays dépourvu.

Il paraîtra absurde que, en ce dernier quart de siècle, qui a connu tant de progrès, tant de prouesses, nous posions le problème de développement d'une manière inattendue. C'est à notre avis une impérieuse nécessité que commandent la polarisation de nos sens, l'accoutumance des esprits à une dialectique volontairement faussée par les uns pour empêcher les autres de voir et d'appréhender les vrais problèmes, une dialectique erronée qui a établi des rapports inexacts, un équilibre injuste et des habitudes oratoires sans lendemain.

- Pays développés !

- Pays en voie de développement !, expressions galvaudées,

Qu'est-ce que cela veut dire? Où commence le développement et où s'arrête-t-il ? Quelle est l'unité de mesure du développement ?

En cernant les multiples tendances, on constate que pour certains, le développement se mesure à l'accumulation d'argent, ou à l'augmentation de la capacité d'accroître la masse monétaire ou bien encore à l'élévation du Produit National Brut, même si ce n'est que l'oeuvre ou pour le bénéfice de quelques uns seulement.

Pour d'autres, ce qui n'est pas moins erroné, le développement consiste en l'industrialisation ou la richesse, sans tenir compte de celui qui détient cette industrie ou cette richesse. . . Certains Pays du Tiers Monde seraient alors des pays matériellement développés au même titre que les Etats-Unis d'Amérique par exemple.

Pays développés, Pays en voie de développement, cela revient-il à dire que le développement n'est rien d'autre que la copie conforme des pays industrialisés, à admettre qu'il est raisonnable que les dépenses annuelles des armées du monde soient l'équivalent du revenu annuel de l'Afrique, du Moyen-Orient, de l'Asie Méridionale et de l'Amérique latine réunis et qu'il est normal qu'elles représentent 20 à 50 fois selon les modes de calcul, toute l'aide internationale.

Raoul FOLLEREAU, demandait aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique et à l'URSS de renoncer chacun à la lutte contre la lèpre aurait suffi à assurer la victoire définitive sur cet horrible fléau. Il ne fut pas entendu, ce fléau existe encore hélas ! C'est pourquoi, pour mieux appréhender nos problèmes, il est important pour tous, de nous débarrasser avant tout de ces expressions qui ne font qu'accroître l'incompréhension des devoirs des uns envers les autres dans l'honorable mission de venir à l'aide des moins nantis.

Il nous faut reconsidérer que le développement est l'ensemble de ce processus qui a modifié progressivement, imperceptiblement d'abord mais radicalement, les modes de production, les modes de consommation, les modes de communication, les structures, les institutions, les rapports entre les hommes et les rapports entre l'homme et la nature.

Il nous faut observer et constater que c'est en étendant sa domination sur la nature que l'homme a engendré le processus de développement dont la principale conséquence réside dans l'élaboration des modèles de croissance avec pour objectif le bien être tant économique que social, culturel et sanitaire de tous les hommes.

En effet, LEWIS a dit: "Les Dieux ne nous regarderont face à face que lorsque nous aurons nous-mêmes un visage". Parant de ces considérations, l'homme est donc responsable et si l'égalité n'existe pas, c'est pour lui, à cause de lui, à cause de son incapacité innée à se libérer des préjugés, des vices et des appétits insatiables.

En un mot, il prouve que ses capacités sont infimes. au regard des expériences combien enrichissantes que lui offre la vie par le biais de l'environnement naturel.

Il est en permanence prisonnier de ses impulsions et c'est pour mettre un terme à cet état de choses que les pays du Groupe des 77 ont exprimé l'impérieuse nécessité de l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre Economique International.

La dimension planétaire de la 2ème guerre mondiale, les ruines consécutives, l'importance des moyens financiers mis en oeuvre pendant et après le conflit et la place des peuples alors colonisés, leur rôle et le travail politique fourni ont incité au maintien de la paix et à l'organisation de la Coopération économique et sociale par l'élaboration de la charte de San Francisco le 26 juin 1945. Que se passe-t-il encore actuellement sur cette même planète ? Quest est le fruit de cette coopération économique et sociale ?

A Manille, Monsieur. MAC NAMARA, s'adressant au Conseil des gouverneurs; de la Banque Mondiale, a résumé la situation dans une analyse de la croissance disparate du monde. Il a affirmé notamment que: "de 1965 à 1975, les revenus des pays les plus pauvres, soit plus de 1, 2 milliard d'habitants du globe, n'ont augmenté que de deux dollars par an". . . En concluant, il ne pouvait s'empêcher de dire que: "le spectacle ne saurait être contemplé sans que des mesures résolues soient prises pour y remédier". . .

A la 70ème session du Conseil de notre Organisation, le Directeur général déclarait que l'action dans les domaines fondamentaux pour le bien-être de millions d'êtres humains était à peine perceptible. L'espoir réside dans l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international.

Nous sommes là au coeur même d'un des grands aspects que l'histoire du monde devra enregistrer comme elle a enregistré l'accession à l'indépendance des peuples colonisés. Certes, le nouvel ordre économique international engendrera des craquements déchirants pour les privilégiés, une réforme inéluctable des structures, un effort collectif, une véritable conversion des mentalités, toutes sortes de catastrophes qui autorisent les cassandres à prédire des affrontements apocalyptiques.

Il n'en sera rien de tout cela si la Communauté internationale veut comprendre, prenant le contre-pied de "Halte à la croissance" dans son modèle de croissance, que les problèmes majeurs de l'humanité ne sont pas d'ordre physique mais socio-économique et que les solutions ou les remèdes ne résident pas dans un coup de frein généralisé à la croissance démographique mais dans l'élaboration d'un système mondial dont l'objectif serait la satisfaction des besoins fondamentaux de chacun.

Certes, ce système conduirait à un ralentissement de la croissance économique des pays industrialisés qui adopteraient délibérément les mesures appropriées grâce auxquelles les pays pauvres pourraient atteindre graduellement un niveau de vie acceptable pour eux.

La situation actuelle se résume malheureusement en ceci:

- Les pays industrialisés sont préoccupés par leurs problèmes d'inflation et de chômage dans leurs frontières.
- Les pays pauvres s'inquiètent du déficit croissant de leur balance de paiements, conséquence de la détérioration chronique des termes de l'échange et de l'inflation généralisée. Ce qui a fait dire à un journaliste que les "Pays pauvres continueront de s'enrhumer chaque fois que les pays riches éternuent".

Dans le monde actuel, les préoccupations sont partagées sur toute une série de questions. Je voudrais maintenant en aborder une à titre d'exemple, dont on ne parle que peu, par hypocrisie, malgré l'inégalité flagrante, mais aussi et surtout les conséquences dont elle est responsable. Il s'agit de l'information.

Les pays industrialisés utilisent des moyens de communication sophistiqués, que les pays matériellement pauvres ne sont pas, tous, en mesure d'adopter. Les pays industrialisés conscients de ce que l'information est un pouvoir technologique et politique, n'ont cependant pas manqué d'y voir une nouvelle source de revenus en proposant les équipements, quitte à les préfinancer sans se préoccuper des charges récurrentes.

Cette situation des rapports de force inégaux, utilisant la technologie, est devenue une forme d'exploitation supplémentaire et en même temps, une forme de domination nouvelle, hautement subtile et très efficace qui se perçoit difficilement.

Ce phénomène, nous le vivons. Il peut se traduire ainsi: de PARIS, LONDRES ou WASHINGTON par exemple, 100 000 morts du Tiers Monde valent moins que 10 d'un pays nanti.

Ces mêmes pays comprennent mal que leurs anciennes colonies acceptent de plus en plus mal certaines situations de simples consommateurs de leurs produits dont ils ne contrôlent ni la fabrication ni la distribution. C'est le cas de l'information dans son ordre actuel et il est permis de se demander si un nouvel ordre mondial de l'information n'est pas nécessaire.

Ce nouvel ordre est, en tout état de cause, aussi indispensable que le nouvel ordre économique international. Il sera battu en brèche, il ne faut pas se faire d'illusion. Il s'instaurera difficilement. Néanmoins, aussi audacieux que cela puisse paraître, il ne serait pas moins juste qu'il voie le jour afin que le transfert de technologie ne demeure pas moins un mythe et ne constitue de nouvelles chaînes d'asservissement.

Les pays nantis en acceptant le principe en ont depuis longtemps mesuré non seulement la part des revenus qu'ils en tirent, mais aussi les relations conséquentes et le rapport des forces.

En effet, tel qu'il est pratiqué, le transfert de technologie peut être considéré comme une nouvelle forme d'asservissement si l'on y prend garde, si l'on ne fait pas preuve de pondération, de circonspection et de discernement, car à travers lui et par lui, les pays matériellement pauvres, quel que soit le degré de pauvreté, risquent de demeurer, pour longtemps encore, tributaires des pays nantis. Sur le plan de la technologie pure, les problèmes sont solubles certainement, mais sur le plan de l'inadéquation, voire de l'inadaptation, par le biais de l'information et de la formation, de la conception du développement, du dérèglement des priorités, le transfert de technologie risque aussi de permettre aux nantis- de contenir les aspirations légitimes des pauvres. En attisant les orgueils naturels, le transfert de technologie annihile les potentialités créatives qui peuvent exister et qui correspondraient à la recherche de technologies mieux adaptées à la situation de ces derniers.

Il n'est pas de pays économiquement pauvre qui puisse faire des bilans positifs, en faveur de ses populations, à la suite d'un transfert de technologie. Non seulement le phénomène dégrade toute originalité jusqu'aux us et coutumes, qui sont bouleversés dangereusement, mais encore, il fait très souvent en sorte que les pays matériellement pauvres ne puissent être complémentaires entre eux tout en demeurant dépendants des pays nantis, chacun en ce qui le concerne.

La crise du pétrole, comme on l'a appelée faussement, n'a pas incité les pays nantis à devenir tributaires des pays producteurs de l'or noir. Elle les a plutôt même incités à accroître les moyens de recherche vers des solutions de rechange que l'information s'est chargée d'éclabousser pour faire taire les exigences légitimes de ceux-ci.

Il en sera ainsi et toujours ainsi, si les pays matériellement pauvres ne réalisent pas que, dans leur pauvreté, le développement n'est pas la copie même d'un moins pauvre et que dire d'un nanti; que les besoins primordiaux des uns ne correspondent pas à ceux des autres, que dans la société de consommation, s'ils n'unissaient pas leurs efforts, ils ne vaincraient jamais leur pauvreté et ne seraient donc en mesure d'exiger une coopération plus équitable, fondée sur des éléments plus justes inhérents aux principes de vérité et de justice.

Non seulement des siècles durant, ceux-là mêmes qui sont pauvres aujourd'hui ont été pillés d'une manière ou d'une autre mais ils continuent de l'être, parce qu'ils ne perçoivent encore que confusément les tactiques hautement subtiles qui visent à perpétuer la domination des pillleurs sur les pillés.

Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués,

J'aurais failli à ma mission, si je ne m'acquittais pas en terminant d'un autre devoir tout aussi agréable, celui de saluer nos frères des Seychelles, Angola, Mozambique, Djibouti, Namibie, Corée Démocratique, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Comores, qui, pour la première fois, participent à part entière aux travaux de notre Conférence. Nous les assurons d'avance de toute notre sympathie.

CHAIRMAN: I now call upon an additional speaker, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources of the Sudan who was scheduled to speak on the morning of 17 November but who has to return urgently to his country tomorrow morning.

A. A. ABDALLA (Sudan) (Interpretation from Arabic): First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity of speaking here in this Conference. I have to leave Rome very soon. The time we have is extremely valuable and therefore I would like to make use of it; and I thank you again for giving me this opportunity of speaking at a time which was not really set aside for me.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the population and Government of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, and on behalf of my colleagues in the Sudanese delegation, I would like to extend to you my best wishes for the work of the Conference. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity of congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your post as Chairman of the Conference. I am sure that your wisdom is going to make it possible for us to achieve remarkable results in the course of this Conference.

I would also like to welcome here all the new members of the Organization who have come to join our Organization. But while welcoming these countries I would like to refer to our brothers who are still victims of slavery and domination and who, with admirable heroism, fight against racial discrimination and foreign domination. I would like to pay a tribute from here to their legitimate aspirations and to recall that it is up to all of us to help them towards liberty, justice and peace.

Mr. Chairman, FAO has contributed to a very considerable extent to the efforts made in order to build up an equitable economic order which was endorsed by all countries and which has thus become a working instrument in all of our conferences. Nevertheless, we should recall that the efforts made in this direction are simply a sketch because the gap between opulence of the rich and the misery of the poor is still a very wide one. Nevertheless, the dialogue which has started between countries since the World Food Conference is one that deals with the main problems. Sometimes there is a faint glimmer of hope but it disappears right away.

Mr. Chairman, we are here because our hopes are high in the case of FAO. This is the pioneer Organization in the family of the United Nations. Its burden is the heaviest and its contribution can satisfy the aspirations of nations and people. The measures taken in this Organization are the most solid foundation of the economic order to which we all aspire.

The new policies applied in FAO, such as decentralization at the national level and the setting up of national centres, deserve our full support; but while giving our support to the measures which have already been taken, we express the wish that other initiatives be taken to accompany them in order to carry them out, so that the objectives will be reached; that is to say, the improvement of methods in preparing projects, plans for the improvement of production and of living standards.

We would also like to express our full satisfaction with the orientation that has been given to the work of the Organization, but we believe it is necessary to reformulate the methods of work in the regional offices, in the light of this policy, in order to improve the work in those offices. I am of the opinion that the Near East Office has a very important role to play in order to link the various nations it serves, and that in particular in our region the project for cooperation between FAO and the oil-producing countries is of the greatest importance. We believe that all these plans should be successful. We try to strengthen this Organization and we should draw attention to the fact that we must absolutely ensure an equality of chances with regard to the distribution of functions and justice with regard to geographical distribution within the Organization. We see that the African and Arab countries have not had their share in regard to the posts given to the various member countries of the Organization.

We are glad to note that IFAD has become a reality and we in the developing countries expect IFAD to play its role in helping agricultural development, in raising nutritional levels in the developing countries. In the same way, we must not forget what the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in the developing countries has already achieved. It has helped define national strategies for development, and the Sudan, with three other countries, has participated in this experiment which we consider to be a beginning towards putting up the challenge of increasing agricultural production. We believe that it is necessary to act in such a way that priority is given to such activities, and also to see to it that adequate assistance is given to the developing countries in this connexion.

Although there has been an improvement in the world situation, generally speaking, we are still conscious of the fact that the situation is far from satisfactory; especially the rate of agricultural development in developing countries is far from the level we adopted a few years ago. Of course, agriculture in the developing countries suffers from a lack of mechanization, of finance and of a number of other factors which could encourage agricultural production; and this of course makes the situation more difficult. Food security can only be brought about if there is an increase of production in the developing countries, and this is only possible thanks to the activities of this Organization and can be undertaken by the member countries of this Organization. Then, we would be able to increase agricultural production in our countries, thanks to the finance provided by donor countries and donor organizations, to whom we launch an appeal that they increase their financial assistance. Our hopes are great that international cooperation will be strengthened and that terms of trade will become more favourable to the developing countries.

Our hope is also very high that certain decisions which were taken in the international organization be really implemented. Of course, we have made efforts in order to increase our agricultural production in our own countries and we also try to increase yields to diversify agricultural production to improve the rate of increase, especially with regard to food production and we try to create a surplus in order to be able to export.

In the course of this year we started to apply a development plan for a six-year period and it therefore continues until 1983. Among the objectives of this plan there is the implementation of the production of a surplus of 308, 000 tons of plant oil and 275, 000 tons of seed, quantities of maize, of seed of high quality and we also want to improve the production of tea, coffee and become exporters of sugar. Ambitious programmes in order to increase production and productivity are based upon the promotion of agricultural research. An integrated plan takes into account all the ecological factors. For the first phase of this plan we are cooperating with IBRD in order to set up research units in the Savannah area in the Western part of our country. For the first time this project will make it possible to discover a technology and make it possible to promote production and to increase productivity in rainfed areas and also in the traditional agricultural cropping areas.

The promotion of agricultural research, of course, requires a strengthening of agricultural training and expansion programmes. We need staff and apart from academic staff we are training at the Khartoum University every year and at which we have 300 agronomists and veterinarians, we also have set up a University in Juba in the South which will work in close contact with the environment in which it has been set up in order to try and surmount the problems of the rural populations of these areas. We believe that this is a way of strengthening the structures for education and training in order to achieve the results we are aiming at but the promotion of agricultural research also requires a structural change in the rural areas of our country in order to bring about our economic and social development. Thanks to the assistance we get from international organizations, especially the specialized agencies, we have been able to start projects in order to increase the living standards of the rural population, especially of the small farmers and to help also cooperatives and to adopt techniques and modern technology to our requirements.

Agriculture in my country is based on the cultivation of state-owned land which is used by the populations living on this land. Taking into account the size of the land available we have opened the door to all possibilities for capital investment, of foreign capital, Arab capital and capital also coming from the private sector in order to make it possible for such capital to be invested in fruitful projects.

We are quite convinced that direct cooperation between the donor countries and the beneficiary countries is not only necessary but that it is possible, because this would make it possible for us to prepare projects in conditions which will be satisfactory. I would like to recall in this direction what I said concerning the efforts made by the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in developing countries.

The Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1978-79 includes essential aspects which show that the Organization merits the full trust which we place in it and which we place in the Director-General; and his staff. My Government gives its full support to the contents of this programme, especially with regard to the following points. With regard to forestry, for instance, we would like to propose that within the framework of the programmes we find in the Programme of Work there should be a balance between agricultural expansion and forestry utilization, especially tropical forests.

As regards the improvement of tropical forestry, we agree that regional institutes should be set up in order to train local staff in the woodworking industries. In the Sudan we have got a project for forest census in my country and we are consulting the Organization in this connexion.

As far as fishery is concerned, we would like to propose that the Organization should help regional fisheries which are going to be set up in the near future in order to make it possible for countries in these regions really to draw benefit from these centres. We believe that fisheries in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden do not draw full benefit from the aid they could get from the Organization and that is why we would like to suggest that a centre be set up for these countries, in order to help them solve their fishery problems.

The enormous resources which are available in my country make it necessary that programmes of the control of the advance of the desert, programmes for the improvement of grassland, of range land, and the improvement of working conditions be assisted financially so that all these programmes, these ambitious programmes, will be successful.

Before concluding I would like to thank WFP for the different activities it has carried out in my country over the last few years and for the advance in my country. I would also like to thank the Organization, the Director-General and the entire staff for having prepared the documentation for this Conference which makes it possible for us to familiarize ourselves with all the subjects that are to be discussed here.

CHAIRMAN: I adjourn the sixth plenary meeting.

The meeting rose at 18. 40 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 40 horas

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/7

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(16 November 1977)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 10. 05 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La septième seance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 05 sous la présidence  
de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 10. 05 horas, bajo la  
presidencia de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

-. MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES  
(continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We will continue with the item General Discussion. I give the floor to Mr. Chikwanda, Minister of Lands and Agriculture of the Republic of Zambia.

A. B. CHIKWANDA (Zambia): Let me join my distinguished colleagues who have spoken before me in warmly congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, for your well deserved election to the Chairmanship of this august Conference, which I have no doubt you will steer to a successful and fruitful conclusion.

Adequate and reasonably cheap food supply is a critical issue for mankind, especially in the developing Third World countries, the fragile economies of which have to sustain very rapidly increasing populations. Agriculture is an essential and important sector in any developing country and indeed even in the developed countries. In my country which has depended rather precariously on the proceeds of extractive industry of which copper mining is most prominent, we now do realise more than ever before that our economy cannot be strong and resilient without the development of the agricultural sector. The return on investment in agriculture is certainly much higher than from mining. With a relatively modest injection of capital you create more employment opportunities than from commensurate investment in mining and even manufacturing industries, especially where these have to rely heavily on expensive imported inputs. The foreign exchange component of agricultural investment is also much lower than that of many other forms of industrial investment. The copper mines in Zambia from which we get 92 per cent of our foreign exchange earnings use about \$260 million annually of foreign exchange. If even half of that level of foreign exchange were injected into agriculture, the results would be fantastic. Unfortunately we cannot do that immediately, but are steadfastly stepping up investment in agriculture.

Some developmentalists have blamed the poor state of agriculture in developing countries on the attitudes which tend to frown on agriculture because of the allegedly low prestige attached to it. Whereas this may be so, our experience indicates that the inhibiting factor to many people taking up agriculture is the lack of incentive.

When people see that there is enough incentive and that they can get a satisfactory return on their labour or efforts, they can take up agriculture with minimal prompting from governments. For countries like Zambia which are landlocked and far from the suppliers, one of the major constraints to our rapid agricultural expansion is just the sheer cost of inputs. At a time when the price of our major export commodity, copper, has plummeted to unbearably low levels, the prices of tractors, fertilisers and other farm requisites which we obtain from the industrialised countries have shot up sky-high. We now have to sell at least five tonnes of copper to buy a modestly priced tractor. Thus, in a way, it does not really matter how hard our miners work; neither they nor their country benefit from that extra toil because the ugly realities of the lopsided "international division of labour" is such that benefits accrue to the workers in the developed countries. I am afraid, until there is a reordering of the international economic arrangements and relations, our peasants and workers will continue to settle strike claims of the European or American workers!

As many distinguished delegates may be aware, Zambia's geo-political situation has been and is presently a very unfortunate one. The closure of the southern routes has entailed very costly diversion of our imports and exports. The completion in record time of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway, which was made possible because of the generous assistance of the People's Republic of China, has been a relief, but only partially since there are still capacity constraints at the terminal port. We still have to face costly re-routing of imports from Beira to Dar-es-Salaam, either because the road between Zambia and Mozambique is not operational all the time or because the Malawi railway system from Nacala may be over-congested.

Despite the many difficulties we face because of the unfortunate geography and the internationally induced inflation, coupled with depressed prices for our exports, we are making a modest but significant contribution to the world's food supply. This year we are going to export nearly 100 000 metric tonnes of maize to neighbouring countries. We hope to export more next year, when we also expect to be self-sufficient in the production of oil seeds which will entail tremendous savings in foreign exchange because, apart from not importing edible oil, we shall also cut down drastically on the importation of the protein component of the stockfeed which has been costing the country about \$20 million annually.



It will be recalled that at the last General Conference Resolution 4/75 was adopted urging all member nations to review and evaluate their national agricultural systems and their agricultural research for small and medium-scale farmers. Research is very central to the success of agriculture and because of the emphasis being placed on the agricultural sector, we have undertaken steps not only to intensify research but to restructure our research goals and priorities to meet the country's development aspirations. Re-organisation of research is a costly business and Zambia and many other developing countries do not have the requisite specialised and trained manpower, let alone the money to invest in the research effort. It is in this context, that Zambia is most grateful for the assistance that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has rendered. It is our hope that this assistance will continue and that there will be increased co-operation between international research centres and national research institutions.

The last FAO Conference recognised the need for research in spheres such as biological fertilizers. The costs of non-organic or chemical fertilizers are rising so fast that they could in the very near future become totally prohibitive for the small-scale farmer. Zambia therefore calls upon the FAO and international research organisations to put every effort into this aspect of the research so that the small-scale farmers who cannot afford the exorbitant prices of chemical fertilizers can have recourse to cheaper alternatives.

Food storage is an area that requires serious attention since most developing countries can scarcely afford the serious food losses that are occasioned by inadequate and inefficient storage systems. Zambia has carried out some research work on suitable grain storage structures. The results have been encouraging and we think we are on the verge of an important breakthrough. Off-farm storage is one area of considerable concern to us and we have sought bilateral and multilateral assistance to enable us to construct better storage for both durables and perishables. Adequate and efficient storage is an important step in the implementation of the world food security measures. Zambia therefore welcomes the establishment of the FAO Fund For Food Losses Reduction.

Another area that we are giving attention to is food processing. As production on the farms increases, it is desirable that some of the current surpluses are processed for future use internally and externally. Food processing is vital, especially for the perishables because presently a lot of vegetables and fruits are wasted when the markets are saturated and the marketing organisations cannot buy any more produce because of storage constraints. Food processing will also help the nation's effort at raising the nutritional standards and obliterating malnutrition.

In my earlier remarks I have referred briefly to our efforts to step up investment in agriculture which we intend to make the mainstay of our economy, a lot of money is needed to bring the small-scale farmers to the commercial level and to raise productivities on all the farms. The small farmers are the key to our success because their production costs tend to be lower and in some cases they have recorded better yields than the big farmers who may be inclined to waste, if only through unnecessary lavishness. Agriculture will advance rapidly if the cost of money, one of the most essential inputs, is reasonable. Government, despite the present unfavourable financial situation, is trying hard to extend credit to the various farming rural communities. When the country's financial position improves, every effort will be made to make the cost of money to the small farmer as reasonable as possible.

Our efforts at more production, no matter how commendable, will be defeated unless we can find the markets for our farm products. It is our sincere hope that developed countries will pursue increasingly more liberal and enlightened trade policies which will allow for more agriculture exports of the developing countries. The present rigid and discriminatory trade barriers are inimical to the interests of the developing countries which have a very limited range of options.

Let me say a few words on fisheries development. Fish is one of the most important sources of protein for our people. Zambia has several natural fisheries which are of different ecological set-up such as lakes, swamps and rivers. These fisheries are capable of meeting all the nation's requirements, but, because of insufficient exploitation and low investment, fish production is far below the nation's needs. We would in this context very much appreciate FAO's assistance in fish farming, especially for construction and management technology in the initial stages.

At the last Regional Conference for Africa held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, members of the Region stressed the importance of investment in forest industries. I am pleased to note that the FAO has taken some positive action on this important subject by considering the promotion of small-scale mills for pulp and paper industries as well as further investment identification activities in the Region.

Zambia, like a number of African countries, has a variety of indigenous and exotic species which require extensive cultivation for mining and various wood and other industries. It is dispiriting to see the

importation of even the simplest of wood products that could have been produced within the Region. The FAO and other international agencies have a duty to assist us in exploiting fully our forest resources and the attainment of self-sufficiency in this area.

The FAO as a United Nations organization, has an important role in bringing about fundamental changes in the world. We all know that the problems of the Third World are two-fold. Firstly, it is to increase the production of the goods and services that people need, and secondly to increase the consumption of the goods and services which denote good and free life. In order to bring about increased output and increased consumption, international bodies should be aware of the need for fundamental changes in the economic and social structures of the developing nations. The FAO and other agencies will not be able to comprehend these fundamental changes unless they themselves come down to earth in their operations. In this connection, Zambia heartily welcomes the FAO move to decentralise its operations. The Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 should indeed be an instrument for bringing about the desired change in the agricultural sector of the developing countries so that they are not only able to feed themselves but are able to strengthen their weak economies. The FAO's emphasis on field rather than headquarters' programmes, on a reduction in meetings and documentation, and the reinforcement of the Technical Cooperation Programme, is most welcome.

Further, Zambia wishes to support the suggestion made by the Director-General on the use of the Suspense Account. I am aware that this Account is made up of savings generated from the Dollar/Lira parity and that any such amount saved reverts to the member States in proportion to their contributions. We are all aware that contributions made by developing countries are minimal and consequently represent insignificant savings. May I therefore, through you, Mr. Chairman, appeal to developed countries to reconsider this issue seriously and allow the Director-General to use the Suspense Account to meet unbudgeted-for inflationary expenses and to strengthen certain programmes such as the one on prevention of post-harvest losses.

I wish to commend the FAO for responding favourably to the request made by the Regional Conference for Africa to draw up a regional food plan which is aimed at enabling members of the Organization of African Unity to be self-sufficient in food within a period of ten years. We in the Africa Region are anxious to see this plan implemented almost immediately because time is not on our side as we cannot sit by while our populations are confronted with poverty, disease and hunger.

Finally my Delegation wishes wholeheartedly to welcome the new member states that have been admitted into this important organization. It is our sincerest hope that these new members will participate fully in the running of the Organization with the same undaunted spirit that has won them their independence from the yoke of colonialism.

My Delegation is particularly pleased by the fact that three of the eight newly admitted states, namely; Angola, Mozambique and Namibia, have common borders with our country. We shall therefore pull our efforts together in the fight against the scourge of hunger, malnutrition and poverty amongst our people:

R. BERGLAND (United States of America): Four years ago, I had the honour to attend the 17th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization as a Congressional Adviser to the U. S. Delegation. Since that time, I have watched with increased interest the work of this Organization. In these four years, there have been encouraging developments in FAO and in the world food situation. Also, and especially in the past year, the United States has reviewed its own role in relation to the world food system, to the developing world, to the problem of hunger and malnutrition, and to FAO. It is a privilege for me to represent my country at this 19th Session and to discuss with you certain changes in our policies and in our aspirations for FAO.

First, I would like to commend FAO for its accomplishments since the last Biennial Session. Under Dr. Saouma's leadership, the Organization has made important changes, particularly in strengthening development activities, in decentralizing headquarters functions, and in emphasizing immediate production problems. The United States also applauds the Organization for its expanded membership, and we salute the new members who are joining this great forum at this time. The subject of food is universal, and national participation in the FAO should reflect this universality.

In this Session the member countries can consider the intermediate and longer-run goals of FAO without the immediate pressure of world food shortages and the crises that prevailed in our last two sessions.

In order to review the current and intended policies of the United States Government, both domestic

and international, I believe it is important to understand our view of the current and prospective situation.

First, world grain production has exceeded consumption in each of the last two crop years, although it is not expected to do so this year. In any event, there is a significant increase in world carryover and a decline in prices in international markets. Thus, the air of crisis which dominated the discussions of four years ago has disappeared.

Second, despite the increased production, the number of malnourished people remains intolerably large and little progress has been made toward the goal of eliminating malnourishment in the poorest developing countries.

Third, the longer-run problem of inadequate growth rates of food production in the developing countries still remains the major challenge of our time. We expect FAO to play a major role in meeting that challenge, and I shall comment on this later.

Fourth, most of the world has had average or better weather over the past three crop years and we know that this situation cannot continue indefinitely. Thus, action must be taken to prepare for years in which the weather is less favourable.

We believe that these four facts set the context in which both our domestic food and agricultural policies and our role in international forums can be best understood. Let me now relate these to our recent and proposed actions.

The recent increases in carryover stocks combined with large crops has brought sharply lower prices on international markets for grains. Some grains are selling on world markets at or below the long-run cost of production of efficient producers. We believe that this situation, if it persists, will threaten the long-run production capability of world agriculture by reducing investment incentives not only in the United States and other developed countries, but even more importantly in developing countries.

To avoid these over-reactions the U. S. has passed new domestic farm legislation designed to give producers protection against temporary imbalances in supply and demand. We believe that protecting the productive capacity of U. S. agriculture is a major factor in ensuring world food security.

At the same time the U. S. Government acted to take advantage of the current low prices and adequate supplies of grains by establishing a reserve programme. In late August, the United States announced a comprehensive plan to place from 30 to 35 million metric tons of food and grains in reserve prior to the beginning of the 1978/79 marketing year. This will be held in a farmer-owned reserve system which will return these products to the market if there is a crop shortfall which leads to higher prices.

Our program includes the creation of a special international food reserve of up to 6 millions tons of wheat to ensure that our current and special food aid commitments can be met.

One final point regarding our domestic policy actions which may have been inadequately understood by many other nations. In late August, the U. S. Government requested its wheat producers to reduce plantings for the 1978/79 crop. We calculate this will result in an 8 to 10 percent actual decrease in production. This was done in the context of our view of need for a temporary adjustment in world food grain production.

Yesterday we announced plans for a modest reduction in our feed grain production. However, recognizing the uncertainties in world production these plans will undergo a complete review before a final decision is made.

Despite these actions, our ending grain stocks will be at the highest level since the mid-1960's and these actions were taken after careful estimation that world supplies would be adequate at reasonable prices, and after ensuring that reserves would be established to ensure against possible crop shortfalls in the coming year.

We are taking active leadership in a proposed new international wheat agreement which would establish an internationally coordinated system of national reserve stocks to reduce the excessive swings in world market prices and extend world food security. We have recommended a strengthened food aid convention within that agreement, with provisions to ensure that food aid quantities can be increased in response to unusual needs. In particular we have advocated that donor countries should take steps to improve their capacity to maintain food aid flows during periods of high prices and to provide food aid in response to acute production shortfalls in developing countries. We strongly urge that all nations join us in our attempt to bring these discussions to a rapid and successful conclusion.

The actions I have described are immediate initiatives designed to be consistent with the long-run needs of the world. I should like to turn now to these long-run needs and our view of FAO's role regarding them.

The continued need for improved nutrition and sustained higher rates of food production in most developing countries cannot be questioned. Among the key elements required to achieve these goals is a substantially higher level of investment in various aspects of agricultural production and marketing in the developing countries.

There are several aspects of this investment which deserve attention.

One aspect is the need for greater investment in the traditional infrastructure needed to improve agricultural productivity - irrigation and drainage facilities, land improvement, and the like. This form of investment will require both increased external resources and increased internal efforts. Regarding the latter, the importance of adequate incentives to producers in generating such internal investment is often overlooked, and thus inadequate internal policies may well offset the effects of increased external investment flows.

A second type of investment required is a sustained investment in the production of new knowledge and production techniques applicable to the conditions of individual developing countries. Similar need exists regarding better methods of harvesting, marketing, and storage necessary to reduce harvest and post-harvest losses.

A third and most important type of investment needed is greater investment in farm and rural people. They must have improved health and nutrition in order to improve their well-being and productivity, and, they must have greater knowledge of improved production, marketing, and other techniques.

The U. S. is moving actively to support these needs on several fronts.

U. S. contributions to international development lending institutions will be up more than double in 1978 compared with 1976, and much of this will be concessional monies. For example, the United States has ratified the fifth replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), which is the World Bank's concessional lending program, and we will be making an \$800 million contribution to the IDA. The total IDA replenishment amounts to \$7.6 billion over the next three years. Since IDA disburses about 30 percent of its funds for food and agricultural projects in the most needy countries, this could mean some \$750 million in new commitments - up from \$420 million in IDA monies for agricultural development to these countries in 1976. The United States will also fully support the regional banks.

The U. S. has deposited the instruments of ratification of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. We anticipate that IFAD will be operational by the end of this year and will begin making disbursements for food and agricultural projects on concessional terms to food priority countries.

Our bilateral technical assistance programs will be substantially increased in 1978 - about \$50 million over the \$536 million we had appropriated in 1976 and 1977. A substantial increase is earmarked for the Sahel region in Africa.

Major changes have been made in our food aid program known as P. L. 480. Commodity commitments under Title II - the donation provisions of the Law - have been increased in favor of the most vulnerable populations of the most needy nations, thus increasing our investment in improved nutrition. In addition, a new Title III using food for development was added to encourage recipient nations to increase their agricultural development and economic programs, including nutritional programs on a long-term basis. We believe that long-term food-for-development programs can provide significant assistance in helping developing countries mobilize greater investment in several of the areas I have mentioned.

The total United States food assistance to the developing world during the coming year will amount to about 6 million tons. Of that total at least 1.6 million tons will be distributed by voluntary agencies of the World Food Programme. This latter is a multi-use commitment by the United States covering the years 1978 through 1982. We estimate a substantial portion of these 1.6 million tons will be distributed through the World Food Programme.

The United States is deeply interested in all these investment programs because, without adequate investment in all aspects of food and agriculture, the prospects of reducing malnutrition and meeting the food needs of most developing countries would have little chance of long-run success. Thus, the projected increases in the various U. S. investment efforts are earmarked for countries most in need.

All of these efforts recognize the need for greater food production in the developing countries. It is equally important, however, that greater incomes be generated in order that people can obtain the food once it is available. This requires programs in employment and rural development. For this reason we support the aims of the proposed Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and hope that it can be sharply focused on issues crucial to solutions of these problems.

In Manila, we told the World Food Council that the United States is moving more positively to aid the developing countries in their search for a solution to their food problems. The programs I have just now enumerated are indications of how the United States means to back up these statements. We have turned away from policies that were too often passive and sometimes actually negative. We have established for ourselves a new set of goals, some new priorities, and a new level of commitment.

We now want to take the additional step of relating our goals on these matters to our hopes for FAO programs. We want to suggest our expectations with respect to FAO. The challenge facing us in food and agriculture is too large for any single organization to undertake. It is important that together we define and maintain a clear view of the role of FAO. I can begin by saying that, in our view, among U. N. specialized agencies the FAO should exercise a leading international role in combatting hunger and malnutrition.

We believe FAO activities should be directed principally to agricultural development and the eradication of hunger in developing countries. Therefore, its operations should reflect this priority. Thus, the U. S. is prepared to give major support to FAO in giving international leadership to:

- Efforts of international organizations and all countries to relieve hunger among the people most in need of FAO's assistance to accomplish this task;
- Facilitating the flow of developmental resources, especially in those countries most in need of assistance;
- Utilization of various development resources in ways which facilitate the access of the hungry to food. We especially appreciate the World Food Programme as one of the most important contributors toward these goals.

FAO should concentrate more of its resources on food production and consumption problems of developing countries. In this process, emphasis should be placed on facilitating access to food by the poor of the developing countries and particularly those in the poorest of these countries. FAO should develop policies and programs to increase food production in a way that will have a direct impact on human nutrition, improve marketing and consumption practices, and attain more equitable distribution.

Even this set of priorities will require that FAO continue to have a broad range of concerns and we suggest that an even sharper focus be given within these programs. Our strong support for the new post-harvest loss program is predicated on the assumption that it will be a definable program focused upon countries where need is greatest and prospects for significant improvements are high.

We will continue to support programs on improved land and water use, linking available technology and its users, investment planning, and nutrition monitoring and planning. The singling out of these is not meant to exclude others but to indicate our belief that the acute and growing problem of world hunger and malnutrition requires that FAO redirects its programs and activities to deal with those problems.

Thus, the United States will look to the other international organizations for primary leadership on certain problems - organizations such as the World Food Council, the United Nations Development Program, the International Wheat Council, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. We would look to still others, the World Bank, the regional banks, and IFAD, for example, for mobilization and disbursement of financial resources which are channeled through multilateral agencies.

FAO has a magnificent record of achievement in the more than 30 years of its existence. President Carter and we who serve with him in the U. S. Government are pledged to the fullest and most earnest support of this Organization. Like each of you, we recognize the urgency of the job with which we are charged - to reduce hunger and malnutrition and to build food security throughout the world. Like each of you, we want to get on speedily with this enormous but rewarding task. We welcome the opportunity to work with each of you, with each of your governments, in advancing the goals of this great Organization.

Let us move forward together.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of the United States.

I now call Mr. Imtiaz (Secretary and Minister of Food and Agriculture, Pakistan).

I. A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): On behalf of the Pakistan delegation to the 19th Session of the FAO Conference, please accept, Your Excellency, our sincere felicitations on your unanimous election to the august office of Chairman of the Conference. The skill with which you have been guiding the Conference, leaves no doubt in our minds, that under your Chairmanship, our deliberations will be constructive and our decisions, positive. Ours being a predominantly agrarian economy, our interest in FAO activities is vital and our concern with the successful outcome of the current Conference, deep. Mr. Chairman, may we also avail ourselves of this opportunity to extend to the eight newly elected members of the FAO - namely Angola, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles - our heartiest welcome. We have no doubt that their addition to the family of FAO members will strengthen and reinforce the FAO. We assure them of our full and close cooperation.

Sir, agriculture is not only by far the most important economic activity in Pakistan: for us it is a way of life. It produces food and fibre for about 75 million people who live in Pakistan. It produces raw material for feeding the industry. It throws up surpluses for export in raw or processed form. More than one-half of the active labour force is employed in agriculture. More than one third of the GDP is contributed by agriculture. More than two-thirds of the people live in rural areas. It is our firm belief that Pakistan, in terms of its natural and human resource endowment, has a natural potential, for appreciable agricultural development. It is also our conviction that FAO with its experience and expertise, can help us realize our potential for agricultural development, much sooner, and more economically and effectively than would otherwise be possible. There are vast possibilities of fruitful FAO-Pakistan collaboration in line with the new matter-of-fact, down-to-earth, field-oriented practical approach adopted by FAO. For example, some such possibilities could be as follows:

Pakistan's geographic area is equal to about 200 million acres, one third of which still remains unreported. Perhaps, some of the ultra-modern land survey techniques could help us bring on record, the productive or the non-productive character of such a vast, yet unreported, tract.

Of the reported balance, as much as 26 million acre area is culturable waste, constraints preventing its utilization being primarily lack of irrigation water and secondly, lack of financial and mechanical wherewithal for operations such as land-clearance, land-levelling etc. FAO could perhaps help us identify and develop a strategy appropriate for our conditions for the utilization of this vast culturable waste. We have made a modest beginning with the establishment of an Arid Zone Research Institute which is still in its infancy and stands in need of substantial technical support in terms of both hard-ware and software.

Sir, of the balance, seven million acres are under forests. This, it would be appreciated is a disproportionately low figure relative to the total area. For purposes of a more acceptable ecological balance, for soil preservation, for meeting the country's mounting needs for wood, timber and fuel, areas under forests in our case should be at least 5 times more than these are at present. This points to the need for raising quick-growing trees of high value. There is also an urgent need for conserving the forests against indiscriminate felling and inefficient logging. We could benefit considerably from the experience of other countries in regard to quick afforestation, effective forest conservation and efficient forest exploitation. Three of our senior foresters are currently in China studying the Chinese method. We gratefully appreciate the Chinese assistance but scope for further gainful international cooperation in our forestry is still immense.

Of the remaining 100 million acres, half the area is reportedly not available for cultivation, for example, being under roads, buildings, rivers, canals, barren hills etc. Only 50 million acre area (or roughly 1/4 of the total geographic area) is cultivated, on which subsist 75 million people. There being about 12 million farmers, average size of a holding per farming family is extremely small. This average is evidently insensitive to differences in farm sizes. This also does not bring out quite clearly the problem of tenant-farmers, landless labourers and village artisans, most of whom suffer from largely concealed and partly even unconcealed unemployment. Any technology, any strategy that does not tackle these issues frontally, in our context, is bound to fail. That is why my delegation attaches such great importance to the Projected World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We would urge this Conference to authorise adequate financial allocation necessary for organizing the said Conference on an appropriate scale. The problems to be tackled by that Conference are of fundamental importance to the teeming millions constituting the rural poor, dispersed all over the globe. The complexity and the enormity of the assignment calls for an imaginative approach.

Of the 50 million-cultivated area, 12 million acres remain 'current fallow' while 9 million acres are sown more than once, thus 47 million acres are cropped, thereby giving a cropping intensity of 94 percent. This level of cropping intensity, in the context of our man-land ratio is dismally low. It is true we are constrained by restricted water availability. Even so, we need technical advice and capital support to raise our cropping intensity to a more meaningful level than at present.

In addition to poor cropping intensity, an important area needing attention, and assistance is the cropping pattern. Of the 47 million acres cropped annually, roughly 20.5 million acres are cropped during summer: (April-October) and roughly 26.5 million acres are cropped during winter (November-March). Major summer crops are cotton (4.5 million acres), rice (4.5 million acres), sugar-cane (1.8 million acres), maize, millet and sorghum (5.2 million acres) fodder (2.5 million acres). Major winter crops are wheat (16.0 million acres), gram (3.0 million acres), rape and mustard (1.5 million acres), fodder (3.0 million acres). Thus in summer, 5 major crops account for over 90 percent of the cropped acreage, while in winter, 4 major crops account for over 90 percent of the cropped acreage, wheat alone accounting for 60 percent of the winter cropped acreage. This cropping pattern for us has several weaknesses; for example, it lacks enough diversification; it is not fully responsive to our national needs. Our edible oil import gap is mounting fast. We spend almost \$ 200 million on meeting the edible oil gap between indigenous availability and domestic needs. Production of pulses, main source of protein in the poor man's diet, has not been rising as fast as required to keep up with the expanding population, acceptable nutritional standards and changing income patterns. There is thus great need and scope for diversifying the cropping pattern and shifting areas, subject to feasibility, from the less to the more remunerative crops.

Another important area in Pakistani agriculture requiring major thrust is its low productivity levels. We produce 9 million tons of wheat from 16 million acres; 2.9 million tons of rice from 4.5 million acres; 3.5 million bales (each bale - 392 lbs. ) of cotton lint from 4.5 million acres; 28.00 million tons of sugarcane from 1.8 million acres; 800 000 tons of maize from almost twice that many acres. These macro-figures tend to hide some of the even more dismal productivity levels of the non-irrigated for example rain-fed areas. For example, in case of wheat, 1/4 rainfed acreage produces only 1/10 of the total output. The need for attending to the all-important question of improving productivity levels, particularly on the small farm, in the non-irrigated, areas (e. g. rainfed, flooded, hilly, arid, semi-arid areas), cannot be over-emphasised.

Here, Pakistan delegation would be failing in its duty if it did not acknowledge with gratitude the assistance that Pakistan has received from FAO. Cotton and rice are our two most important summer crops. Between themselves cotton, cotton based products and rice account for almost 70 percent of our physical export earnings. Cotton seed is an important source of edible oil and animal feed. For the past several years cotton output had been persistently declining: in absolute terms, from 4.0 million bales in 1971-72 to 2.4 million bales in 1976-77; as also in terms of yield per acre. The net result of such sharp and persistent decline reflected itself in declining export earnings from cotton and cotton based products and in a mounting edible oil import bill. Rice output and per-acre-yield. too. "had been stagnating at low levels. My Government requested the Director-General, FAO about two months ago to send to Pakistan a high-level Cotton-and-Rice Productivity Mission, to identify and study on the spot, factors responsible for declining/stagnating cotton/rice output/yield trends, and formulate, in collaboration with local expertise, short-run, medium-run and long-run proposals, concrete and feasible and appropriate to our conditions, for reversing the trend. The Director-General, FAO responded to my Government's request promptly: the leader of the Mission arrived in Pakistan within a month or so of our request, and the rest of the Mission within a fortnight, thereafter. The Mission is currently in Pakistan,

I have dwelt on this matter, at some length, only in order to under-score the need for supporting FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme without whose flexibility FAO's ability to respond quickly and adequately to developing countries' calls for urgent help would be considerably constricted.

Higher agricultural outputs, are almost by definition a function, largely, of better availability, and more efficient utilization of agricultural inputs: be these, physical inputs such as land, water, seed, fertilizers, plant protection material and equipment, agricultural machinery, or be these other types of inputs such as education, research, extension, credit, storage, marketing, input-output price relationships etc. We have problems in all these areas where FAO and FAO type assistance would help. For example:

In the case of land, waterlogging and salinity, and soil-erosion are a serious menace to land quality and deserve urgent attention.

In the case of water, losses through seepage and evaporation, between the surface-flow sources and the fields, and on the fields, have been assessed to be colossal. Better off-farm and on-farm water management could improve land-water productivity levels manifold at relatively nominal costs.

In the case of seed, we have found by experience that gains from the timely evolution, multiplication and distribution of good quality seeds are enormous. That is why we consider FAO's Seed Industry Project so important.

In the case of chemical fertilizers, even though their use in recent years has gone up several-fold, and even though during the current financial year we shall be using 600 000 N/tons of nitrogenous 150 000 N/tons of phosphatic and 5 000 N/tons of potassic fertilizers, average offtake per cropped acre would still be hardly 16 kilos - less than a quarter of the minimum recommended dosage. Even at this low level of offtake, we produce only 50 percent of our nitrogenous fertilizer, 10 percent of phosphatic fertilizer and no potassic fertilizer. When the three fertilizer factories under erection get operational, our import gap will get considerably reduced but not eliminated. We have the basic raw material, that is the natural gas, available but lack know-how and investment capital which despite protracted effort seem to elude us, at least on terms acceptable to us. We do hope that the International Fund for Agricultural Development after becoming operational soon, will give top priority to projects such as these.

In the case of plant protection, our dependence on external assistance, whether in terms of physical supplies or in terms of know-how, is even greater than that in the case of fertilizers. We cannot but endorse the World Food Council's call as contained in the Manila Declaration of June 1977, to help developing countries build, expand and improve their own plant protection capacity.

The same would hold good in case of agricultural machinery.

It is in relation to certain other inputs, such as education, research, extension, credit, storage, marketing that FAO and FAO-type assistance can play an even more useful role for countries in situations similar to that of Pakistan. That is why we can hardly over-emphasise the need for supporting FAO's call for redirecting investment into the development of human resources, for, in the ultimate analysis, it is the man behind the plough or the tractor-wheel, whose competence, motivation and commitment will make all the difference between good and bad agriculture. His competence and his commitment in turn will be the function of the kind of extension service and input-output pricing package, credit, storage and marketing facilities he receives.

Similarly, numerous areas in the fields of livestock, poultry, fishery and dairy development and animal health can be pointed out where gainful FAO-Pakistan collaboration, on a meaningful scale, is not only feasible but exceedingly desirable.

In general, we would like to emphasise two aspects especially: storage and marketing. Post-harvest losses due to poor storage are colossal. It is for this reason that we support the FAO Director-General's idea to set up a special fund for the prevention of post-harvest food losses. We share his hope that formal and procedural obstacles will be overcome through mutual understanding and goodwill.

The other aspect to which we would like to draw the attention of the Conference is the imperative need for ensuring fair terms of trade to the developing countries. Last year we produced a short cotton crop; then the prices ruled between 80 and 90 cents per lb. This year we produced about a million bales more than last year only to discover that prices have slumped to around 50 cents per pound. Quantitative and non-quantitative restrictions on the export of processed or semi-processed agro-based manufactures, from the developing to the developed countries, create additional difficulties. Recession in the developed countries complicates the picture still further. Continually rising prices of our inelastic, essential imports relative to the declining prices of our principal exports subject to restrictions, facing stagnant or falling demand, should illustrate our dilemma. In the absence of prompt international agricultural adjustment, agricultural development effort in the developing countries could be seriously retarded.

Along the need for remunerative trade is the need for attaining before 1980 the \$ 8.3 billion goal of annual external assistance (mostly on bearable concessional terms) to help promote agricultural development for food production, in developing countries. Current state of food and agriculture which is somewhat better than that in 1974 should not lull us into complacency. The need for reinforcing developing countries' productive capability through trade and soft aid, and the need for building a food security reserve are as pressing today as before. It would be tragic if we let this opportunity slip out of our fingers merely because we have lost our sense of urgency or because nations have failed to evolve a workable basis for helping one another without hurting one another.

Let me conclude by saying that in our view Pakistan and countries like Pakistan can benefit a great deal from FAO's assistance, be it technical or be it capital. In the relentless struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty, such mutually beneficial international collaboration should earn humanity's abiding gratitude.

[N. B. All figures quoted are rounded and approximate. ]



PAULINELLI (Brazil) (interpretation from Portuguese): First of all I would like to congratulate you on your election. We are confident that with your vast experience and the background of the notable accomplishments of Indonesia in promoting agricultural development our Conference has the effective leadership necessary to ensure the successful conclusion of the work before us.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new members of the Organization on their admission. Knowing the close links between Angola, Mozambique and Sao Tomé and Príncipe and Brazil, stemming from the common origin of our people, we are most appreciative of the contributions that these countries will make to the work of the Organization.

As a preliminary remark to my observations I would like to say that we are confident that the statement made by the Director-General provides us with an excellent framework for our deliberations. We concur with his broad analysis of the world agricultural situation and with the general approach he has suggested to direct the efforts of the international community towards solving the problems that confront developing countries.

At the 19th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations it is my privilege to state that Brazil reiterates, emphatically, its optimistic and constructive position in the search for a solution to the crucial problem of food scarcity for a large segment of humanity. We hope that the debate which will take place during this Conference will assist in overcoming this important problem.

In the statement which we made during the 18th Session of the Conference we gave evidence of the significant efforts of the Brazilian Government to promote agricultural development in the country.

We now repeat that the priority given to the agricultural sector, as expressed in increasing incentives given to producers, has yielded notable success. The refinement of our governmental schemes of support to agriculture has contributed a great deal in this endeavour.

Among the measures of support by the Government to the agricultural producers we would like to stress the programme of agricultural research, in which the Federal Government increased its expenditures from US\$ 10.7 millions in 1974 to US\$ 99.5 millions in 1977. We should add that this year US\$ 29.5 millions will also be spent by the various State Governments, thus making the official expenditure in agricultural research a total of US\$ 128.1 millions.

The policy of the Government on landownership, which aims to expand ownership of land and access to governmental agricultural services, has been reflected in the assignment of 27.1 million hectares of land for settlement and in the granting of 131 000 new titles of ownership between 1974 and 1977.

In order to expand financing to rural producers, the volume of credit allocated to agriculture - from production to marketing - increased from US\$ 7.1 billion in 1974 to US\$ 12.2 billion in 1976.

With similar goals and with the aim of maintaining the stimulus to the producer, the Government is strengthening its minimum price policy which at present covers 31 commodities. This programme of price support has cost the Government US\$ 1.3 billion covering a volume of approximately 9.2 million tons of produce in the first nine months of this year.

Our basic storage capacity increased from 35 to 40 million tons between 1975 and 1977, at a cost of US\$ 315 million, in response to Government incentives given in the National Storage Programme,

With regard to marketing facilities, there are at present 22 wholesale supply centres and 23 horticultural wholesale markets in operation in the major urban centres, benefitting a population of some 42 million people. To complement this, 17 rural collecting centres started operation in 1977 in major areas of agricultural production where there are also branches of the major credit institutions, facilities for classification and standardization of produce, technical assistance and market information.

With the objective of regulating markets and, among other things, of guaranteeing domestic supply, the Government has implemented a policy of regulatory stocks. Under this policy the Government has already purchased this year 2.4 million tons of agricultural products - including meat, milk, rice and beans - at a cost of \$ 510 millions.

With regard to renewable natural resources it should be noted that forest development in Brazil has received considerable support, with a flow of resources of US\$1.5 billion during the period 1974 to 1977. This support has made possible reforestation of an area of approximately 648 000 hectares in the same period. In addition, considerable efforts are made for the preservation of Brazil's immense forest heritage.

We should also mention that in fisheries, where we have a great potential, governmental expenditures amounted to \$103 million between 1974 and 1977. The programmes of the Government in this sector were designed to provide a better inventory of resources and to promote their exploitation, to improve working conditions of around 60 000 small fishermen and to improve the infrastructure of production and marketing so as to expand the domestic supply of lower-cost proteins. In this regard we expect that this year our catch will surpass 1 million tons.

The response of producers to all these government programmes has been positive and swift, as evidenced by the larger crops harvested each year. Thus we have been able to surpass our agricultural targets and in recent years the rate of growth in agricultural production has been higher than ever before.

We should also like to bring to your attention the specific situation of such agricultural products as beans, rice, wheat, barley, maize and soy beans, which constitute the staple food of people in many countries. Our production of these commodities has increased from 16 million tons in 1960 to 27 million tons in 1970, 43 million tons in 1976, and is expected to reach 47 million tons in 1977. This volume of production has made possible a growing participation in international markets as well as an increasing satisfactory supply for our ever expanding domestic demand, with resulting improvements in the level of nutrition.

The efforts of Brazil in expanding the supply of grains to meet, in particular, the requirements of our domestic market should be noted. Consumption has increased very rapidly in recent years, as indicated by the average of levels of consumption of key products, such as meat which increased from 19.5 kg. per capita in 1970 to 35.1 kg in 1975, and of milk, which went from 75.5 litres to 90.3 litres in the same period. Our consumption must nevertheless be increased in accordance with the social policy of the Brazilian Government.

We should also note in this regard that a major effort is under way to improve nutrition standards in Brazil, in line with other measures to expand production and marketing of foodstuffs among small farmers. For example, the National Food Programme benefited 11.5 million people at a cost of 160 million US\$ in 1977.

In its search to improve social conditions in the North East of Brazil the poorest region in the country, the Government is undertaking a major programme of integrated rural development which should create 351 000 new rural jobs and directly benefit 268 000 families, by means of an investment programme estimated to cost 1.2 billion dollars over a period of five years. With the same objective, a Programme of Development of Rural Communities has been established; its immediate aim is to assist 3 000 families among the very poor.

It should be noted that the rapid agricultural expansion in Brazil has taken place not only as a result of an increase in productivity but also because of the expansion of new areas under cultivation.

Thus, the total area of land under utilization increased from 249 million hectares in 1960 to 294 million in 1970, and we estimate that it has reached 322 million in 1975, of which 12 per cent is land under cultivation and the remainder is used for forestry and livestock. Even if we take the conservative estimate of 413 million hectares as the total land easily usable in Brazil, it becomes clear that there still is considerable scope for the expansion of our agricultural frontier.

In this regard it should be noted that in recent years extensive savannah areas have been brought into agricultural production in the region which we call "Cerrado" which, covering an area of approximately 160 million hectares, has proved very suitable for agriculture. Until recently lacking in water resources, this region remained largely unutilized despite a topography suitable to mechanization and soils requiring little correction. It simply lacked appropriate technology adapted to its particular characteristics.

With the establishment of the "Cerrado" Research Centre, and with the implementation of a number of specific projects, we are bringing to bear the immense potential of this region for the cultivation of soybeans, maize, wheat, as well as for the development of pasture land.

We are convinced that the growing Brazilian agricultural production has contributed significantly to overcoming the difficulties of our development process. Indeed, we have managed to expand our agricultural exports and we are trying to assure our country a position in world markets as a regular and reliable supplier through a series of policies and measures ultimately designed to improve productivity. Our statistics show that our agricultural exports amounted to 1.2 billion dollars in 1965; 1.9 billion in 1970; and we achieved 4.8 billion in 1975; 6.6 billion in 1976 and we expect to export 8 billion dollars worth of agricultural products this year.

These are figures which indicate our immense agricultural potential and the actual strength of this sector.

As evidenced by the information which I have just given to you, the experience of Brazil has shown that we can occupy a place of prominence among food producers in the world, as long as we manage to develop appropriate technology of our conditions.

We are certain that the statements of other delegations from developing countries will also reflect, by their achievements in agricultural development, the response to the production drive which emerged during the 18th FAO Conference.

We believe, however, that the effort to expand production and improve productivity is not enough, since developing countries require the complementary stimulus of demand in international markets. In this regard we cannot fail to stress the incompatibility between the call for expanded food production made by the World Food Conference in 1974, and the growing trend towards protectionism, which is distorting the harmony and complementarity among national economies. At present, this protectionism is probably the most serious threat to world food security based on improved levels of production and productivity in developing countries. Moreover, it represents a strong obstacle to the increase in the levels of income in our countries, particularly in rural areas.

Thus, we should give special importance in our debates to the role of the countries that are not traditional food exporters. We should endeavour to minimize the difficulties for these countries to enter and participate effectively in the community of food exporting nations.

There are many programmes in my country which benefit from the cooperation and technical assistance of FAO. We believe that this assistance should be considerably enlarged, particularly in the case of those programmes designed to improve the level of nutrition of low income groups. We fully concur with the new orientation which the Director-General is giving to the Organization so as to make it capable of responding in a more effective manner to the needs of developing countries.

Our statement in this important Plenary clearly shows that Brazil has not failed in her commitment to the international community in cooperating to increase the world supply of food so as to reduce poverty and malnutrition both at home and abroad.

We have consciously promoted the rapid expansion of our domestic consumption, though knowing that in a few cases we would have to rely on imports.

At the same time, we have run the risk of producing for external markets, in response to the challenge formulated during our last Conference for increasing world food supply. It would be regrettable if this Plenary were forced to recognize that the efforts of developing countries to supply the world market have encountered growing obstacles, or that their internal savings have not elicited the necessary volume of external complementary funds, at adequate terms, nor the necessary technological transfer.

My country is willing to proceed in this noble path of searching for solutions to the world food problems. We are confident that existing difficulties will be debated here and that solutions will be found which will serve the best interests of the international community.

GAK KYU CHOI (Korea, Rep. of): On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I wish to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your unanimous election to the Chairman of this Conference. My congratulations also go to the three Vice-Chairmen for their well-deserved elections. I hope and trust that, under your distinguished leadership, this Conference will be a successful one. My Delegation pledges its best cooperation to help bring this conference to a fruitful conclusion.

I also wish to pay my delegation's high tribute to Dr. Saouma, Director-General of the FAO for his inspiring leadership and commendable contribution to the strengthening of the FAO activities.

The 19th Session of the FAO Conference this year is being held at a time when more concerted and intensified efforts by all nations are called for to solve the world food problem. The situation in which the world finds itself today with respect to food is comprised of literally hundreds of problems. Some of these problems are technical, and many are institutional, cultural, economic, and political. Many of these problems require action by international bodies such as this one; others require negotiations and accord between individual nations, and still others require attention and solutions by respective countries. In this sense, the food problem is not a problem confined to certain countries, but it is a global problem for the well-being of all the peoples of the world. In my view, so far, the right direction to solving global food problems and various measures for food security have been pursued under the initiation of FAO and other related organizations. Individual countries have also been striving to increase food production and to ease population problems. However, the complexity and interdependency of the food problem require that we pursue a comprehensive and coordinated analysis and that our individual and combined solutions be simultaneously applied from many different directions.

In the light of what has been said, the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 reflects the new sets of policy guidelines and contains concrete and effective action programmes such as investment in food and agricultural production, the technical cooperation programme and decentralization from headquarters to country level.

I believe that these are well conceived and realistic approaches to solve the food and agricultural problems in developing countries. My delegation, therefore, fully supports these programmes.

Now, please allow me briefly to introduce our own endeavours and experiences in agricultural and rural development. During the fifteen years of three consecutive Five-Year Economic Development Plans, we concentrated our efforts on balanced economic growth.

As for the agricultural sector, during this period, first, farm household income, probably the most relevant indicator of the success of Korea's agricultural policy, has exceeded the income of urban worker households since 1974 and this trend continues. This marked a new era for Korean farmers, for no longer can it be said that they are less well off than urban workers; secondly, for the past 3 years, our annual production of rice has exceeded the record level of each previous year and is expected, yet again, to reach a new record level of 8.5 million metric tons this year. As a result, Korea's position has changed from rice importing to self-sufficiency, enabling us now to establish a buffer stock for food security requirements.

In analysing this development, I cannot overemphasise the contribution of Saemaul Undong, in other words, the New Community Movement, to farm income growth, production increase, and rural development. Saemaul Undong has been the main driving force behind our farmers' full participation in integrated rural development. This was complemented by the introduction of the new high yielding rice variety. This variety was initially developed by our rice-breeding experts in cooperation with the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. In fact, during the past couple of years, average yield of the new rice variety has been about 30 to 40 percent above that of traditional rice, and the area devoted to this new variety has expanded to more than 60 percent of the total paddy fields.

As a further example of our multi-directional efforts in agricultural developments, we made substantial investments in water and land developments, and newly introduced policies to modernize our agriculture. All these combined efforts have resulted in both a stable and growing agricultural production.

Since you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Director-General, have described in such a succinct manner world food and agricultural problems and also action-oriented programmes to solve these problems, I would like to confine myself to touching on a few areas commonly facing us all.

First of all, we must all recognize that the present relief from the crisis in food supply experienced during the 1973 to 1975 period has been mainly due to improved weather conditions in many parts of the globe. However, the underlying food production system and distribution networks are basically little changed. Thus, we cannot become complacent even though surpluses are building up in some countries at a rate faster than we could have imagined only two years ago. In order to continue the increase in agricultural production, especially in the developing countries, investments are still needed to improve the agricultural production base, to introduce innovative technology and institutional arrangements. Therefore, larger amounts of capital flow and technology transfer among nations are still vital, and cooperation between the developed and the developing countries in this field are of particular importance even more so than ever before. I have noted, however, with concern that the flows of capital and technology from the developed to the developing countries are decreasing in recent years.

In this regard, my delegation is pleased to see that the International Fund for Agricultural Development will soon start its function to finance the agricultural development projects. I hope that IFAD will play a significant role in providing capital and technology to the developing world in close cooperation with FAO.

International trade on primary commodities also plays an important role in our efforts to increase the incomes of small farmers, who comprise the majority of the rural population in the developing world.

We have to realise the importance of agricultural exports as a prime foreign exchange source for many developing countries. However, recent developments in world agricultural trade have not shown much improvement mainly because of the import barriers of the developed countries which adversely affect the export industries of the developing countries. We strongly feel that all nations should strive for more equitable access to world markets and relaxation of trade barriers as an instrument of both economic development and as a means of improving the level of the human condition.

Turning briefly to fisheries development, there have been many efforts for international cooperation since the Law of the Sea conference began. We are convinced that marine resources will remain an important source of food and nutrition for many peoples in the world. We are of the view that these valuable resources must be conserved in a way that will allow for continued and sustained harvesting over a time with equitable access to the fruits of the harvest by all nations.

What can the developing world offer as a contribution to the world food problem? We all have strived in many ways to improve the quality, of rural life and to eliminate rural mass poverty. The idea of integrated rural development has been often emphasized on many occasions at international conferences and meetings. It is also true that most developing countries have organized various types of integrated package programmes and policies. However, the results have not always been satisfactory. As a matter of fact, rural development is a complex process involving total structural change in rural community systems. Rural development requires a multidisciplinary and integrated approach in which development policies should be conceived as part of a whole. I must emphasize that rural development cannot be achieved simply by the maximum flow of resources into rural communities without positive and active response and the initiative of rural people. Our experiences have shown that the major challenges for rural development are how to ignite people's zeal, how to motivate rural people, and how to make them accept and utilize new farming technologies. Our Saemaul Undong is the Korean method of meeting these challenges. This Programme, initiated in rural Korea in 1970 is characterized by the concepts of self-help, diligence and cooperation. The ultimate goal of this movement is comprehensive and integrated rural development. This encompasses improvement in the rural environment and rural living conditions, more balanced nutrition, increasing rural incomes and uplifting spirit and morale at the rural grass roots level. We believe that our experiences could be relevant to our fellow developing countries, and we are ready to share our own experiences with other developing countries.

Lastly, I earnestly hope that all nations, will remove various man-made barriers, promoting exchange of people, commodities, know-how, and experiences for the well-being of the world. The poverty in many parts of the world will disappear only when bridges of mutual trust and friendship among neighbours, peoples, and nations are built. Such development will bring peace, freedom, and prosperity to all of us. This is the very spirit of this Organization. We must continue all our efforts to build up an environment that will allow us best to utilize our limited resources, time, and energy for sufficient food, clothing, and better living conditions. We should keep in mind that the future of the crowded globe depends on our courage and wisdom today.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Italy for the cordial hospitality they have extended to us all.

J. J. M. NYAGAH (Kenya): Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my privilege to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and your fellow team members for your election to preside over the 19th Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. We have confidence in you and the rest of the bureau, and I would like to assure you of the fullest cooperation of my delegation in the course of these proceedings.

The Kenya delegation has pleasure in joining other delegations in welcoming into the Organization as new members: Angola, Comoros, Djibuti, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe and the Seychelles. We heartily congratulate them for their well deserved membership of this august Organization. With their admission to the membership of FAO, the International Community is all the richer.

In his statement to this august Assembly, the Director-General gave a broad outline of the Organization's activities, and the proposed programme of work, and Budget over the next biennium. I commend him for his excellent statement particularly with regard to the due priority he placed on the programmes of the Developing World, and I am pleased to note that this is consistent with the new thrust in the FAO's Policy of decentralization. My delegation therefore intends to comment on the important points raised by the Director-General under the relevant items of the agenda. At this stage, however, I will only touch on a few of the issues which I consider relevant of immediate concern to this Conference.

While we give credit to the FAO for having achieved some of the goals set by the Organization, there are other issues of relevance to agricultural development which are causing a great deal of concern.

The Director-General has already pointed out in his report on Monday that the food production situation in Africa was disappointing between 1974-1976. It is therefore quite clear that the 4 percent annual growth rate target for food production in developing countries, which was set by UN DD II will not be achieved.

While we still express our disappointment at the failure to achieve the DD II targets, we also note that the World Food Conference recommended a minimum of 10 million tons in food aid to flow from, developed to developing countries per annum. This has also not been achieved in spite of the fact that grain surpluses are reported in the countries which are a party to the World Food Conference resolutions

We also would like to express our serious concern about the inability of the FAO to effectively monitor the progress made on International Agriculture Adjustment. This subject is of extreme importance in the attempts by the international community to achieve a new International Economic Order, and we would like to call upon the FAO to cooperate with the other relevant agencies for a more satisfactory explanation on the progress.

You are aware, Mr. Chairman, that negotiations are presently going on for the establishment of the Common Fund as recommended under Resolution 9 (iv) of UNCTAD IV. Indications are, however, that these negotiations are being stalled by the developed countries, with the objective of postponing the establishment of this all important fund, and that it will be several years before the fund can actually become operational.

The same is true of the North-South Dialogue and the Tokyo Round.

Kenya delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate those countries which have taken the bold step of cancelling some debts owed by the developing countries. We expect that many more of the developed countries will follow suit, and emulate this example. It is only when this is done that we will take more seriously the statements that are made here regarding commitments on aid to developing countries. It should be recalled that at the recent FAO Regional Conference for Africa, delegates recommended seriously various measures designed to harness the potential resources of the region for the realisation of greater productivity of the agricultural sector. Accordingly, they gave greater priority to the need to contain problems of land utilization and conservation. To this end, the delegations emphasized the need for greater economic cooperation among the countries of the region. We look to FAO for a lead in the fulfilment of these objectives.

In the course of these proceedings, we will have occasion, to devote some time to the discussion of the Director-General's budget proposals. While I have the floor, do allow me to make a brief contribution to this important subject. In accordance with the priorities set out in that budget proposal, it would be a good start towards the achievement of the aims and objectives of the new International Economic Order. It is rightly indicated, for instance, that better utilization of the Secretariat's resources can be effected through reduction in documentation. The best example of this is the brevity of the present volume of the programme of Work and Budget. Equally it is proposed that staff travel should be objective oriented and this should result in more efficient allocation of the resources. The resulting saving should then widen the scope for the realization of the Organization's objective of decentralization.

We have come here in the past and voiced our concern about the bureaucratic nature of the FAO. I am pleased to note that under the new decentralization arrangements, FAO will be able to be directly involved in the country planning for development. It is with this view, that Kenya has welcomed the early establishment of a FAO's Country Office in Nairobi. We look forward to this continuation of the already excellent work going on in relations with that office.

The new Technical Cooperation Programme has only been in existence for a year. This was preceded by another year of planning. We therefore, have not had the benefit of the Programme's activities for a full biennium. This period would allow us time to assess the impact of the programme on the development projects in member states. At the same time, we would urge the Director-General to treat this programme as a regular feature of his budget presentation beyond the 1979 biennium.

My delegation therefore fully supports the areas selected for priority attention including reduction of post-harvest losses, a fight against tsetse and tick borne diseases, development of fisheries and forestry and the development of rural areas with particular emphasis on the assistance to smallholder farmers.

My delegation welcomes the proposals to combat post harvest losses as a means of increasing food availability. We are, however, concerned that only grains and yams are given the prominence in the proposed budget, leaving out potatoes, fish and livestock products, which need to be given equal treatment and would like to draw the attention of the Director-General to this fact.

Let me now turn to the country whose problems I perhaps know better - i. e. KENYA.

We know that FAO's efforts in the field of development can only succeed if they are given full support by the national governments. With this in mind therefore, I would like to take a few moments to do a self-appraisal of my country's policies and strategies for agricultural development as part of our overall national development programme.

Kenya is among the most seriously affected countries by the energy crisis. Due to the subsequent drain on our foreign exchange reserves our government has had to adopt a policy of self-sufficiency in the supply of essential food commodities which were hitherto not produced in sufficient quantities to satisfy our domestic requirements.

Since 1973 we have invested substantial resources in the production and marketing of maize, wheat, sugar and cotton. I am glad to say that we are self sufficient in the supply of maize, with substantial surpluses, and by the middle of our next Five Year Development Plan (1979 - 1983), we plan to supply all our domestic requirements for wheat, sugar and cotton. We call upon the assistance of the FAO to combine the scarce resources we have with those that can be provided by or through the Organization in order to realize our goals.

Our current Five-Year Development Plan which is also our 3rd National Development Plan ends in the middle of 1978. The next Development Plan being worked out will continue to give even more emphasis on rural development with agriculture taking the lead in our overall economic development.

Kenya has adopted a programmatic approach to the planning "and programming for economic development, with the major objective of increasing rural incomes through employment generating programmes. All our present and future agricultural programmes therefore will have as their major objective to benefit the small scale farmers. We have somewhat successfully endeavoured through our pricing policies to provide incentives to our farmers, which have resulted in increasing and increased output for practically all the agricultural commodities produced in the country, whose treatment has been through incentive. Through the cooperative movement, the government tries to reach the farmers' needs by providing facilities, such as training credit, marketing, and storage to the rural communities. The organization and the strengthening of the cooperative movement in the country continues. The participation of the rural people in the planning implementation of rural programmes at the grassroot level is enhanced through the District Development Committees such as the Land Control Boards; the Cooperative Societies and Unions; and other informal fora like the Chief's Barazas - a baraza is a public meeting, a gathering where people, their leaders, and experts discuss matters of local or national interest.

In order to translate all the policies that have been outlined into practical terms, public expenditure on agriculture and related activities have been considerably increased. The development budgets of the Ministries of Agriculture and Water for instance have been increased by 26 percent and 105 percent, respectively.

In Kenya, Fishing industry is considered one of the important fields capable of providing the much needed food resources for the population, and also employment and income for the rural population. Artisanal fishermen landed a total of 41 021 metric tons of fish in 1976 an increase of over 33 percent over the previous year. Surveys have shown that Kenya has the potential to produce up to 80 000 tons per annum within the next three years. We are working towards this target.

In pursuance of this we have recently negotiated with the UNDP and the IBRD for a deep sea fishing vessel capable of exploiting the high seas, from the friendly country of the Netherlands. This vessel will form a milestone in our deep sea fisheries development, and we look forward to the further expansion of these activities. Through UNDP we are scheduled to start a coastal fisheries development project which will include the culture of the valuable prawns.

More assistance will however, be required in future, especially as the result of the extension of the exclusive economic zones of our coastal waters in line with the general development resulting from the United Nations Conference on the Laws of the Sea.

I said earlier that we welcome the policy of the Director-General of the decentralization of the Organization's activities, and particularly the activities of the subsidiary bodies. Committees and Commissions. My delegation therefore would like to see the fisheries activities in the Indian Ocean area put this policy into practice. In this respect, Kenya would suggest the transfer of the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission and the centre for the Indian 'ocean' Fishery Commission, to an Indian Ocean area. Kenya is prepared and offers to host the Secretariat for this Commission, as we have the necessary infrastructure. We stand squarely on the equator overlooking that great ocean of India. We are prepared to give every assistance necessary to this move. We do hope and look forward to this our offer receiving FAO's favourable consideration by this august body.

In the field of Forestry, Kenya has continued to make progress in the development of plantations using quick growing species and in making every effort to send its people to study forestry wherever opportunities occur and wherever opportunities are given. Planting programmes are based on studies to assess demand. We are now more than sufficient in industrial timber and we have entered the export market. The plantation programme has been accompanied by tree breeding to improve the quality of pre-seeds.

We have now embarked on rural afforestation of low lands and marginal areas with the assistance of NORAD of Norway and IDRC of Canada and we expect to extend this to more arid areas so as to assist in combating desertification and to provide fuel and building materials to the people who live in these seemingly dry areas.

The forest industry can considerably contribute to socio-economic development of the developing countries where considerable quantities of the world's timber resources are to be found. They can also help in the transfer of technology. We therefore urge that as much as possible processing of wood products should be carried out in the producer countries and in this respect we feel FAO and other agencies could play a part. We should also make sure that indiscriminate afforestation of lands with exotic species of trees does not take place for this could destroy undergrowth and certain indigenous trees which are necessary for maintenance of water-sheds and catchment areas.

In summary therefore, we plan to develop our agriculture by employing strategies that will lead to increased yields, generate employment opportunities in rural areas where the majority of the people live, thereby effecting equitable income distribution for the benefit of our people. In all our efforts, we pledge our full cooperation with the FAO, both at the headquarters here and elsewhere in the regions and on the field.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Kenya delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General and his entire team once again for the Programme of Work and Budget which has been laid before the conference for consideration. We are in general agreement with the outline of policies and programmes. We will make appropriate detailed comments on the proposals during the proceedings of the relevant commission.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate from Kenya and now welcome the delegate from New Zealand, H. E. Mr. Macintyre, the Minister of Agriculture.

D. MACINTYRE (New Zealand): Mr. Chairman, New Zealand congratulates you on your appointment as Chairman of this august meeting and we take pleasure in reminding ourselves of the cooperation that New Zealand has with your country in the exploitation of your geothermal energy capacity and also thank you for your announcement of the World Forestry Conference to take place in your country and we look forward to being there with you.

I have followed the work of FAO for many years but it was on reading the very lucid plan of work described by the Director-General in his programme for 1978/9 that I obtained a real insight into the farmers-level tasks that FAO is undertaking. As a farmer this is something I can understand and we in New Zealand support the Director-General in the emphasis he has placed on helping developing countries and believe that the ways and means of doing so should be even further strengthened.

For this reason I welcomed the invitation by the Director-General to give attention at this Conference to investment in agriculture at the national and international level.

Agriculture is, and for as far ahead as we can see will continue to be, the basis of New Zealand's economy. Over 70 percent of my country's export earnings come from the sale of agricultural products. We take a very keen interest in developments in agricultural production and marketing throughout the world.

Because of our agricultural and fishing background we also find ourselves in sympathy with many of the developing countries, which, not having deposits of mineral wealth or the capacity to produce manufactured goods to earn overseas exchange, are forced to rely on their agricultural sector to provide the means to develop other sectors of their economy. We know from our own experience the problems which these countries face in their efforts to increase agricultural production and to find markets. Not surprisingly development co-operation in the field of agriculture forms a significant part of New Zealand's development assistance programmes.

Within its total aid programme New Zealand devotes over one quarter of its efforts to projects directly concerned with agricultural productivity, while a further one quarter is committed to assistance in the area of rural infrastructures. This concentration reflects the priority of the Governments of the South Pacific and South East Asia which are New Zealand's principal aid partners. And here I would like to say that we welcome the increased attention that FAO is paying to the South Pacific. The requirements and needs of these Island countries are not so great as to be a burden on the FAO but on the other hand they are real and urgent and must not be neglected.



New Zealand does not produce the large quantities of wheat and grain that would enable us to play a leading role as a disburser of food aid. What we do claim is expertise in cost-efficient animal protein production, based upon the growing of grasses. In this field we find ourselves able to offer constructive assistance to developing countries.

My government has been interested therefore to study the short and medium term objectives of the FAO programme of work put before this conference by the Director-General. At the core of the major programme is the aim of increasing agricultural production. We are heartened to find that one rule which New Zealand has sought to apply to its own aid activities is reflected in this programme. The assertion that livestock production will have to rise even faster than crop production is too often overlooked. Our current aid programme lays emphasis on helping developing countries in the Pacific basin to improve the health of their herds and flocks, because one of the most important aspects of increasing animal production is keeping them free of diseases and parasites. This is an aspect of livestock farming to which we have devoted particular attention in training programmes for people from developing countries. A notable recent development in this field is a joint New Zealand-Asian animal health project. This approach reflects what has been New Zealand's contention for many years and which I think we are all now agreed on that the training of people to grow their own food is more important in the long run than simply giving them aid in the form of food. Mr. Young of the United States quoted the old Chinese proverb in his McDougall oration which said the same thing better.

Developed countries have been asked to stimulate this sort of reliance by investment. Investment in the form of capital and technical assistance is only part of the solution. We must also invest in people. New Zealand accepts that the training of people to increase agricultural production must be a key element of any international strategy realated to food security and economic growth through agricultural exports.

It is necessary to be programatic about such investments, if we are to avoid the creation of unworkable systems and inappropriate technologies. The expertise New Zealand has accumulated in agriculture is eminently suited to the development of low-cost animal production systems. In the case of sub-tropical or arid zone agriculture the New Zealand model p. s less immediately relevant but there are certain basic principles of animal and plant production which are universally applicable. I am thinking of animal health, quality seed production and adequate seed certification systems amongst others. The communication of ideas and experience in these fields can only be of benefit to both developed and developing countries. We have recently opened a centre devoted to seed technology at one of our agricultural universities. We believe that specialists from developing countries who come to this centre will find elements in New Zealand's approach to seed production and certification which can be applied in their own national agencies and programmes. It is this sort of productive co-operation which will prepare both North and South for the challenges of feeding the world in the last quarter of this century.

The New Zealand government fully supports. such co-operation and maintains its commitment to attaining the internationally-accepted target of 0. 7 percent of GNP for official development transfers. It has not been easy for us to hold to this commitment in recent years. The resources which New Zealand has available for development co-operation activities have been eroded steadily since 1974 by falling prices for our agricultural exports on international markets. There has been a 40 percent down-turn in New Zealand's terms of trade since 1974. This trend has reinforced our awareness of the fragile nature of an economy which is heavily reliant on a narrow range of agricultural exports, in contrast to the more broadly-based economies of other developed countries, and I know that I speak for many countries who suffer the same problem.

Many of our principal aid partners face similar problems and we accept a continuing obligation to try to help them. New Zealand's development assistance programmes are concentrated, for reasons of history and geography, on the countries of the Pacific basin, especially those of the South Pacific. At the same time we have striven to maintain co-operative links with developing countries in other regions, as evidence of our sympathetic support for their economic and social aspirations.

Their problems are indeed immense. If the growth trends of the first half of the 1970's continue unchanged, the developing countries could well have an annual deficit in cereals alone of 100 million toils a year by 1985. For these reasons New Zealand joined Australia and the Netherlands in sponsoring the resolution calling for the creation of the international fund for agricultural development at the world food conference in Rome in 1974.

We look forward to the contribution which IFAD will make. IFAD is well equipped to strike directly at the heart of perhaps the most crucial element in the world food situation the slow growth rate of food production in many developing countries. Of course the fund can only be as strong as its executing agencies. The World Food Conference resolution in which the fund has its origin stipulated that actual disbursement of the grants and concessional loans it would make available should be carried out through existing international and regional institutions. There is an important role here for FAO and we hope that the agreement between IFAD and FAO which will regulate their relationship will be the source of a productive partnership.

The responsibility is an onerous one. I am encouraged, however, by the way in which FAO is preparing itself to meet the challenge which the effective discharge of that responsibility represents. FAO field experts, in particular, will play a vital role in ensuring that the financial resources of the fund are translated into the simple tools, the improved seeds, and the very basic instruction in unsophisticated agricultural techniques which the developing country farmer needs if he is to increase his production of the staples on which he depends. For if New Zealand has learnt anything from its efforts to help others it is that the simplest things often work best.

I would mention that New Zealand has operated successfully for many years a scheme called volunteer service abroad which sends young and old but skilled persons to help at the village level and to introduce simple but practical innovations and techniques. Ambassador Young spoke of a similar scheme in his address on Monday and I would join him in asking that thorough consideration be given to the idea of the "Food Corps".

New Zealand applauds, the action-oriented approach evident in present FAO planning and will support the redirection of available resources in future also to field activities, to the extent that this does not detract from the maintenance of an efficient technical and administrative back-up at headquarters. The FAO strategy is well suited to the task of bridging the gap between the international organization, where the financial resources required for development are available, and the farmer in the field in developing countries for whose needs these funds have been created. What is needed now is the political will to make it work.

New Zealand will play its part. We have shown our willingness to help by co-sponsoring and ratifying the agreement for the establishment of IFAD and by making available, through multilateral and bilateral channels, money and other resources needed for agricultural development in many developing countries. It is our sincere hope that the World Food Council and this Conference will provide the necessary political direction and that national development planners will focus their efforts on projects designed to raise production and living standards in the areas of greatest need in their countries, using all the resources available on land and in the sea. New Zealand acknowledges the very real progress made since the 1974 World Food Conference but we believe the greatest part of our work has yet to be carried out. I wish your deliberations success in that direction.

I. KUSTRAK (Yugoslavia) (interpretation from Serbo-Croat): On behalf of my Government and in my own name, I should like to join in congratulating you, Mr. President, and the Vice-Presidents and other officials of this Conference on your election. I should also like to address the representatives of Angola, the Comoros, the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and the Seychelles and voice our pleasure that they are with us here and our conviction that their presence will serve to strengthen our Organization.

Today's world food situation is quite different from what we had to contend with three years ago when the world food crisis was at its peak and when we gathered here in Rome at the World Food Conference. The last two harvests have been generally plentiful. The world's grain stocks, which for so long were low and the cause of concern, have today been appreciably increased and have reached a point which offers minimum world food security. Grain prices in international trade have dropped, in real terms, to even below the level of the late sixties, as have the prices of leading agricultural inputs, and soon. In short, the spectre of world-wide famine no longer directly haunts us and this is certainly encouraging. Yet our recent experience compels us to ask ourselves to what extent we have managed to eliminate the risks of new crises and, still more important, to what degree the basic messages of the World Conference, according to which a marked acceleration in the development of food production in the developing countries is the only lasting solution to the world food problem, have been carried out.

I am sure you will agree that the present-day situation in many ways resembles that which prevailed before the crisis broke out. High stocks and low prices have made the principal grain producers of the advanced world resort to measures which restrict production. The idea, of course, is to achieve a price level which ensures the interest of producers and thereby eliminates the danger of a sudden drop in production. This is not the place to discuss how real the danger is of a drop in production as a result of low prices. But there is another danger we know only too well: a reduction in production and stocks with extremely inelastic demands threatens to turn the small disequilibrium in supplies into a new crisis, with all the consequences we have recently had to bear. Admittedly, today we are all the richer for having gone through, this painful experience, but the question remains as to whether this means that we will be spared new such tribulations. In my opinion, the present situation makes the international undertaking on world food security still more relevant and urgent. Here I believe it especially important to conclude a valid international grain agreement, which would embrace specific provisions for the developing countries, by the middle of next year.

To return to the second question, I think that no-one denies that all the changes in the international food situation have chiefly occurred in the developed world. The developing countries still stand on the margin, deprived of the possibility, despite all their efforts, of appreciably improving their own food situation. The exceedingly unsatisfactory progress being made in establishing a new international economic order and the mechanisms preserved from the old system have led to a deterioration in the developing countries Over-all economic position. This is reflected in their steadily declining position in international trade, including the exchange of agricultural commodities, in their rising debts, in the unsatisfactory level of development assistance, etc. Of course, agriculture and food could not *be* an exception to the rule, and this is why unsatisfactory progress has been made in implementing the decisions and recommendations of the World Food Conference. The ultimate result is a continuation, of negative trends from the past, the fact that food production in the developing countries barely keeps abreast of population growth, the fact that the vast majority of these countries still have to contend with looming food deficits and that today, in 1977/1978, these countries, to quote an OECD document, have a per capita grain production which is very close to what they had at the turn of the decade. All that I have just mentioned can be seen from document C77/20 on Progress of International Agriculture Adjustment. Consequently, it is our belief, that we have no cause for self-satisfaction. We have no real reason to believe that the risk of a new world-wide food crisis has been appreciably reduced, and we have still less reason to be satisfied with the progress made in carrying out what we agreed on three years ago. There are only two things here which offer some encouragement. The first is the pending opening of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the second is certain "progress at the Third Session of the World Food Council. Now, when the Manila Communiqué is backed by the authority of the United Nations General Assembly, we can only believe that history will not repeat itself, that the recommendations will be translated into practice and that this will put an end to the standstill in implementing the decisions of the World Food Conference. Hence, I propose that the Conference should extend full support to the Manila Communiqué. and underline the special need for our Organization fully to commit itself in carrying out the adopted recommendations.

I think it is clear from what I have said that my delegation is pleased that technical cooperation amongst the developing countries in agriculture and food has been included as a special item on the Conference agenda. I, should like to recall that the Fifth Non-Aligned Summit Conference extended full support to the concept of non-aligned and developing countries' co-operation in the field of food and defined the thrusts of action to be taken. My Government not only supports this orientation but also is working to expand and strengthen co-operation between our own institutions and the institutions of other developing countries. I am pleased to be able to note that here we have scored success. The number of standing arrangements between our own institutions and those of the developing countries is growing with each passing day, the exchange of experts is on the upgrade, the number of students from the developing countries at our universities is rising, etc., and I do not think that all possibilities here have been tapped. On the contrary, we shall expand all mutually beneficial forms of co-operation. Nevertheless, the efforts being made by our own and other developing countries could be greatly enhanced by co-operation with and the support of such an unquestionably competent Organization as FAO. Consequently I should like to extend full support to the Director-General's determination to have FAO far more comprehensively engaged in stimulating co-operation among the developing countries. I expect Commission II to conduct a comprehensive debate on this question which would, inter alia, contribute to the success of the UN Conference scheduled for next year in Buenos Aires.

Now permit me to speak about the tasks facing our Organization.

The tasks for which FAO was founded over 30 years ago and which are its basic objectives remain essentially unchanged, but the milieu in which FAO works today has radically altered and will continue to do so. The most important change is certainly in the developing countries' ever-growing ability rationally to define their own development programmes and their growing reliance on their inherent resources and potentials. This calls for a steady evolution in FAO policy and methods. I think there is no question that efforts should be steered towards FAO's speedier and more complete incorporation in the developing countries' development strategy and programmes, and hence towards FAO's growing reliance on these countries' national and regional institutions. This, however, calls for a substantial correction and considerably greater flexibility of methods.

Another major challenge stems from the fact that we have seen, especially of late, the burgeoning of several international bodies and institutions for agriculture and food both within and outside the UN system. It is our belief that this, does nothing to decrease the importance of our own Organization. On the contrary, FAO has been and should remain the mainstay of the international institutional system in the field of agriculture and food. And when I say this I have two, in our opinion, basic components of FAO's mission in mind. The first is that FAO should make a decisive contribution to building up an international agriculture and food policy, and the second is that in ever-closer co-operation among its members, especially the developing countries, it should define and implement concrete development programmes. Close cooperation with other international and bilateral institutions, of course, is of vital importance here.

I felt it necessary to give a rough outline of my Government's views of FAO's mission and tasks. I hope this will help to more clearly define my delegation's stands on many of the proposals before us.

Before presenting my delegation's stands on the Programme of Work and Budget, I should like to stress that Yugoslavia extended full support in the Council to the Director-General's proposals made on the basis of the mandate given him at the last Conference. We especially supported an orientation towards a radical reduction in "new" staff, the establishment of a proper balance between programmes calculated to extend direct support to the development of the developing countries and "general" programmes, and within this context to the strengthening of the Investment Centre, a cutback in expenses for meetings, publications and documentation, and so on. We wholeheartedly supported the setting up of the Technical Cooperation Programme, which, in our opinion, introduces that all too needed flexibility into the organisation's regular programme and thereby marks a new dimension in FAO's method of work. And finally, we supported the founding of FAO country offices in the developing countries as a first step in decentralizing its activities. I mention all this not only so as to brief you, Mr. Chairman, and through you, the esteemed delegates, but especially because the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming two-year period bears all the essential traits of a new orientation which we have wholeheartedly supported. Consequently, our attitude to the Programme of Work and Budget has been determined by our general stand hitherto.

I believe that the scope of the programme and the subsequent level of the budget are the result of a careful study of today's needs and possibilities. The Director-General proposed a modest increase in the Programme and Budget, in real terms - an increase which actually stems from decisions already passed by the Council. My delegation agrees with this orientation in the conviction that content is still a more important question than volume in the programme. In other words, I am pleased with the progress made in the programme's content, but I think further progress can be made here by eliminating or reducing lower priority activities. I am also extremely pleased with the new format of the Programme, which for the first time provides an integral picture of all the Organization's activities and thus gives clearer insight into the interdependence of the Regular Programme and non-budgetary activities. This allows me shortly to dwell on only a few of the programmes, those which in our opinion are of outstanding importance.

The programme for launching a broad-based action to cut back harvest and post-harvest losses, in our opinion, assumes first-rate priority. Consequently, I should like to extend full support to the proposal for forming a Special Fund, including that part of the proposal which refers to using part of the Suspense Account. There is no need to underline the importance of advancing the quality of seeds for developing food production. My own country's experience here is most instructive. Therefore I should like, to recall the recommendation of the Third Session of the World Food Council, which has already become a General Assembly recommendation on the need to set up a special fund of 20 million dollars within FAO to launch a broad-based drive in advancing the quality of seeds in the developing countries. I propose, that the Conference fully support this recommendation and that it charge the Director-General with drawing up a draft programme, conducting the necessary consultations and that it appeal to potential donors to help implement the recommendations of the World Food Council and the General Assembly.

It is our firm conviction that the Agriculture Towards 2000 Programme also ranks among one of our priority considerations, for the reasons I have already brought out, that is that FAO should, in our opinion, make a decisive contribution to the building up of a world food policy. This programme is not just an essential component of the UN Third Development Decade Programme; it is also imperative for a critical evaluation of the development lines and priorities within FAO itself. Consequently, my delegation believes that this task should be properly done and it extends full support to the Agriculture Towards 2000 Programme.

I have already indirectly presented my delegation's stand on the Technical Cooperation Programme. I should like to recall that at the previous Conference I proposed the setting-up of such a programme, which, as I stressed then, ensures FAO of the necessary flexibility and hence enjoys our wholehearted support.

As I said, I have set forth our stand on only those programmes which in our opinion merit special attention. I should like to reiterate, however, that my delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 in toto. In the conviction that the Programme fully reflects the new orientation adopted in FAO's work, which has been proposed by the Director-General and which was wholeheartedly supported by my Government. Here, I am also thinking, of a certain rise in the budget as subsequently proposed by the Director-General. My Government attaches importance to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, where Yugoslav representatives will take an active part, and consequently, I believe that the proposed budget increase is essential for successfully preparing that Conference.

In conclusion, allow me to dwell very briefly on agricultural production in my own country. I am pleased to be able to say that the efforts being made by my country in developing agriculture have produced the expected results. The growth of food production continues even more rapidly than planned. This year we hit a new record in grain production and in agricultural production as a whole. As at the last Conference, I regret to have to close my speech by noting that our results would be far better if we did not have to contend with the tremendous obstacles imposed on our exports to what, for us, are traditional markets.

J. P. SILVA (Cap-Vert): Permettez-moi d'abord, de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette dix-neuvième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Je voudrais également présenter mes vives et fraternelles félicitations aux nouveaux membres qui viennent d'être admis dans notre Organisation, parmi lesquels, le Mozambique, l'Angola et Sao Tomé. Ce sont des pays qui entretiennent avec la République du Cap-Vert des relations spéciales d'amitié et de coopération.

Il y a précisément deux années que le Cap-Vert a été admis comme membre effectif de la FAO, lors de la dix-huitième session de la Conférence qui s'est tenue en novembre 1975, c'est-à-dire aussitôt après son accession à l'indépendance nationale.

Pendant ces deux années et demie de son existence en tant que pays indépendant, le Cap-Vert, en dépit de l'héritage colonial et d'une nature hostile, a réalisé de grands efforts dans le chemin de la création des bases essentielles pour le développement de son agriculture, source de travail et base de la vie pour la plus grande partie de sa population. Le développement de l'agriculture cap-verdienne est assez complexe et oblige à des investissements considérables et à recherche de la technologie moderne la plus adaptée. La limitation et le caractère aléatoire, des cultures pluviales nous amènent à opter pour l'irrigation comme la solution la plus correcte du problème alimentaire. Il en résulte que dans le secteur agricole nos priorités vont à la recherche et à la mise en valeur des ressources hydriques tant souterraines que superficielles. Notre objectif est d'augmenter le plus possible les ressources hydriques disponibles, les surfaces irriguées, ce qui nous permettrait, nous en sommes sûrs, de résoudre une partie importante de nos problèmes d'emploi, d'améliorer sensiblement la situation alimentaire de notre peuple et d'atténuer considérablement notre dépendance à l'égard de l'extérieur.

La conduite d'une telle politique implique un effort énorme de conservation et restauration des ressources sol et eau, ce qui suppose la création d'un ensemble structurel mécanique, biologique capable d'atténuer l'impétuosité de l'écoulement des eaux pluviales et l'entraînement des terres arables vers la mer.

Cet effort est témoigné par les milliers de digues en pierre construites pendant ces deux dernières années, par des milliers et des milliers d'essences plantées, etc.

Cet effort a été possible, en premier lieu, par la détermination du peuple cap-verdien et, en second lieu, par une aide internationale remarquable. Mais cela ne suffit pas. Quand on parle d'amélioration de la diète alimentaire de la population, de diminution de notre dépendance à l'égard de l'extérieur, de résolution de nos problèmes d'emploi, nous sommes obligés de parler de pêche. Pour un pays comme le Cap-Vert, archipel situé dans une zone des plus poissonneuses de l'Atlantique, l'exploitation de ses ressources marines est fondamentale pour son développement économique.

Par ailleurs, l'expansion de la pêche artisanale en particulier, pourra, à terme, soulager la pression démographique qui s'exerce à l'heure actuelle sur le milieu rural, sujet comme l'on sait aux caprices de la pluviométrie.

Cependant, des limitations d'ordre technique, financier et institutionnel se posent, freinant le développement de ce secteur de notre économie.

L'évolution qui se dessine au niveau du droit de la mer permet d'espérer des retombées positives pour les pays en développement, notamment dans la réduction de leurs dépendances alimentaires. Ceci, bien sûr, à condition que leur soit accordé un support technique leur permettant d'exploiter rationnellement les zones économiques exclusives.

Le développement de ces deux secteurs, l'agriculture et la pêche, pose des problèmes assez complexes et nous pensons qu'il y est réservé à la FAO un rôle assez important. Il importe alors que la phase d'identification et de réalisation de projets isolés cède la place à la conception et à la réalisation de projets intégrés regroupant des domaines spécifiques, en maintenant et en renforçant les actions ponctuelles pour la réponse immédiate à certains problèmes urgents, la non-solution de quels entrave le bon déroulement des programmes de développement. Tout cela exige des moyens financiers considérables, mais aussi une capacité d'intervention rapide et souple. Dans ce domaine, le PCT peut jouer un rôle important, raison pour laquelle nous pensons qu'il doit être soutenu et renforcé.

Nous nous réjouissons que la FAO essaye de trouver les moyens et les solutions les plus adéquats pour répondre aux problèmes auxquels elle est confrontée. Dans ce sens nous appuyons les propositions contenues dans le programme de travail proposé par le Directeur général. En cherchant les voies et les moyens d'une action plus rapide et plus efficace, nous sommes persuadés que la FAO sera d'autant plus apte à préserver l'humanité du spectre de la famine et de la misère.

Le Cap-Vert a déjà un important programme de coopération avec la FAO et nous pouvons dire que, malgré les difficultés, malgré les retards parfois, cette aide a été pour nous d'une très grande importance.

Nous nous félicitons de l'assistance que la FAO a dispensée au Cap-Vert et demandons ici que cette assistance soit renforcée pour répondre valablement aux réels besoins de notre pays.

Dans notre pays nous continuons à développer des efforts pour une utilisation la plus rationnelle possible des ressources disponibles sur place et de celles qui sont mises à notre disposition. Notre peuple a compris la nécessité d'œuvrer pour combattre le sous-développement<sup>^</sup> comme le témoignent les travaux réalisés en si peu de temps.

Malheureusement l'aggravation de la situation de sécheresse que connaît notre pays oblige le gouvernement à une dispersion des efforts dans des multiples tâches d'urgence et entrave également les programmes établis visant l'augmentation de la production dans les secteurs de l'agriculture et de la pêche.

Monsieur le Président,

Comme il est de votre connaissance, le Cap-Vert connaît sa neuvième année de sécheresse consécutive. En effet la sécheresse nous frappe encore une fois cette année et avec une intensité dont on n'a pas mémoire dans le pays.

La pluviométrie cette année a été extrêmement faible, voire nulle dans la plupart des régions du pays. Là où de rares pluies ont été enregistrées, elles sont arrivées en retard et sont tombées dans un espace de temps trop court, compris entre 2 et 3 jours.

Les statistiques comparées de la pluviométrie que nous avons pu élaborer montrent que les pluies tombées, cette année peuvent être considérées comme les plus basses valeurs observées jusqu'à présent. Elles ne représentent en fait qu'environ 5 pour cent de la moyenne des pluies enregistrées ces dernières décennies.

Il en résulte que dans la plus grande partie de la surface cultivée la germination des semences n'a même pas eu lieu; dans les rares zones où l'humidité a été suffisante pour la germination, les plantes sont mortes, faute d'une continuité des chutes de pluies. Dans ces conditions, la production peut être considérée comme nulle pour ce qui concerne les cultures pluviales.

De ce fait, l'on doit s'attendre pour la campagne 1977/78 à un énorme déficit pour ce qui concerne les céréales, ce qui vient aggraver la situation nutritionnelle de la population déjà assez carencée.

Une influence négative est déjà ressentie également dans la production en irrigué, qui constitue traditionnellement le principal et le plus sûr pilier de l'agriculture cap-verdienne. Nous constatons déjà une régression du périmètre irrigué du fait de la réduction des débits puisqu'il n'y a pas eu de recharge des nappes phréatiques; nous craignons que cela ne remette en cause les efforts développés pendant ces deux années d'indépendance, dans le sens d'une extension autant que possible des surfaces irriguées.

En outre, mon Gouvernement est assez préoccupé sur la situation du bétail. La production fourragère a été pratiquement nulle cette année, à tel point que le paysan, pris de panique, a commencé à vendre en masse ses animaux pour des sommes dérisoires. Ceci a obligé le Gouvernement à prendre des mesures visant la protection du paysan et aussi la sauvegarde du bétail, de façon à conserver un stock minimum pour permettre une reconstitution future.

De même, nos objectifs dans le domaine de la reforestation risquent d'être sérieusement entravés, les chutes pluviométriques n'ayant pas été suffisantes pour permettre la fixation des espèces existant dans les pépinières. Dans ces conditions, point n'est besoin de dire que la constitution d'une réserve de sécurité n'a pas été possible. Une aide alimentaire substantielle nous sera sans doute nécessaire. A cela s'ajoute le problème du manque de structures de stockage et de conservation. Les efforts ont été développés dans ce secteur, mais nous sommes encore bien en dessous des nécessités minimales. Pour la mise en œuvre du programme établi, des moyens financiers et techniques sont indispensables. A cet égard nous saluons vivement les bonnes perspectives de coopération qui s'ouvrent avec la FAO dans cet important domaine.

Cette année supplémentaire de sécheresse marque cruellement la situation socio-économique du pays. Il faut seulement avoir à l'esprit que l'agriculture, malgré sa vulnérabilité, est le principal support de l'économie cap-verdienne.

Au niveau de nos échanges avec l'extérieur, il est à prévoir une aggravation du déséquilibre de notre balance commerciale par un recours accru à l'importation de denrées alimentaires, qui ont représenté ces dernières années environ 40 pour cent des importations globales du pays.

Au niveau de la population, les conséquences de la sécheresse sont encore plus terribles; l'on notera entre autres:

Un effet de découragement au sein des paysans qui voient chaque année, et cela depuis neuf ans, anéantir leurs espoirs d'une bonne récolte;

La dégradation de l'état nutritionnel de la population;

Une recrudescence du mouvement migratoire vers les centres populationnels dans l'espoir de garantir un moyen de subsistance, aussi bien que de l'émigration vers l'extérieur du pays qui nous prive chaque année des éléments les plus aptes de la population.

Mais c'est dans le domaine de l'emploi que les problèmes se posent avec plus d'acuité. 91 pour cent de la population active se trouve employés dans le secteur primaire. L'on comprend alors l'existence d'une grande masse de main-d'oeuvre libérée par le manque de pluies et qui est réduite au chômage. C'est une situation particulièrement difficile et à laquelle il faut apporter des mesures assez urgentes.

Pour faire face à la situation découlant de la poursuite de la sécheresse, le Gouvernement a jugé bon d'envisager et mettre en pratique un certain nombre d'actions immédiates et à court terme.

Il a été élaboré un programme de travaux à haute intensité de main-d'oeuvre, appelé Programme d'urgence. L'objet de ce programme est non seulement d'absorber une bonne partie de la population sans emploi mais aussi de couvrir le déficit alimentaire et de combattre la sécheresse par la création de structures appropriées. Ainsi il est prévu d'employer environ 17 000 personnes dans des travaux de conservation des sols et des eaux, de mise en valeur et d'extension de périmètres irrigués, de reforestation, de construction de magasins pour le stockage alimentaire et de certaines routes nécessaires au désenclavement de régions à vocation agricole, etc. Le coût du programme est d'environ 10 millions de dollars, non inclus les équipements, que nous espérons voir être couverts pour une bonne partie grâce à la solidarité internationale.

Parallèlement, un programme de sauvetage du cheptel a été établi dont l'objectif final est le maintien d'un stock minimum. Plusieurs mesures y sont préconisées telles que la sensibilisation des éleveurs afin qu'ils maintiennent un certain nombre de têtes, l'achat à un prix juste, la sélection et la concentration des animaux en des points choisis afin de faciliter les distributions d'aliments et l'abreuvement.

Il s'agit ici de mesures à court terme pour faire face à une situation qualifiée d'urgence. Ces mesures ne constituent donc qu'un complément nécessaire des efforts du Gouvernement et du peuple cap-verdien, car, comme chacun le sait, les problèmes de développement ne sont envisageables qu'à long terme.

C'étaient là quelques propos que je voulais adresser à cette illustre assemblée, et je vous remercie de votre attention.

The meeting rose à 12. 55 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 55 horas.





## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/8

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING  
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENTERE  
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(16 November 1977)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 55 hours,  
S. Essimengane, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance planiere est ouverte à 14h 55 sous la présidence  
de S. Essimengane, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava so sion plenaria a las 14. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia  
de S. Essimengane, Vioepreaidante de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Je déclare ouverte la 8ème séance plénière.

L. HOLIE (Guinée): Vous nous permettrez Monsieur le Président, avant tout d'adresser à cette auguste Assemblée les salutations du Peuple de Guinée, de son Parti-Etat et du Camarade Président Ahmed Sekou Toure, Responsable Suprême de la Révolution.

En vous élisant à l'unanimité pour présider les travaux de la 19è session de la conférence générale de cette Organisation, les Représentants des Etats Membres ont voulu, Monsieur le Président, rendre un hommage mérité à votre pays dont nul n'ignore la constante et efficace contribution aux activités de la FAO. Mais leur choix est également dû à vos qualités personnelles, à votre engagement, à votre détermination démontrée en maintes occasions à servir la cause des pays en développement et des masses laborieuses.

La délégation guinéenne est donc convaincue que les travaux de cette session ne pourront que connaître un éclatant succès sous votre présidence, assisté dans votre tâche par les trois Vice-présidents, à qui elle tient à adresser ses chaleureuses félicitations.

Nous voudrions également, avant d'aborder le thème essentiel de cette session, réaffirmer au Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, au nom de notre Peuple et du chef de l'Etat guinéen, notre confiance totale, et l'assurer de la sympathie et du ferme appui du Gouvernement guinéen pour l'oeuvre de rénovation et de dynamisation qu'il a su donner à notre Organisation.

Grâce à vous, Monsieur le Directeur général, la FAO vient de vivre deux années intenses d'activités, deux années empreintes de votre sceau, deux années au cours desquelles nous avons tous senti un souffle nouveau parcourir l'Organisation.

Nous manquerions à notre devoir si nous ne rendions ici un hommage mérité au Président indépendant sortant du Conseil, Monsieur Gonzalo Bula Hoyos. Les délégués guinéens qui ont participé aux travaux des sessions de la Conférence générale et du Conseil, ou d'autres Comités, n'ont pu que se féliciter d'avoir eu à collaborer avec lui. Pour la Délégation guinéenne, parler de M. Bula Hoyos, c'est parler d'un homme qui a toujours su allier à la passion de servir les pays en développement, le fier souci de coordonner, dans l'intérêt de tous, les points de vue des différents membres du Conseil en vue de parvenir à un accord général, ou tout au moins à un consensus. Qu'il trouve ici l'expression de notre gratitude et de notre amitié.

Au digne fils de l'Amérique latine, va succéder un homme profondément enraciné dans son Afrique - cette Afrique qui sort à peine d'une période tragique de destruction, commencée il y a plus de quatre siècles et qui souffre encore, dans certaines régions, de la domination, du racisme, de l'apartheid. La Délégation guinéenne voudrait saisir dès maintenant l'occasion pour exprimer au Dr. Bukar Shaib les sincères félicitations du Gouvernement Guinéen et son soutien dans la noble tâche que cette Conférence va bientôt lui confier.

Enfin, notre Délégation tient à saluer l'admission de la République Populaire d'Angola, de la République Populaire du Mozambique, des Républiques de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, des Seychelles, de Djibouti, de l'Etat Comorien, de la Namibie, de la République Populaire et Démocratique de Corée. La présence de sept nouveaux Etats Membres Africains au sein de cette Organisation est la manifestation de la ferme volonté des Peuples africains de se libérer de la domination colonialiste et de toute forme d'exploitation.

L'admission de la Namibie, territoire africain illégalement occupé par le régime raciste de Pretoria, est une grande victoire pour les peuples épris de paix et de justice.

Notre Délégation entend renouveler de façon énergique la solidarité militante du peuple de Guinée aux mouvements de libération en Afrique du Sud, au Front patriotique du Zimbabwe, au Swapo de la Namibie, et à l'Organisation pour la libération de la Palestine. Notre conviction profonde est que la juste lutte que ces Mouvements de libération mènent en Afrique Australe et au Proche-Orient surmontera tous les obstacles pour que leurs Peuples jouissent pleinement de leur indépendance.

Les récentes crises aiguës que certaines parties du monde ont connues nous montrent que nous sommes loin d'avoir résolu ce problème fondamental, à savoir nourrir nos populations. Si aujourd'hui, nous en avons une conscience aiguë, c'est que les lois régissant les rapports entre les Etats, et tout particulièrement dans le domaine économique, font que se crée une solidarité d'intérêts inévitable entre les divers pays du monde. Cependant, ce qui est à déplorer, c'est que cette prise de conscience se limite souvent aux périodes de calamités. C'est donc à juste raison que le Directeur général pose en termes clairs le problème de l'investissement dans le secteur de la production agricole. Voilà pourquoi notre délégation salue très chaleureusement la création du Fonds international de développement agricole, unique en son genre parmi les institutions internationales financières, et se félicite très sincèrement de la réunion, le mois prochain, de la première session de ses organes statutaires. Organisation née de la volonté de pays en développement et de pays développés en vue d'apporter une aide à des pays en développement à de meilleures conditions, le FIDA n'aura une portée concrète que si son action devait se poursuivre dans le temps et que si le Fonds établissait une coopération privilégiée avec la FAO au service des pays en développement.

Notre attention reste attirée sur un problème que nous avons toujours considéré comme un problème-clé pour conférer à l'assistance une portée permanente au-delà du séjour des experts que la FAO pourrait mettre à notre disposition.

Nous pensons en effet que sur le plan du développement de l'agriculture, l'assistance doit tendre à la formation des cadres. Il ne s'agit pas seulement de la formation dans le cadre des projets existants et pour lesquels des experts qui viennent ont des homologues auxquels sur le plan de la technologie ils peuvent laisser une partie de leur savoir. Il ne s'agit pas de cela seulement. Nous, nous pensons à une formule mieux adaptée à nos yeux aux exigences de développement: la possibilité d'ouvrir sur place un Centre de formation des cadres nationaux, 6 mois de cours dispensés aux cadres nationaux par 3 à 5 experts dans les différentes disciplines et munis de tout l'outillage nécessaire en vue de les familiariser avec telle ou telle technique, avec tel ou tel courant de la pensée agronomique par exemple, laisserait dans le pays une empreinte permanente, plus profonde et plus efficace que l'envoi d'un bataillon d'experts opérant sur le tas. Quelle que soit la durée du séjour d'un expert dans notre pays il faut quand même qu'il rentre. Le national lui, reste.

Nous pensons que la FAO pourrait s'adapter à cette nécessité, pour aider les pays à disposer de cadres nationaux valables ayant acquis la maîtrise de la conduite des activités qui, jusqu'ici, étaient confiées à des experts étrangers. C'est d'ailleurs la formule que nous retenons de l'aide, à savoir que nous ne devons accepter une aide que dans la mesure où elle nous aiderait à nous passer de l'aide.

Monsieur le Président, nous croyons pouvoir dire que ces idées ont largement été développées déjà par notre guide éclairé le Président Ahmed Sekou Toure à l'attention de Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO lors de sa visite dans notre pays.

Cependant, il revient aux pays en développement de prendre les mesures requises pour un changement radical des structures d'accueil. Ce qui suppose l'existence au niveau national d'une certaine volonté politique. Aucune innovation technique ne peut être efficace si les conditions de son application ne sont pas d'abord instaurées. C'est pourquoi, il ne suffit pas de considérer le problème alimentaire dans les pays en développement, seulement en fonction des paramètres technologiques. La transformation de la productivité agricole et l'accroissement de la production qui concernent d'importantes masses humaines sont inévitablement liés aux problèmes politiques et socio-économiques.

Il faut donc substituer à l'ordre de la faim un ordre libérant les masses paysannes, les masses les plus déshéritées.

Certes, certains éléments nouveaux ont, depuis quelques années, justifié un optimisme modéré, mais les espoirs ne se matérialiseront que si les pays intéressés prennent les mesures adéquates qui comportent des décisions sur le plan politique, de profonde transformation de la société et d'importants investissements. Nous savons maintenant que la "Révolution verte" n'est pas la solution facile que l'on avait cru trouver aux problèmes de pénurie alimentaire et n'écartera pas aussi aisément qu'on l'avait espéré les risques de la famine.

S'agissant de nos efforts nationaux de développement, nous pouvons dire que l'agriculture est déjà choisie comme le point d'appui essentiel. En effet, près de 50 pour cent du budget de notre plan quinquennal en cours d'exécution depuis 1973 sont consacrés à ce secteur et, pour la seule campagne agricole 1976, il a été investi plus de 350 000 000 de Syllis, soit plus de 15 000 000 de dollars des Etats-Unis. Nous avons transformé chaque village en Pouvoir Révolutionnaire Local (P. R. L. ), chaque arrondissement en Pouvoir Révolutionnaire d'Arrondissement (P. R. A. ), chaque Région en Pouvoir Révolutionnaire Régional (P. R. R. ) et la Nation elle-même en Pouvoir Révolutionnaire Central (P. R. C. ).

Toutes les institutions, tous les services d'Etat, tous les moyens collectifs sont organisés de manière à ce que le peuple les assume et gère directement, à chaque échelon, en vue d'atteindre les objectifs qu'il se sera lui-même fixés. Dans cette action populaire l'émulation est organisée entre les différentes unités du Parti-Etat pour que le développement ne soit pas différentiel et que la solidarité s'organise de manière à maintenir l'harmonie.

Le Pouvoir Révolutionnaire Local est actuellement axé sur l'aménagement du territoire et sur l'exploitation des richesses naturelles grâce aux brigades de génie rural créés un peu partout dans le pays.

Nous avons déjà mis sur pied 2. 300 brigades dont 1. 500 brigades mécanisées de production (B. M. P. ) et 800 brigades attelées de production (B. A. P. ) au sein des mêmes P. R. L. pour une production agricole diversifiée.

Notre première méthode, c'est la culture extensive qui est à la portée du paysan. Il faut que les superficies à mettre en valeur soient telles que les problèmes économiques nationaux relatifs à l'alimentation du peuple puissent être résolus.

La deuxième phase c'est la culture intensive que nous abordons à présent. Nous nous sommes adaptés aux exigences de la première phase. Pour vous donner une idée, nous venons de créer 27 facultés d'Agronomie et 75 pour cent des bourses d'Enseignement supérieur sont alloués au secteur agro-pastoral.

C'est pour vous dire, Monsieur le Président, ce que nous faisons pour développer les ressources agropastorales.

Notre conception de lier l'Ecole à la Vie est une réalité. Et dans ce domaine notre plan est fait. Nous voulons que dans 5 ans au plus tard, il n'y ait aucun village qui ne soit doté de 3 ou 4 ingénieurs du profil agro-pastoral en plus des cadres moyens qui sont déjà en formation dans les écoles professionnelles. Ces dispositions visent à dynamiser le développement agro-pastoral de chaque village et tous les projets que nous avons élaborés, dont certains, pour être accélérés dans leur exécution, exigeraient l'aide de la coopération internationale.

Le problème d'engrais se posera pour la phase nouvelle de la production intensive, celui de l'aménagement hydro-agricole des terres également.

Pour l'élevage, nous avons décidé la construction d'un parc collectif dans chaque village afin de pouvoir mieux assurer la protection de la santé du cheptel guineen, de développer l'action de nos fermes actuelles et de passer à la phase d'insémination artificielle. Ce programme vise non seulement la protection du bétail mais aussi la multiplication du cheptel.

Dans le domaine de la pêche, un vaste programme est aussi établi. Nous voudrions organiser sur des bases rationnelles aussi bien la pêche maritime que la pêche fluviale et la pisciculture.

Nous avons prévu pour les Eaux et Forêts également une vaste action à la dimension même des villages et une loi est votée concernant le seul reboisement. C'est la loi dite "Loi Fria" qui stipule que désormais, à chaque naissance, mariage, anniversaire du Parti ou de fêtes religieuses, un certain nombre d'arbres fruitiers soient plantés par les familles dans le verger du P. R. L. Ces contraintes morales viennent en plus de l'action générale déclenchée, par laquelle, annuellement, chaque village reboise un hectare. Les pépinières à créer au niveau de chacun de nos villages, la protection de la forêt, l'élevage, l'apiculture, l'aviculture, l'artisanat, toutes ces activités rurales sont à l'échelle des masses et font l'objet d'un programme général et d'un programme particulier, adaptés à chaque village ou quartier appelé P. R. L., à chaque Arrondissement, à chaque Région.

Monsieur le Président, voilà donc brièvement exposées quelques idées sur nos options.

En guise de conclusion, vous nous permettrez de vous présenter cette citation tirée de l'allocution du Camarade Président Ahmed Sekou Toure, Responsable Suprême de la Révolution, lors de la visite officielle de M. le Directeur général Edouard Saouma, en novembre 19 76 dans notre pays;

"Le Peuple qui veut se développer, doit élaborer, à partir de ses moyens propres, son programme d'autodéveloppement et s'engager résolument à le réaliser. Ainsi, si ceux qui ont acquis un niveau supérieur et qui ont une vision à dimension universelle de l'assistance, de la coopération, de l'amitié fraternelle entre les Peuples interviennent en faveur du pays, alors, cette assistance viendrait accélérer le rythme de développement prévu sur une base nationale".

A. SENGHOR (Senegal): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur general, Honorables délégués, la tradition africaine veut qu'un hommage particulier soit rendu à ceux qui ont pour tâche d'assurer la conduite de toute action humaine destinée à l'amélioration de la condition des peuples.

C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, avant toute chose, je voudrais vous adresser, au nom de la Délégation sénégalaise et en mon nom personnel, mes sincères félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de la 19e session de notre Conférence.

Cette élection consacre la confiance unanime que les Etats membres placent en vos éminentes qualités d'homme d'Etat et de culture, et l'intérêt avec lequel ils suivent l'expérience originale et si prometteuse de votre pays, dans le domaine de son développement agricole.

Je suis convaincu, pour ma part, que votre mérite personnel et vos qualités humaines sauront marquer de leur empreinte la tâche, combien exaltante, qui vient de vous être confiée.

Vous me permettez, Monsieur le Président, d'exprimer aussi les félicitations du Gouvernement de la République du Sénégal, à l'adresse des Etats nouvellement admis en qualité de membres de notre Organisation, plus particulièrement à l'adresse des Etats frères africains de l'Angola, des Comores, de Djibouti, du Mozambique, de la Namibie et des Seychelles.

Nul doute que ces nouveaux membres vont élargir notre représentation régionale et contribuer à renforcer le caractère d'universalité de notre Organisation. Nous espérons sincèrement qu'ils auront à coeur d'oeuvrer avec nous pour gagner la bataille contre la faim partout dans le monde, le seul combat qui ne connaît ni frontières ni idéologies.

Vous me permettez aussi, Monsieur le Président, de saisir cette opportunité pour présenter à Monsieur Bula Hoyos mes félicitations les plus sincères pour l'esprit constructif avec lequel il a su mener, ces quatre dernières années, les travaux de notre Conseil.

Que le futur président indépendant de cet organe, y trouve également ici l'expression de mes chaleureuses félicitations et l'assurance de mon pays de lui apporter, dans la mesure de ses moyens, tout son appui. Je veux parler, et j'ose espérer qu'il s'agira du Docteur Bukar Shaib du Nigeria.

Monsieur le Président, il me plait de souligner que l'élargissement de notre représentation régionale et le renforcement de la foi des pays pauvres en l'Organisation trouvent leur application fondamentale dans l'orientation nouvelle que s'est attaché à mettre en oeuvre son Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, qui a su tenir compte des recommandations de nos Etats lors de la précédente Conférence.

C'est pourquoi, mon Gouvernement tient particulièrement à lui réitérer ses félicitations et les espoirs que l'Afrique et les pays du Tiers Monde placent en lui dans la défense de leurs intérêts légitimes pour promouvoir un développement économique et social harmonieux.

Connaissant l'homme de par sa longue et brillante carrière au sein de l'Organisation, et convaincus qu'en sa qualité de ressortissant du Tiers Monde, il réaménagerait la FAO pour une plus grande efficacité, nos pays n'ont pas douté, à ce titre, que les actions futures seraient menées conformément aux intérêts de la plus grande majorité.

Monsieur le Président, nous pouvons affirmer aujourd'hui et sans risque de nous tromper, que notre Directeur général a posé les jalons de ce qu'il convient d'appeler une organisation résolument tournée vers le développement.

Notre attitude favorable à la politique de décentralisation n'avait certes pas suffi à dissiper toutes les craintes de l'installation au niveau régional de "FAO miniatures", craintes qui ne sont que le reflet du centralisme bureaucratique tant déploré.

A l'heure du bilan de ce biennium que l'on pourrait appeler "du changement", il m'est d'un agréable devoir de renouveler toutes nos gratitude au Directeur général et particulièrement pour toutes les dispositions qu'il a prises en accordant une plus grande priorité aux investissements, en instituant un programme rationnel de coopération technique, en menant une véritable politique de décentralisation au niveau des pays, et en proposant la création d'un Fonds spécial pour la réduction des pertes après récoltes.

Nous voudrions dire, que mon Gouvernement attache le plus haut intérêt à ces formes nouvelles d'action concrète, et qu'il estime qu'elles doivent être poursuivies de manière permanente.

Le programme de coopération technique, par delà les actions ponctuelles, limitées ou passagères au gré des contingences d'ordre de toute sorte, constitue avant tout, pour nos pays en voie de développement, l'amorce, voire l'incitation à des actions de plus grande envergure dans le domaine des investissements dans l'agriculture pour augmenter la production alimentaire.

Nos pays qui en sont conscients n'ont pas hésité, malgré les maigres ressources dont ils disposent, à contribuer financièrement et matériellement à la mise en place du Programme et à son développement. C'est dire à quel point ils entendent qu'il soit maintenu et poursuivi.

Quant au Fonds spécial pour la réduction des pertes après récoltes, c'est la réponse à ce que nous appellions déjà de nos vœux, il y a deux ans, au cours de la 18e Conférence générale.

Nous disions alors, qu'il faudrait que des mesures adéquates d'assistance soient prises pour venir à bout des sinistres causés dans nos régions par les ennemis des cultures, et qui ont nom: rats des champs, sauteriaux, ciseaux granivores, chenilles des épis du mil. Nous demandions alors à la FAO de s'atteler à résoudre, de concert avec les Etats concernés, les problèmes posés par ces éléments entravant le développement, et nous lui demandions aussi de soutenir efficacement les organisations régionales et sous-régionales de lutte contre tous les prédateurs, ceci en songeant notamment à des organisations comme l'OCLALAV et l'OICMA.

Nous nous réjouissons de ce que la FAO ait répondu à cet appel en créant un Fonds spécial qui va démarrer avec les dix millions de dollars réalisés au titre des bénéfices de change sur les cotisations des Etats Membres.

Nous sommes sûrs que l'ensemble des Etats Membres approuvent cette louable initiative qui s'inscrit dans le cadre des objectifs que nous nous sommes fixés dans notre lutte contre la faim. A ceux qui s'y opposent au nom des principes, nous voudrions leur demander d'accepter d'augmenter le budget d'une somme équivalente et de nous aider exceptionnellement à couvrir la dépense.

Mais ces mesures, pour importantes qu'elles soient, ne sauraient évidemment pas constituer une panacée et il reste encore beaucoup à faire pour que d'importants investissements soient faits dans l'agriculture des pays en développement, investissements qui constituent un des éléments de base de la solution du problème alimentaire mondial si préoccupant en cette fin de siècle.

A cet égard, mon Gouvernement a entrepris la réalisation d'un vaste programme d'investissements pour la production alimentaire dont l'objectif est d'atteindre notre autosuffisance en 1990, en tenant compte de la bonne croissance démographique constatée.

Le plan alimentaire sénégalais a été soumis à l'examen du Groupe consultatif pour la production alimentaire et l'investissement, au cours de sa dernière réunion tenue en septembre 1977. Il a suscité un grand intérêt.

Qu'il nous soit donc permis de souhaiter que la recommandation du Groupe consultatif concernant le plan sénégalais soit suivie d'effets concrets et à ce sujet nous lançons un appel solennel à toute la communauté internationale ici réunie pour faire de ce plan un test de sa bonne volonté, test qui se traduirait en actes et pas seulement en paroles, et servirait d'exemple pour d'autres pays déficitaires, comme le notre, dans le domaine de la production alimentaire.

Nous pensons en particulier, parce que les connaissant-mieux, aux pays regroupés dans le Comité interEtats de lutte contre la sécheresse (CILSS), premier groupement sous-régional en Afrique de l'Ouest, qui a décidé la mise en commun des moyens de ces pays en vue de lutter et de sortir d'une situation qui leur est commune.

C'est ainsi que nos pays ont défini, avec la collaboration des membres du "Club du Sahel", une stratégie largement partagée, devant aboutir à la réalisation de l'objectif d'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Un programme dit de "première génération", évalué à 9 milliards de dollars E. U. a été élaboré, faisant apparaître d'ores et déjà un certain nombre d'actions susceptibles d'exécution immédiate.

Certes, l'autosuffisance alimentaire que nos pays se sont assignée n'est pas une fin en soi, mais elle est considérée comme une sécurité alimentaire qui devra avant tout être garantie par les ressources propres du Sahel, et dans le cadre d'un développement autonome de la région.

Dans ce domaine qui offre un exemple de la coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement, mon Gouvernement reste fidèle à sa conception de l'unité globale, dont la réalisation passe par des stades secondaires, eux-mêmes constitués par des regroupements sous-régionaux et régionaux selon la

théorie des cercles concentriques pronée par notre Chef d'Etat, laquelle théorie est maintenant unanimement admise et appliquée. Ainsi, la Sénégal, l'OMVS, la CEAO, la CEAO ont-elles été instituées dans ce sens en faveur d'un nouvel ordre économique international.

Monsieur le Président, revenant à ce que le CILSS entend réaliser, nous demandons à la FAO de lancer un appel à toute la Communauté internationale pour qu'au-delà des pays de l'OCDE, la coopération s'élargisse, et que d'autres pays et organismes internationaux appuient le "Club du Sahel" et contribuent, concrètement, à l'action de sauvetage de notre sous région menacée par la désertification.

Monsieur le Président, je vous ferai grâce de longs développements sur ce que nous avons fait au Sénégal et continuons de faire, dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, de la pêche et de l'élevage. Notre action dans ces secteurs, épaulée par nos paysans, nos pêcheurs et nos pasteurs, qui ont la sollicitude constante de mon Gouvernement, est suffisamment connue, et elle a été suffisamment soulignée par les media. Cependant, rappelons-là brièvement, pour mieux prendre la mesure de ce qui va suivre.

Notre agriculture a connu, au début du biennium 1975-77, des progrès encourageants. Les réalisations de la campagne agricole 1976/1977, quoique sujettes à une pluviosité peu favorable, ont été d'un niveau suffisant eu égard aux objectifs de production fixés.

Ainsi, la culture principale, l'arachide, a atteint des rendements encourageants et la production enregistrée s'est élevée à 1 181 591 tonnes. Des progrès significatifs ont été également réalisés dans les cultures du riz (112 260 t), du mil et du sorgho (553 780 t).

Les acquis dont a bénéficié le Sénégal dans la dominante arachidière ont autorisé une action plus étendue en ce qui concerne notre politique de diversification.

Un accent particulier a été mis sur la culture du maïs, l'extension des superficies et les rendements

à ce niveau ont été fonction des progrès réalisés grâce à la traction bovine et à l'association de la fumure minérale, auxquelles cette culture est particulièrement sensible.

Les cultures maraîchères ont été par rapport aux précédentes campagnes en nette progression, et l'objectif d'exportation de 15 000 tonnes de produits de premier choix a été entièrement atteint en 1976/77.

L'une des solutions appliquées en accompagnement de la politique de diversification, a consisté en l'encouragement des actions d'intensification caractérisées notamment par l'emploi d'engrais, la généralisation de la traction bovine, le phosphatage de fonds et les labours profonds.

Il a également paru urgent d'accélérer le processus de recherche et de diffusion de la mécanisation agricole adaptée.

Pour une meilleure assise de cette dernière, mon Gouvernement envisage la création d'un Centre National de Machinisme Agricole. A cet effet, il a été mis en place dès cette année, dans le cadre du programme agricole, un "Comité du Machinisme Agricole", qui a pour mission de définir une politique d'équipement du monde rural, de sélectionner les types de matériels adéquats, d'en contrôler la fabrication en exigeant des producteurs le service après-vente et la mise en place de stocks de pièces de rechange au niveau des régions.

La mise en oeuvre d'une politique de développement agricole ne saurait être pertinente en se suffisant d'une seule action dans le domaine de l'équipement. La productivité en agriculture supposant une bonne organisation foncière, mon pays a élaboré une loi dite du "Domaine national" consacrant la nationalisation des terres dans la perspective d'une utilisation rationnelle par le monde rural. Aussi est-il méritoire de la part du Directeur général de la FAO d'avoir si bien compris le caractère apolitique de la question pour proposer sur ce thème une Conférence mondiale sur la Réforme agraire et le Développement rural prévue en 1979 sous les auspices de l'ONU, proposition que mon Gouvernement appuie vigoureusement.

S'agissant de l'élevage, la Campagne 1976/77 a temaaerl l'intégration progressive de ce sous-secteur à l'agriculture. Outre l'utilisation du travail animal, l'embauche paysanne a été systématisée par l'introduction d'un élevage de rapport. Selon les zones concernées, un volet élevage sera inclus dans chaque grand projet agricole dans le sens des orientations définies en la matière.

Notons enfin que dans le cadre de la relance du mouvement coopératif, le Gouvernement a redéfini un système du crédit d'équipement et d'approvisionnement amant des coopératives d'éleveurs, système qui devra incessamment être mis en application.

En ce qui concerne les forêts, la rationalisation de l'exploitation forestière se poursuit, de même que les actions de reboisement qui, parallèlement à l'action continue des services, sont intégrées dans les activités des populations rurales et des sociétés d'intervention. Il importe de se rappeler à tout moment que nous sommes menacés par la désertification; désertification à laquelle l'homme aura beaucoup contribué par la dégradation du milieu naturel.

Le contrôle des activités de chasse s'est renforcé et quatre nouvelles zones d'intérêt cynégétiques viennent d'être créées afin de mieux sauvegarder la faune.

S'agissant de la pêche maritime, le développement de la pêche artisanale a été encouragé du point de vue de la modernisation des techniques et méthodes de production. Un projet d'armement traditionnel placé sous la responsabilité du Centre d'assistance à la Motorisation des Pirogues a permis la mise en place de 3 750 moteurs auprès des pêcheurs. Le remarquable succès du programme de motorisation permet d'envisager dans un futur immédiat la gestion directe de l'armement par les coopératives de pêcheurs.

Enfin, la sénégalisation du secteur industriel se poursuit en grande partie avec les contre-parties résultant des accords de pêche passés avec quelques pays amis. A ce sujet, nous rappelons que notre pays a toujours plaidé pour l'adoption par tous les Etats de la zone économique de 200 milles marins.

Monsieur le Président, au regard des objectifs que mon pays s'est assignés dans le domaine du développement rural, les résultats dégagés témoignent de la priorité accordée au secteur primaire ainsi que la prise de conscience de plus en plus marquée des populations concernées pour les méthodes modernes d'exploitation en rapport avec le milieu.

Le niveau de développement relativement satisfaisant du secteur est redevable au volume important des investissements qui y est injecté chaque année.

Ainsi, les subventions accordées par l'Etat dans le cadre du programme agricole sont passées entre 1973/74 et 1976/77 de 1 062 milliards à 4 921 milliards. Par ailleurs, d'importants moyens financiers d'origines diverses ont été mis en oeuvre à l'occasion de l'exécution de notre quatrième Plan de développement économique et social qui vient de s'achever.

Du point de vue de l'exécution du Plan, sur un total engagé de 276,3 milliards de francs CFA, le secteur primaire a absorbé 60,2 milliards soit 21,8 pour cent du volume des investissements. En détaillant le flux des ressources engagées jusqu'au niveau du sous-secteur, il apparaît que les activités ou les crédits mis en place s'avèrent les plus importants sont dans l'ordre décroissant: l'agriculture (39 milliards), les industries (33 milliards), les infrastructures routières (27 milliards), la recherche (23 milliards), l'habitat et l'assainissement (22 milliards).

Les moyens financiers injectés dans le secteur agricole ont permis à celui-ci de fournir 25 pour cent des recettes d'exportation du pays, déduction faite du coût des inputs importés, et de contribuer pour 29 pour cent aux recettes budgétaires de l'Etat.

Vous comprendrez, Monsieur le Président, que cette volonté de privilégier le secteur agricole trouve sa justification dans la vocation naturelle du pays et dans le rôle que joue l'agriculture au niveau de l'économie. Comme vous le savez, 70 pour cent de la population sénégalaise est constituée de ruraux.

Cependant, les mécanismes des relations économiques internationales jouant négativement, mon pays est encore victime du phénomène de la détérioration des termes de l'échange, situation qui renforce le caractère extraverti de nos efforts d'investissements.

En un mot, le bilan des productions agricoles au cours de ce biennium écoulé a montré, encore une fois, que notre agriculture sera caractérisée par une forte dépendance aux conditions climatiques, une domination du système arachide-mil et un déficit vivrier encore important, car nous sommes tributaires des pluies pour 96 pour cent de notre agriculture.

Il reste qu'en cette année 1977, la situation agricole ne laisse pas d'être préoccupante, à cause de l'insuffisance de la pluviosité dans toute la zone sahélienne qui englobe bien sûr le Sénégal.

En effet, le sort a encore voulu que cette année, nos efforts poursuivis en vue d'asseoir une auto-suffisance alimentaire soient neutralisés par l'installation d'une situation météorologique et hydrologique inquiétante qui rappelle, à bien des égards, les dures années de sécheresse qui ont frappé le Sahel, et dont ni l'assistance consistante de la FAO et de la communauté internationale, ni la lutte économique menée par nos gouvernements, ne sont parvenus à venir à bout de toutes les conséquences.

Les facteurs limitants induits par l'effet multiplicateur des aléas climatiques nous ramènent, toute comparaison faite, au contexte de la sécheresse des années 1973.



Mon pays, comme bien d'autres, cette année a subi l'implacabilité de ces faits qui se traduisent, au plan national, par un lourd déficit céréalier de 180 000 tonnes, correspondant aux besoins alimentaires d'urgence nécessaires à la survie des seules populations rurales. La baisse également notable des productions de rente aura une incidence très marquée sur la conjoncture économique et la capacité de travail des hommes.

Les facteurs négatifs découlant des caprices climatiques de la zone sahélienne militent, une fois de plus et encore plus que jamais, en faveur de l'instauration d'un véritable système de sécurité alimentaire mondiale, dont il faut bien constater, hélas pour le déplorer, qu'il n'a pas encore atteint le niveau minimum souhaitable et souhaité par les pays en voie de développement.

Monsieur le Président, les actions d'intervention ponctuelles essentiellement occasionnées par des perturbations naturelles sont certes nécessaires, mais ne suffisent pas à régler le problème de fond qui nous a valu réellement cette identification de "pays en voie de développement".

Monsieur le Président, nous précisons et ne cesserons de le redire, trois actions principales doivent être menées, simultanément et sans discontinuité, pour assurer une véritable sécurité alimentaire:

- l'aménagement des grands bassins fluviaux et lacustres;
- la modernisation des méthodes culturales;
- l'amélioration du matériel végétal, et bien sûr la protection des récoltes.

On ne saurait que trop recommander la première de ces priorités à nos économies sahéliennes, dont les ressources en eau sont, plus qu'ailleurs, épuisables et vulnérables. Une maîtrise complète de l'eau est la seule garantie d'un développement optimum du monde rural, à cet égard, nous souscrivons aux conclusions de la Conférence mondiale sur l'Eau de Mar del Plata.

Aucun pays au monde n'a pu résoudre ses problèmes agricoles sans maîtrise de l'eau: il faudrait des barrages, des lacs artificiels et des forages sans lesquels l'agriculture de nos pays sera irrémédiablement condamnée, la désertification s'accélérera, et aucune opération de reboisement, si importante soit-elle, ne pourra arrêter ce phénomène d'autant plus que les pluies se font de plus en plus rares.

Monsieur le Président, la problématique de la maîtrise de l'eau constitue actuellement l'une des préoccupations essentielles de nos Etats au sein de l'OMVS. Une solution à cette question assurera à nos pays, et singulièrement au Sénégal, une sécurisation de la production et un développement économique certain.

Je me réjouis du fait que la FAO ait pris conscience de cette situation et qu'elle se soit consacrée ce biennium durant, à la recherche de ressources indispensables au financement de nos projets. Nos "pays souhaitent vivement que la FAO poursuive ses actions dans ce sens, et qu'elle soit notre interprète auprès de la Communauté internationale et de toutes les organisations internationales, pour leur réitérer notre appel pour la lutte contre le sous-développement.

Cette lutte désormais revêt pour nous une forme caractérisée par la recherche de financements. Celle-ci constitue une démarche permanente, hélas souvent entravée par l'opposition constante de critères classiques de rentabilité, inconciliables avec les réalités économiques de nos pays.

A ce propos, je demande à ceux qui voudraient, face à ce milieu sahélien où l'on meurt du fait de la sécheresse, nous opposer l'aridité des calculs économiques, je leur demande, dis-je, de réfléchir sur la valeur d'un verre d'eau dans le désert.

Se référer à des critères "arithmétiques" pour apporter un financement aux pays sous-développés, c'est enlever sa portée à l'assistance et à la coopération qui devraient, avant tout, être guidées par une profonde éthique du développement, s'appuyant sur des choix multicritères tenant compte le plus possible de facteurs inhérents aux économies en voie de développement.

Par ailleurs, nous pensons également qu'une prise en considération des charges récurrentes qu'implique la mise en oeuvre de nos projets de développement, s'avère le moyen le plus adéquat d'accorder à l'assistance toute sa signification.

Il convient à ce propos et à l'instar des gouvernements canadien et suédois, que les pays nantis envisagent l'application de mesures, sinon susceptibles d'éponger les dettes des pays en développement, du moins propres à différer dans des limites s'accordant aux capacités financières de ces pays, les termes de remboursement de fonds alloués au titre du développement et notamment du développement agricole, dans la lutte contre la faim.

Notre Organisation recèle des possibilités de tous ordres, et cette constatation nous suffit à espérer qu'à travers le fonctionnement prochain du Fonds international pour le développement agricole, un exemple d'assouplissement de l'assistance financière sera démontré; il est à souhaiter que les pays développés suivent cet exemple dans leur programme de coopération avec les pays économiquement faibles.

Monsieur le président, malgré les lenteurs injustifiées mises pour la dotation initiale du FIDA, mon pays a toujours ses espoirs tournés vers celui-ci, et estime que des instruments de coopération de cette nature doivent être multipliés par les pays développés et les pays nantis.

En effet, la difficulté majeure de nos économies réside dans nos moyens financiers limités; cette constatation est d'autant plus vraie qu'en l'absence d'un tel obstacle, mon pays connaîtrait, dans le cadre de la coopération sous-régionale établie au niveau de l'OMVS et du CILSS un développement économique certain et plus particulièrement en matière agricole.

S'agissant enfin du budget de l'Organisation, mon Gouvernement est favorable à son adoption et compte sur le Directeur général de la FAO pour faire encore les économies qui s'avéreraient nécessaires. De plus, mon Gouvernement ne peut qu'insister une fois encore pour la mise en oeuvre du Fonds spécial pour la réduction des pertes après récoltes.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Honorables Délégués, je vais maintenant terminer, car il faut savoir conclure, tout en étant conscient de n'avoir pas épuisé tout le propos.

Si, devant leur inquiétude quasi permanente, les pays en voie de développement ont été souvent conduits à sous-estimer les résultats obtenus par la FAO, il n'en demeure pas moins que ces pays reconnaissent en l'institution l'un des meilleurs instruments susceptibles d'apporter des changements significatifs à leur condition.

Leur volonté d'oeuvrer à la construction d'une société plus humanitaire, plus juste et de plus en plus égalitaire ne fait aucun doute.

L'établissement d'un nouvel ordre économique international régulateur des échanges et des fortes disparités de niveau de développement dépend d'abord du courage et de la volonté des pays nantis, mais aussi de la permanence de combat des pays en développement.

Je souhaite que la 19ème session de notre Conférence soit l'occasion de décisions franches et courageuses, guidées par le souci constant d'assurer à la grande majorité des populations de notre planète des conditions de vie meilleures.

Puissent les résultats de nos travaux se mesurer à la confiance et à la foi que nous attachons à notre Organisation.

O. OKSNES (Norway) (interpretation from Norwegian): This is the first occasion I have the honour and pleasure of leading a Norwegian Delegation to a Conference of the FAO. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my Government's full support for FAO's activities.

The FAO was originally established as a purely specialized organization for food and agriculture, and in the course of these years it has achieved results which are truly impressive. During more recent years, FAO has gained added importance as the principal international organization providing technical assistance to the developing countries in its own specialized field. This represents a development to which we in Norway have given full support.

In view of the important role also played by the FAO as an international development assistance organization, it is essential to see this aspect of the organization's activities as an important element in the endeavours, both inside and outside the UN system, to create a new and more equitable international economic order. We therefore consider it an important point that the activities of FAO are carried out in accordance with the guidelines drawn up by the UN General Assembly and the political conferences arranged by the UN.

The main guidelines for the nutrition and food sectors were drawn up in the resolutions adopted by the World Food Conference and the Sixth and Seventh Special Sessions of the UN General Assembly. The work to implement the objectives drawn up in these resolutions is still in progress. The priorities and the work programme of FAO will in the years to come be strongly influenced by the decisions adopted at this conference.

The most important "visible" results of the World Food Conference are perhaps the establishment of the World Food Council and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

As regards the World Food Council we in Norway are happy to note that this seems to be taking on its intended shape. The Manila session has thus made significant progress compared to the two preceding sessions. It was of particular satisfaction to note that agreement was reached on a comprehensive Programme of Action designed to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. My Government regards the Manila Communiqué as a good basis for the further work to be done in this field and it urges all countries to do their utmost to follow up the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action.

No less important is the fact that the requisite conditions for the entry into force of the IFAD Agreement now seem to be fulfilled, so that the first meeting of IFAD's Governing Council may take place in December. In Norway we see the establishment of IFAD as an important milestone in the efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition and I would particularly draw attention to the role of IFAD with respect to increasing food production and improving the nutritional standards for the poorest groups of the population in the world's poorest countries.

My Government does not feel that there should necessarily be any duplication or conflict in the functions of the World Food Council, the FAO and the IFAD. All three are entrusted with important functions and they supplement one another.

In our opinion, the World Food Council is, and should only be, a purely political organ without any executive functions, in which the main general guidelines for the nutrition and food sectors are drawn up for subsequent approval by ECOSOC and the General Assembly. FAO will continue to be the main executive organ responsible for implementing these guidelines, while IFAD will, when it is geared into full activity, play the central role assigned to it as a financing institution for investments in agricultural development. It is both natural and necessary with close cooperation between these three organizations.

My Government is impressed by the endeavours by the Director-General to reorganize and decentralize FAO's activities and make it a more effective and powerful organization for technical assistance for developing countries. We support this development and share the Director-General's view with regard to greater emphasis on the field work. However, we hope that the decentralization of FAO's activities i. e. through the establishment of special FAO resident representatives in the receiving countries should not lead to coordination problems with UNDP and thus contribute to the so-called centrifugal tendencies within the UN system.

In order to avoid this and to secure maximum use of the funds available for technical assistance, it is of vital importance with close contact and cooperation between FAO and UNDP, both at headquarters level and at country level. In accordance with Consensus of 1970, UNDP's resident representative should be "the leader of the team" and thus be responsible for the coordination of all technical assistance from the UN system in close cooperation with the other representatives for the various UN organs and the recipient country's own authorities whose priorities always must be decisive.

Norway regards FAO's role as an organization for development assistance, not as a substitute for, but as an important and supplementary addition to FAO's work in the technical field of agriculture, forestry fisheries and nutrition for the benefit of all member countries - developed as well as developing countries. This work, which is of vital importance, not least for a small country like Norway, must therefore continue and be strengthened.

Agriculture and fisheries will in the future, as they have in the past, together constitute the main basic element for all food production. The biological processes contributing towards the production of food must be conserved and developed for the benefit of all peoples and population groups. This will require investments and an order of priorities - often at the expense of other objectives and sectors. Shortage of capital is a problem both for Norwegian agriculture as for agriculture in a number of other countries and it is therefore a question of political will to channel capital resources into agriculture so that the problem of food production may be solved in a more effective manner. Such a political will is in my view necessary in all countries, but it is especially necessary in countries unable to feed their own population to an adequate degree, through domestic food production. However, let me also add that it is equally important to create the economic prerequisites enabling everybody, to purchase the foodstuffs they need.

The Norwegian Government has, in line with the recommendations adopted by the World Food Conference and with due regard to the interests of the developing countries, decided to intensify the utilization of agricultural resources in such a manner that we can increase our degree of self sufficiency in agricultural products from 32 percent in 1975 to 44 percent in 1990. In addition we can add 7.5 percent from fish and With products. Even this does not represent a high degree of self sufficiency, but it does make it necessary to utilize the available resources more effectively, which again will mean higher investments, especially in remote regions and for small holdings.

The investments in Norwegian agriculture, coordinated with general rural development, shall serve to maintain and develop a production structure directed towards a desired settlement pattern and the promotion of economic activities in rural areas which will again lead to a more rational utilization of all resources.

On this basis it seems natural for me to stress the importance of FAO's efforts in the work for agrarian reforms and an integrated rural development. My Government therefore look forward to the planned World Conference on Agrarian Reform, and Rural Development which will focus on the problems of the rural communities. In political terms this is a difficult issue, but nevertheless it is an important prerequisite for solving the problems in respect of food production and nutrition.

In order to develop the economy in rural areas it is necessary to view the resource situation in an overall context - not least in agriculture and forestry. In my country this is natural because a greater part of the forest areas are operated in combination with agriculture. This is also the most practical solution in a country such as Norway, which has, and will continue to have, relatively small farm units. The combination agriculture-forestry contributes furthermore towards a more efficient use of local manpower and machinery, thereby reducing the investment requirements in forestry. In order to ensure adequate investments in silviculture, etc. - which under our climatic conditions is a very long-term affair - 10 percent of the sales value of all timber is withheld as a form of "tax" which will be released when investments are taking place. This arrangement is functioning well, but let me also add that the total investments are substantially higher than this figure.

Extensive forest areas have been and are being laid waste on account of shifts in cultivation, which is common in many countries. The need to switch forest areas to agriculture will of course be necessary, but it is important that this is done in such a manner that over-exploitation is prevented and that agricultural land is conserved for agricultural purposes. It is, and it will continue to be, an important task for the FAO to conserve and increase forestry resources for future generations. In this connexion I am also thinking of the great importance forestry has in preventing soil erosion and the expansion of arid areas.

An important part of the efforts to create a new international economic order is concerned with the question of an integrated commodity programme. While UNCTAD has been made chiefly responsible for these negotiations, FAO has also an important part to play as far as agricultural commodities are concerned. It is of the greatest importance that UNCTAD should be able to draw upon the valuable source of knowledge and experience which FAO represents in this field. We are, therefore, very pleased to note that the Director-General has given FAO clear instructions to cooperate closely with UNCTAD in this matter.

In this connexion I would also like to point to the significance of the ongoing negotiations in London on a new wheat agreement aimed at inter alia building up national stocks coordinated at the international level. We consider it important that FAO closely follows and gives its support to these negotiations. The long-term solutions resulting from these negotiations should benefit both developing and developed countries. An important aspect in this connexion will in our opinion be the need to secure for the importing developing countries necessary supplies at reasonable prices.

Closely connected with the new wheat agreement there is also the question of a new convention on food aid which is also expected to be on the agenda of the London negotiations. Norway has adopted a positive attitude to a new food aid convention which should possibly also be seen in relation to the emergency stock of grain of 500 000 tons administered by the World Food Programme.

In 1977 Norway's total contribution to the World Food Programme amounted to over Nkr. 100 million (about US \$19 million). Thus Norway is one of the major contributors to the Programme and we support the overall contribution target of US \$950 million as recommended by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for the period 1979-80. By far the greatest proportion of Norway's food aid consists of fish and fish products which are channelled through the World Food Programme.

The living resources in the sea represent an altogether crucial factor as a source of nutrition for the world's population. We are therefore faced with the vital task to secure sound and efficient management of these food resources. In the first place, this means that the exploitation of the living resources of the sea must be made subject to effective control and regulatory measures.

With the establishment of economic zones, the coastal state has been made responsible for the management of the living resources within its own zone. But it is necessary that individual national management measures are formulated and implemented with due regard to the claims and expectations prevailing in the world community at large.

In the exploitation of the living resources of the sea, we must in future place decisive emphasis on giving priority to the development of fish products for human consumption. Today valuable research is carried out aimed at developing new products which may contribute towards fulfilling those resources - and nutritional-policy objectives for fisheries, in respect of which there is a general agreement. In Norway we have noted with satisfaction the increased interest now being shown for the newly developed fish protein concentrate in the form of fish meal FPC type B. In this connexion I would also refer to a seminar under FAO auspices which Norway had the honour to arrange (the Svanoy seminar) where scientists and research workers from a number of countries discussed the prospects and ways and means for a better exploitation of the total fish resources.

The fisheries in different parts of the world find themselves at different level of development. Many countries now face an era where the national fisheries will be developed, based on the country's own fish resources. FAO should in future engage itself more actively in this work. Decisive emphasis should be placed on ensuring that local advantages are characteristic features should form the guiding principle for the cooperative measures implemented.

The development of fisheries in the developing countries both through international development agencies and on the basis of bilateral cooperation, has formed an important part of Norway's engagement in development assistance. This is a policy which Norway intends to pursue further.

Mr. President, in Norway we have, as we reported during the last FAO Conference, presented a Report to the Storting on future Norwegian policy in respect of nutrition and food supplies. From document C 77/20 I note with great satisfaction that several developing countries are well underway with such planning. FAO should give priority to the task of assisting those countries requesting such aid to strengthen their capacity in this field. However, it is necessary that sufficient funds are appropriated for this purpose. The programme and budget proposal for 1978/79, which we now have before us, does not in my opinion give sufficiently high priority to an active nutrition policy, and I would like to stress the need for strengthening FAO's future engagement in this sector.

Mr. President, the right to a life free from suffering due to hunger and undernourishment" is not only a basic need, but a fundamental human right. All of us - both developed and developing countries - have therefore a common responsibility with respect to fulfilling the resolutions from the World Food Conference for "eliminating hunger and malnutrition".

As the most important executive body in the food sector, the FAO has a particularly vital role to play. I feel convinced that the Organization, under Director-General Saouma's dynamic leadership, will live up to the great expectations we all have in respect of FAO's efforts in the struggle to eliminate hunger and undernourishment.

#### Third Report of the General Committee

##### Troisième Rapport du Bureau

##### Tercer Informe del Comité General

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais revenir sur le premier point inscrit à l'ordre du jour de cet après-midi et que nous n'avons pas encore pu considérer, à savoir, l'adoption du troisième rapport du Bureau.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Ce document, qui vous a été distribué, porte la référence C 77/LIM/30. La première section concerne le droit de vote du Congo.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas de commentaires ou d'objections à cette section du rapport et à la résolution y afférente, je considère qu'elle est approuvée.

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La Section 2 concerne la nomination des Vice-Présidents des trois commissions.

La Conférence se souviendra qu'elle avait invité un certain nombre de délégations à désigner l'un de leurs membres à la vice-présidence des trois commissions. Ces noms ont été communiqués et le Bureau en a pris connaissance ce matin. Comme le demandait le deuxième rapport, le Président de la Conférence a été informé que les personnes suivantes ont été désignées par leurs délégations pour assumer la vice-présidence des trois commissions. COMMISSION I: Australie - T. J. KELLY; Irak - S. A. H. AL SHAKIR; Maroc - Najem BEN MOHAMED; Népal - Shiva B. NEPALI. COMMISSION II: Canada - Frank SHEFRIN; Iran - B. MANSURI; Kenya - A. I. MACHAYO; Thaïlande - P. LAOWHAPHAN, COMMISSION III: Philippines - Carlos J. VALUES; Syrie - Mousbab EL DALATI; Royaume-Uni - A. A. W. LANDYMORE; Venezuela - Luis LA CORTE.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y pas de commentaires ou d'objections à cette section du rapport, je considère qu'elle est approuvée.

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La troisième section concerne le Comité des résolutions de la Conférence.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas de commentaires ou d'objections à cette section du rapport, je considère qu'elle est approuvée par la Conférence.

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La quatrième section concerne des demandes d'intervention dans le débat général.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas de commentaires ou d'objections à cette section du rapport, je considère qu'elle est approuvée par la Conférence.

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La dernière section concerne l'hommage à la mémoire des fonctionnaires de la FAO décédés depuis la 18ème section.

Il est entendu que cet hommage sera rendu non pas maintenant, mais au moment de l'adoption du paragraphe correspondant en séance plénière de la Conférence.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas de commentaires ou d'objections sur cette section du rapport, je considère qu'elle est approuvée par la Conférence.

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

-. MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

F. M. RABAGO (Mexico): Muy honroso es para mi Gobierno participar en este trascendental foro, donde desde ayer hemos recibido ocho naciones hermanas, más}lo que nos brinda una excelente ocasión de abordar asuntos de profundo interés para la humanidad.

Mexico apoya las políticas rectoras de la FAO, orientadas hacia la resolución de los problemas alimentarios que padece el mundo. La esposa del Presidente encabeza a la mujer mexicana a través de un grupo de promotores voluntarios que realizan trabajos con los ejidos y comunidades para mejorar la alimentación de la niñez y mujeres gestantes, y promueven el desarrollo rural en las comunidades marginadas, 'incluyendo la reforestación en las áreas degradadas. Dentro de los programas productivos se encuentran proyectos para la producción de aminoácidos esenciales, los cuales se utilizarán en la alimentación humana.

Es encomiable la misión que des'arrolla la organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Desde que se fundó, hace 32 años, ha mantenido una lucha permanente contra la pobreza, la desnutrición y el hambre que flagelan a más de la tercera parte de los seres humanos.

No obstante esta positiva cruzada, cabe recordar las palabras del doctor Edouard Saouma, en su reciente visita a mi país, en el sentido de que "FAO pertenece a los Gobiernos y su éxito o fracaso depende en altísimo grado de su apoyo".

Esta advertencia da margen a que los países que formamos parte de la Organización redoblemos nuestros esfuerzos solidarios para hacer frente, con mejores resultados, a estos graves problemas que afectarían a una población creciente, cuya cifra se estima se incrementará, a fines del presente siglo, a siete mil millones.

Resulta imperioso atender el problema que plantea la escasa nutrición que afecta a casi 500 millones de personas, dentro de los cuales" se cuentan los grupos marginados de mi país.

La mal nutrición no podrá combatirse eficazmente a menos que la demanda de alimentos vaya acompañada de la suficiente producción y la capacidad adquisitiva. El contraste es definitivo: Mientras en los paíse desarrollados los suministros alimentarios exceden con mucho sus necesidades, en las naciones en desarrollo, estos son insuficientes.

Nos satisface saber que la producción mundial de alimentos de los dos últimos años fue significativa, sin embargo, este hecho no debe ser razón válida para la conformidad y la despreocupación. El problema alimentario de la humanidad seguirá siendo un reto al espíritu solidario de la comunidad internacional.

A pesar de que las perspectivas futuras se contemplan difíciles como resultado del incremento mundial de la población, no debemos doblegarnos. Tenemos que afrontarlas desde ahora, porque el problema está latente.

Los países en vías de desarrollo estamos urgidos de auxilios de toda índole, pero principalmente de cooperación técnica y financiera para el desarrollo de nuestra agricultura, ganadería y silvicultura.

La producción de alimentos no podrá incrementarse si no establecemos la infraestructura necesaria, tanto en áreas de riego como en las de temporal, que sirva de apoyo para introducir la tecnología moderna y la capacitación y organización de los trabajadores del campo.

México se encuentra en el umbral de un sistema político reformador y renovador. El Presidente de los Estados Unidos, José López Portillo, ha emprendido una reforma político-administrativa que llevará a nuestra Nación por los rumbos del progreso y del bienestar.

Comprende la reorientación del sector agropecuario mediante la fusión de la Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería, que se encargaba de las políticas de producción agropecuaria y forestal y la Secretaría de Recursos Hidráulicos, que por su parte atendía la construcción de obras de riego y la operación de las mismas en una sola, que actúa como cabetza del sector y que, por lo tanto, coordina todas las entidades y agencias que concurren en la producción agropecuaria; todo, con el propósito de unificar las políticas de acción en el campo y evitar la duplicación de funciones y el desperdicio de recursos hu-tinos y económicos.

La canalización cada vez mayor de recursos financieros, pero aún insuficientes, por la vía del crédito que otorgan las instituciones bancarias gubernamentales y particulares, tanto para el gasto corriente de las empresas agrícolas y ganaderas, como para la adquisición de bienes de capital y mejoras permanentes que traigan consigo el aumento de la productividad.

La creación de los distritos de temporal cuyas áreas dependen en exclusiva de la precipitación fluvial, en general escasa y aleatoria.

Esta medida tiene especial significado de justicia social y es objetivo primordial de los programas gubernamentales de mi país. Con la organización de los distritos de temporal, los agricultores recibirán en mayor medida y dentro de las posibilidades económicas de México, los beneficios de la asistencia técnica, del crédito y del abastecimiento de otros insumos.

El Gobierno del Presidente José Lopez Portillo está empeñado en conjuntar el esfuerzo de todos los sectores en una alianza para la producción, destinando una parte muy importante de su esfuerzo a través del convencimiento y utilizando medidas democráticas, en reducir el índice de crecimiento demográfico, que en la actualidad es del 3, 2 al 2, 5 por ciento en 1982, y de seguir este ritmo llegará al 1 por ciento en el año 2000.

La injusta situación de intercambio entre países compradores y vendedores de productos agropecuarios es necesario que se corrija y tenemos fundadas esperanzas de que así acontecerá en un futuro inmediato, evitando los "dumpings" provocados deliberadamente para abatir los precios internacionales en beneficio exclusivo de los intermediarios y compradores, por lo que desde esta alta tribuna México propone a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación que examine la posibilidad de que se establezcan precios de garantía a nivel internacional para el comercio de productos agropecuarios, cuya meta es asegurar un mínimo de subsistencia a millones de campesinos que viven en una angustia permanente, en comparación con la tranquilidad de los países compradores de alimentos y materias primas.

Además de los precios de garantía para los productos del campo, debe existir un sistema internacional de comercialización y almacenamiento, evitando pérdidas poscosecha y que permita conservar y distribuir los excedentes que generan algunos países en años de condiciones climatológicas buenas, a efecto de auxiliar a los países que lo requieran y prever, por otra parte, la escasez de años desfavorables.

Nuestro país no está libre de estos problemas deficitarios, ya que una alta proporción de sus tierras agrícolas está sujeta a las precipitaciones pluviales y existen diferencias internas notables en distintos grupos con diferentes posibilidades productivas, tanto en la población rural como en la urbana. Debemos estar conscientes de que se presentan condiciones cíclicas de escasez de lluvias y, por lo tanto, es imprescindible la cooperación internacional, aprovechando al máximo las áreas agrícolas en los años de buenas condiciones climatológicas, a efecto de crear reservas que permitan equilibrar las deficiencias de los malos años.

Estamos seguros de que la reunión recibirá con beneplácito los informes que se presentarán sobre los esfuerzos desplegados por la Organización.

Nos satisface constatar que después del examen del Programa, las estructuras y las políticas que presentó el señor Director General y de acuerdo con sus declaraciones al tomar posesión de su elevado y honroso cargo, en esta nueva etapa se canalizarán los esfuerzos y los recursos de la Organización hacia cuatro finalidades principales, dirigidas todas ellas a conceder mayor impulso a los países en desarrollo mediante la asistencia que se les suministra y que son:

- 1) Otorgar mayor énfasis a las inversiones en la agricultura y la alimentación.
- 2) Establecer un programa de cooperación técnica, financiado directamente con fondos de la Institución.
- 3) Promover una mayor descentralización de las actividades de la Organización, llevándolas hacia los países para establecer lazos más estrechos con los Estados Miembros, incluyendo la transferencia progresiva del personal, así como su asignación a tareas específicas; y
- 4) Otorgar preferencia a los programas prácticos, en lugar de los estudios teóricos a largo plazo.

Nuestro mejor deseo es que al desarrollar los importantes temas previstos en el programa, se constaten apreciables avances y que, además, se adopten decisiones viables que transformen los deseos y propósitos en verdaderos compromisos de cooperación internacional. En particular, la FAO debe estrechar su colaboración con el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, a fin de dar cumplimiento a los importantes programas que éste tiene planteados, como el de poner ya en marcha el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola.



Asimismo, se deben encontrar fórmulas para intensificar la cooperación técnica en materia de agricultura y alimentación para lograr los objetivos del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, patrocinado por las Naciones Unidas, la propia FAO y la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

México está consciente de que, si bien la ayuda de la FAO es valiosa, ésta debe ser correspondida por su propio esfuerzo y por ello pone gran empeño en producir el requerimiento de alimentos básicos que demanda su población.

Con este interés, México celebró un Convenio con la Dirección General de la FAO que culminó en el establecimiento de una Oficina con la representación personal del Director y que facilitará el desarrollo de los programas de asistencia y cooperación,

En relación con la próxima reunión mundial de reforma agraria, México participará aportando sus experiencias de su propio proceso de desarrollo.

Finalmente, dejamos este elevado foro, con nuestros votos para que el esfuerzo de todos los países que aquí concurren, a los que transmito un cordial saludo, se transforme en lo que todos esperamos: alimento para los necesitados y paz permanente dentro del progreso para todos los pueblos de la tierra.

A. P. J. M. M. VAN DER STEE (Netherlands): In considering agriculture and food production in the world, one question constantly recurs: "Are we making progress fast enough?" By and large, events in the past two years have not been unfavourable but there are still acute shortages of basic foodstuffs in certain parts of the world. The Sahel countries are a case in point: they are again threatened by serious drought. My government will assist these countries in the form of food supplies in the next few months. I am not optimistic about the long-term prospects. Unfortunately the chances of permanently eradicating the malnutrition still prevailing in many developing countries are still highly uncertain.

The eradication of malnutrition can only be achieved by increasing productivity in the countries concerned and by a more equitable distribution of the supplies available in such countries. Ensuring adequate supplies of good, inexpensive food that meets local standards of taste is a top priority for every government.

Stimulating greater agricultural production and, in many cases, a greater fishing catch - which is to say, aiding domestic agriculture and fisheries - is in many cases preferable to importing goods. Domestic production promotes higher incomes and employment, frees foreign exchange for the import of goods that cannot be produced locally and, moreover, safeguards food supplies in periods of international tension.

Similar attention is required for forestry, which can make a substantial contribution to agricultural production, to improving infrastructures and to improving the quality of life in developing countries. Forests are also important in the protection of the environment, notably because of their influence on the microclimate. Moreover, forestry can help to meet the often urgent demand for wood products. The establishment of a timber and woodworking industry in developing countries will at the same time promote employment.

FAO should play a very active role in the preparations for a new United Nations development strategy. Activities like the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and the project Agriculture Towards 2000 can be important in this respect.

Speaking in very general terms, I would say that there are two factors which are of fundamental importance for substantially raising production in the developing countries: the human factor, and the financial factor.

By "the human factor" I mean first and foremost the governments of countries and the regional authorities.

They will have to accord high priority to rural and agricultural development and back this up with a body of concrete measures such as the framing of price and import policies for agricultural products, the opening-up and improvement of rural areas and the education and training of specialists, to name but a few. If the small farmer finds his situation improved by such measures he will be prepared to use modern methods and equipment to increase his productivity.

The governments of developed countries will have to take a similar long-term view, for instance as regards a gradual shift of emphasis towards the processing of agricultural products and as regards the provision of expertise and capital for developing countries.

As far as the second factor is concerned the development process cannot proceed at the required pace without extra financial injections, even with the best will in the world. The Director-General was therefore right in according priority to investment in this Program of Work and Budget. Fortunately many development cooperation activities currently in operation fully comply with this view the World Bank has doubled its investment in agricultural projects in recent years: the International Fund for Agricultural Development will get under way here in Rome in a few weeks' time after two years of discussion; and in the past three years the Netherlands has tripled its development assistance commitments for agriculture.

A great deal of this investment is intended to improve the quality of or increase the production of artificial fertilizer and sowing-seed. But much of it is also earmarked for increasing the area of land, whether irrigated or not, under cultivation. Another sector in which more is being invested is the food industry, which has an obvious link with the farmer, and can be established in rural areas, requires

comparatively little in the way of capital, and can further the social diversification of rural communities.

In the past two years the Dutch Government has agreed, to give financial support to a number of FAO programs, including the Food Security Assistance Scheme and the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development, and in so doing to put its expertise at the disposal of FAO. Further contributions will be dependent on the progress made by the schemes and on future FAO policy, especially with regard to the Food Security Assistance Scheme. Cooperation in the Fertilizer Program is now under way.

My government supports the Program for Reduction of Post Harvest Food Losses. In my feeling, this program should not stop at the loss of agricultural products, but should extend to fisheries and in some cases to forestry as well. If a solution can be found in the matter of the proposed financing method the Netherlands will make a contribution of 2 million U. S. dollars to this fund, on conditions to be worked out.

I consider all of these special FAO programmes to be of immense value in that they focus attention on specific acute problems which require immediate action.

The provision of credit for the small farmer is a point of cardinal importance in the effort to improve agriculture. He often has insufficient collateral to fully secure the credit he needs. Yet if this credit is not forthcoming his input is both inadequate and ineffective and consequently he cannot achieve a satisfactory level of production. Measures to extricate him from this vicious circle are urgently needed, and that is why SACRED - the FAO Scheme for Agriculture Credit - merits our fullest attention.

In the stimulation of domestic production and the raising of productivity the developed countries can, as I have said, give valuable assistance. In recent years the Netherlands Government has spared no effort to provide the maximum and the most effective aid possible. One of the many channels through which aid can flow is the European Economic Community, in which we are endeavouring to do more in the area of multilateral development cooperation - without, of course, this affecting everything the Community is already doing in the bilateral context.

I must say I do like short speeches but these few remarks would not be complete without some reference to food aid. Though not always the ideal form of assistance, it is nevertheless indispensable in bridging the gap between the present and the time when the receiving countries will have raised their production and purchasing power to the level of self-sufficiency.

Everything points to the fact that the ten million tonnes of grain and the sufficient quantities of other products which form the subject of a resolution adopted by the World Food Conference will indeed be needed in the short term. My Government wishes to help to achieve the targets set. The contribution of the Common Market will also be very important here.

The same applies to world food security. During the time of food shortages very definite pronouncements were made and a large number of countries even committed themselves to action in the form of undertakings. Now that we seem to have reached a period in which the supply of agricultural products on the world market is once again more than adequate and prices are dropping to low levels, the time has come to build up the reserve supplies that were considered to be so essential. At the same time, international cooperation will have to be intensified so that, if necessary, additional measures can be taken, to stabilize the world market for major products. Here, too, the Common Market will have an important part to play. The Dutch Government will continue to give full support to all such endeavours.

In conclusion I would like to express the hope that the Food and Agriculture Organization under the eminent guidance of our Director-General, Dr. Saouma succeeds in its aims in the next two years and that it will continue its valuable work in the interests of the world's food, agriculture, forestry

and fisheries. I mention, one name. I wish to express my best wishes for the coming Independent Chairman of the Council, Bukhar Shaib and a lot of thanks to his predecessor, Gonzalo Bula Hoyos. Thank you very much.

J. E. MARTINEZ de GENIQUE (España): Señor Presidente: Con mi gratitud por concederme la palabra, deseo en primer lugar manifestarle la satisfacción de la Delegación española, y nuestra felicitación, por haber sido elegido merecidamente para dirigir y encauzar los trabajos de este 19 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de nuestra Organización, así como a los restantes miembros de la Mesa, Comisiones y Comités que hemos elegido.

Mi Delegación desea también dar la más cordial bienvenida a los nuevos Estados Miembros de Angola, Comoras, República Democrática Popular de Corea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Santo Tomé y Príncipe, y Seychelles. Su presencia es una clara prueba de que la FAO continua siendo un Organismo vivo y dinámico, capaz de seguir captando adhesiones de nuevos Estados jóvenes y llenos de generoso ímpetu creador, que confían en la adecuación de este Organismo para plantear y resolver, por la vía multilateral, las principales y delicadas cuestiones mundiales sobre agricultura y alimentación.

Sr. Presidente, con independencia de ulteriores intervenciones de mi Delegación en los trabajos de las Comisiones, deseo resaltar brevemente algunos aspectos que consideramos de singular importancia en el programa de labores que nos presenta el Director General.

Hace dos años, la Delegación española solicitaba de la Secretaría que nuestra Organización intentase conseguir nuevos enfoques y nuevas orientaciones que, aprovechando el conjunto de circunstancias que configuraban el planteamiento del Nuevo Orden Económico internacional, la hiciesen más eficaz y más útil para los Países Miembros, desembarazándose de prácticas rutinarias que habían perdido su eficacia y que tal vez no estaban ya suficientemente justificadas en la concepción, en el planteamiento y en la ejecución de sus Programas. Consideraba también conveniente la Delegación española, que se procediese a una clara delimitación de funciones entre los distintos Organismos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas implicados en el desarrollo agrario y rural, para que ello permitiese concentrar las actividades de la FAO en proyectos concretos.

Pues bien, nos complace reconocer hoy que en estos dos primeros años de mandato el Director General se ha esforzado, con el beneplácito del Consejo, por encauzar eficazmente las tareas de la Organización, reorientándolas en el sentido de otorgar una mayor prioridad a las operaciones sobre el terreno, disminuyendo la intensidad de otras actividades más teóricas y burocráticas. El trasvase intrapresupuestario de algunos conceptos financiadores de funciones preponderantemente administrativas hacia otros más centrados sobre operaciones de desarrollo, ha permitido a FAO reforzar su capacidad para preparar proyectos de inversión que ayudarán a mejorar el estado de la agricultura y de la alimentación en los países más necesitados, dando fuerza a la idea de que es preciso acentuar especialmente la capacitación de los pequeños productores, la también llamada formación a ras del suelo, para incrementar la cantidad y la calidad de la producción alimentaria en tales países. Se trata, en definitiva, de dar mayor importancia y contenido a la capacitación en los niveles básicos, a la formación práctica de instructores y a la potenciación de las instituciones nacionales que tienen encomendado este objetivo. Es más, consideramos muy significativo el hecho de que el nuevo Programa Operacional de Cooperación Técnica, haya permitido destinar una parte del Presupuesto Ordinario -aunque relativamente pequeña todavía- a la formulación y ejecución directa de Proyectos en los Estados Miembros con una rapidez poco común, si se compara con otros proyectos financiados extrapresupuestariamente.

También considera positivo mi Delegación, Señor Presidente, el hecho de que se esté consiguiendo la paulatina reducción del cuerpo funcional presente en la sede, en beneficio de una descentralización hacia los Estados Miembros, lo que permitirá un contacto directo más intenso con las circunstancias y necesidades reales de los mismos, y exhorta al Director General a que prosiga en esta línea de realismo, por cuanto significa que dispondremos de una Organización mejor equipada para acciones sobre el terreno, evitando el peligro de enquistarse exclusivamente en cometidos teóricos.

En relación con nuestros deseos de delimitación de funciones entre los diversos Organismos encargados de promover el desarrollo agrario y rural de nuestros pueblos, quisiéramos hacer unas consideraciones: El nuevo orden económico internacional comporta una serie de cambios, a veces radicales, en las relaciones entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo, y significa un avance hacia una mayor confianza de estos últimos países en sus propios medios, como lo muestra el Programa de Cooperación Económica entre países en Desarrollo. Pero conseguir una mejor estabilidad del Sistema Económico Internacional no podrá nunca llegar a ser una realidad mientras centenares de millones de personas sufran hambre y malnutrición, y mientras la seguridad alimentaria del mundo dependa de las aleatoriedades productivas de muy pocas campañas agrarias. Es preciso dejar bien claro que el derecho de los seres humanos a una correcta alimentación debe

ser una premisa fundamental e irrenunciable en todo orden económico internacional nuevo que pretenda ser duradero; y por ello la FAO tiene que contribuir a crear las condiciones necesarias y suficientes especialmente en cuanto a elevar los niveles nutricionales y las condiciones de vida en las zonas rurales de numerosos países en desarrollo, mediante la ejecución de programas concretos, y con resultados tangibles. Ello impone la necesidad de definir claramente las relaciones que deben existir entre la FAO y otros Organismos como el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, el PNUD o el FIDA, con objeto de que la actuación de todos ellos redunde en una potenciación real de los instrumentos y medios puestos al servicio del desarrollo económico y social de nuestros pueblos. En tal sentido, mi Gobierno entiende que la FAO debería seguir siendo, sin exclusivismos, la principal Organización del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el fomento de las políticas concertadas intergubernamentales sobre temas de agricultura y alimentación, así como para la canalización y prestación de asistencia técnica multilateral en estas materias, debiendo concentrar sus esfuerzos en la adopción de medidas concretas para la producción de alimentos, la ayuda y la seguridad alimentarias, como también en resolver los problemas fundamentales, técnicos y económicos, que dificultan un mejor desarrollo de los recursos agrícolas, ganaderos, forestales y pesqueros en todo el mundo.

Sr. Presidente, a nivel mundial, las dos buenas cosechas sucesivas de cereales han permitido reconstituir las reservas hasta niveles que se consideran satisfactorios para algunos países. Se presenta, pues, para estos países, una excelente oportunidad de constituir una Reserva Internacional de Urgencia, de acuerdo con lo previsto en el 70 Período Extraordinario de Sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, e incluso relanzar la puesta en marcha de un Compromiso Internacional sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, y de aumentar la ayuda alimentaria en cereales, tal como recomendaba la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación en 1974.

Conviene destacar también el hecho alentador de que durante la campaña 1976-1977, los países en desarrollo han conseguido mejorar en cerca de un 10 por ciento sus ingresos por exportación de productos básicos agrarios, frenándose así una tendencia que parecía delinearse a largo plazo, y que hubiera significado una progresiva disminución en la proporción que les corresponde en los ingresos procedentes de las exportaciones agrarias mundiales.

Pero esta situación de mejora relativa no debe inducirnos a pensar que podemos continuar indefinidamente importando productos agroalimentarios a precios relativamente bajos. Resulta excesivamente simplista el razonamiento consistente en ligar el abastecimiento nacional a unos niveles bajos en los precios mundiales de productos básicos, porque si el procedimiento se generalizase, crecería desmesuradamente la demanda, anulándose rápidamente las ventajas vía precios ya que no hay que olvidar que los precios internacionales suelen referirse a cantidades reducidas y a veces marginales en relación con los volúmenes reales de la producción y del consumo. Sin entrar además en el análisis de las consecuencias que comporta el que se perpetúen situaciones de dependencia económica en los países que no tienen suficientemente desarrollados sus procesos productivos.

Ya las perspectivas para 1978 apuntan a una cierta expansión de la demanda de productos agrarios en general. Y puesto que está previsto que de aquí a finales de siglo la demanda mundial de alimentos hade duplicarse, parecen seguir vigentes, a medio y largo plazo, las razones y los mecanismos que desencadenaron la crisis alimentaria del bienio 1973-74. Por ello sería ilusorio y arriesgado no otorgar una prioridad elevada para los proyectos que se traduzcan en acciones concretas en favor de los países más seriamente afectados por la pobreza, especialmente aquellos encaminados a aumentar la producción de alimentos. Porque frente al optimismo derivado de haber obtenido unos incrementos medios próximos al 4 por ciento anual en la producción alimentaria del pasado bienio, tasa que corresponde al objetivo fijado al efecto en la Estrategia para el Segundo Decenio para el Desarrollo, hay que contraponer el hecho de que las reservas de cereales disponibles al finalizar la presente campaña cubrirán apenas el nivel mínimo estimado por la FAO para la seguridad alimentaria mundial; y no es a base de mínimos como se puede hacer frente con éxito a las expectativas de una demanda alimentaria creciente en cantidad y calidad. Por otra parte, hay que señalar el hecho preocupante de que el nivel de las capturas de pescado no parece registrar progresos respecto al conseguido en 1976, lo que significa una disminución en términos reales de la disponibilidad "per capita" de estas proteínas animales; aparte de los numerosos problemas socioeconómicos que plantea a muchos países, incluso desarrollados, una recesión en las actividades del sector pesquero. Precisamente por ello, mi Delegación es claramente partidaria de que a nivel internacional se defienda el derecho de acceso a los caladeros tradicionales por las flotas pesqueras de los países que, como España, han venido desarrollando estas actividades desde tiempo inmemorial, como también de que se fomente el aprovechamiento de los recursos pesqueros mundiales a través de la constitución de empresas pesqueras conjuntas.

En relación con este tema de la Seguridad Alimentaria, considero que, sin perjuicio de otros medios e instrumentos coadyuvantes, la concertación multilateral de Acuerdos sobre Productos Básicos se revela como uno de los elementos determinantes de aquella política, toda vez que permite un desarrollo más equilibrado y estable del comercio internacional sin que se produzcan oscilaciones extraordinarias en los precios del mercado, que se traducirían en situaciones de desabastecimiento. Se trata, pues, de establecer una serie de compromisos multilaterales de compra y suministro, a precios que pueden oscilar dentro de unas bandas predeterminadas, gracias a la constitución de reservas internacionales de estabilización. En este sentido, considero muy provechosos y dignos de prosecución los trabajos adelantados por los distintos Grupos Intergubernamentales del Comité de Productos Básicos, al objeto de poder elaborar proyectos de Acuerdos que constituyan la base de las negociaciones a celebrar bajo los auspicios de la UNCTAD para la concertación de aquellos Acuerdos Internacionales que responden a la necesidad de que la seguridad alimentaria mundial sea, aún durante muchos años, un objetivo principal para la mayoría de los países.

Señor Presidente, mi gobierno considera que las inversiones para el desarrollo agrario y rural deben enfocarse a la luz de un examen general de las necesidades financieras para el desarrollo. Es preciso subrayar y alentar el acento que la FAO ha puesto recientemente sobre este asunto, puesto que se trata de un desarrollo significativo en momentos en que la andadura del FIDA parece muy próxima. Teniendo en cuenta que, a lo largo de sus buenos treinta años de existencia la FAO ha acumulado experiencia y personal de contrastada competencia para la formulación y ejecución de proyectos de desarrollo agrario, parece lógico que se halle naturalmente destinada a mantener relaciones preferenciales con el nuevo Fondo Internacional.

En este sentido, me parece razonable la intención de potenciar el Centro de inversiones de la FAO, para que pueda actuar más eficazmente como promotor de una más amplia y continuada inversión en favor del desarrollo agroalimentario.

A la hora de seleccionar prioridades en la política de inversiones para el desarrollo productivo, no puede olvidarse que la llamada "Ley del mínimo" sigue siendo totalmente válida para las producciones agrarias, puesto que éstas se hallan condicionadas por la aportación del factor más escaso, que resulta limitante, entre los que intervienen en el proceso. La variabilidad de las disponibilidades de aquellos factores obliga a que la actividad de la FAO en pro del desarrollo haya de realizarse en el más estrecho contacto con las realidades agrícolas y sociales de los países, obteniendo una valiosa información de éstos a través de los programas regionales y de campo. El desarrollo agrario no puede traducirse únicamente en aumento de producción, sino que comprende aspectos tan importantes como la educación y la sanidad rurales, la industrialización agroalimentaria y la creación de infraestructuras adecuadas. En consecuencia, no cabe duda de que las Oficinas Regionales pueden y deben ofrecer el apoyo técnico necesario a las Oficinas de la Organización ubicadas en los diferentes países, especialmente en aquellas de nueva creación en el marco de la nueva política de cooperación con el PNUD.

Es preciso subrayar también la importancia que otorga mi Gobierno a la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, que está prevista se celebre en 1979, ya de cara al Tercer Decenio para el Desarrollo. La tierra es un bien escaso y hay que administrarlo justa y económicamente. Junto al reconocimiento del derecho a la conservación y utilización pública de la Naturaleza y del medio ambiente, el compromiso no puede ser otro que el de favorecer el desarrollo rural integrado, concentrando esfuerzos y recursos en favor de las poblaciones más pobres, que suelen con frecuencia ubicarse en zonas rurales, con objeto de hacerlas partícipes del bienestar y del progreso. En este sentido sigue siendo irrenunciable el objetivo de conseguir una creciente equiparación de las condiciones y calidad de vida del medio rural con las que ya disfruta el medio urbano, para lo cual es preciso completar la política de desarrollo rural propiamente dicha con otras acciones de carácter industrial y de servicios, aplicadas en y para las propias zonas rurales.

Otra importante convocatoria prevista para el próximo bienio es la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo, a la que la FAO ha de suministrar, sin duda, una importante contribución, derivada de la experiencia con que cuenta en su Centro para Desarrollo de la investigación. Considero que el apoyo multilateral a la investigación agraria debe traducirse entre otras acciones, en un asesoramiento directo a los gobiernos en la formulación de proyectos para fomentar institutos de investigación aplicada y experimental, así como en una eficaz coordinación de la labor desarrollada por las redes de investigación entre instituciones nacionales e internacionales. Buen ejemplo de esto último ha sido la reciente celebración, en mi país, en el Centro de Mejora y Demostración de las Técnicas Oleícolas de Córdoba, de dos consultas de expertos de las redes de investigación relativas a la aceituna y al girasol, completada con otra de representantes de los ocho centros de coordinación establecidos dentro del marco de actividades de la Región Europea, lo cual, es un ejemplo vivo de la cooperación ya iniciada entre diversas Regiones de la IFAO, aportando las más evolucionadas su tecnología a otras áreas que la precisen.

En materia de investigación y experimentación todo puede resultar importante, desde la conservación y mejora de recursos fitogenéticos hasta las actividades en curso para el aprovechamiento de la energía solar. Como programa a plazo medio convendría desarrollar investigaciones sobre agroenergética, destinadas a promover el cultivo industrial en zonas áridas de plantas con alto índice de rendimiento fotosintético, para emplear los productos químicos resultantes como fuente energética alternativa.

Señor Presidente, mi Gobierno considera bien fundados los progresos que están realizándose con el Sistema Mundial de Información y Alerta sobre Agricultura y Alimentación. Es preciso potenciar la realización de estadísticas básicas y los sistemas racionales de información sobre situación y perspectivas de cosecha en muchos países, y muy particularmente en los países en desarrollo, ya que ello constituye hasta ahora una de las más serias limitaciones a la eficacia del sistema. En este sentido, creo que debería prestarse una atención creciente hacia las posibilidades que ofrece la Teledetección, no sólo para el fomento de la utilización de recursos naturales en la agricultura, la pesca y los montes, sino también para la evaluación y difusión prácticamente instantánea del estadio vegetativo en que se encuentran las distintas cosechas y de sus condiciones de resistencia frente a plagas. Los dos cursos internacionales de capacitación en estas modernas técnicas que se han celebrado ya en la sede, siguiendo las recomendaciones de la Comisión de las Naciones Unidas sobre utilización del espacio ultraterrestre con fines pacíficos, constituyen una base cierta para que los Estados Miembros cuenten con personal especializado capaz de interpretar y difundir estas informaciones, perfeccionándose notablemente los mecanismos de alerta agroalimentaria a nivel mundial.

Asimismo, el nuevo programa destinado a reducir las pérdidas alimentarias poscosecha, cuya aprobación viene avalada por el Consejo, representa una iniciativa de la mayor importancia, que la Conferencia Mundial de Alimentación ya había propiciado. Por ello me parece oportuno que se constituya un Fondo para la lucha contra este tipo de pérdidas, para que se logre el triple objetivo de producir más, almacenar mejor y distribuir más justamente nuestros alimentos.

Otro programa digno de apoyo especial, destinado a resolver un problema que obviamente no puede enfocarse a base de intervenciones puntuales, es el relativo al control de la tripanosomiasis del ganado en Africa, sobre una extensión de unos diez millones de kilómetros cuadrados, donde la mosca tsetse actúa como factor limitante para todo desarrollo agrario y rural en zonas muy extensas de más de treinta y cinco países.

Señor Presidente, España, que ha desempeñado un digno papel histórico en asuntos de cooperación internacional, acaba de dar dos importantes pasos en esta senda. Con uno de ellos se ha creado recientemente en Madrid el Centro Iberoamericano de Cooperación, con la misión de potenciar, a título de plena igualdad, las relaciones de todo tipo entre los países de la Comunidad Iberoamericana, y muy particularmente las que afectan a nuestro desarrollo agrario y pesquero.

Y con el otro se ha solicitado la adhesión a las Comunidades Europeas, decisión política de gran trascendencia tomada con el apoyo de todos los partidos políticos de mi país, que llevará a España a integrarse en el futuro, como miembro de pleno derecho, en el importante conjunto político y económico constituido por la Europa Comunitaria.

Uno de los grandes objetivos que se plantean, pues, a la agricultura española, es el de conseguir una armonización productiva y una conciliación de intereses, no siempre convergentes a corto plazo, con otras agricultura, para llevar adelante el proceso de construcción comunitaria europea. España está muy lejos de propiciar con ello una política agresiva de exportaciones agrarias, pero entiende que puede contribuir a mejorar el equilibrio alimentario y nutricional de otros pueblos -y no solamente europeos- sobre la base de una razonable complementariedad productiva. Porque una política de solidaridad inteligente puede potenciar en buena medida la influencia de todos los elementos que la integran, para el logro de más avanzados niveles de bienestar.

Para terminar, Señor Presidente, permítame reiterar el espíritu constructivo con que la delegación española participa en el actual período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO. Poco significarían los índices económicos que reflejan la disparidad entre los grados de desarrollo de nuestros países, si no nos impulsasen moralmente a que prevalezca el espíritu de cooperación sobre el de la confrontación egoísta. Porque bajo ningún concepto resulta deseable que continúen persistiendo islotes de creciente pobreza relativa en el seno de cualquier comunidad humana, convencidos como estamos de que el desarrollo de un país, o de un grupo de países, está inevitablemente condicionado por el nivel de prosperidad de los demás.

E. F. WHELAN (Canada): Mr. Chairman, I wish to join those who have spoken before me to congratulate you on your election to preside over this Nineteenth FAO Conference. You bring to your high office a range of experience that will help direct our deliberations to a fruitful end. I listened and read with great interest your valuable statement outlining the current food situation and proposed future action. I am also very pleased to have the opportunity to take part in this Conference being held in this ancient city of Rome, in a year when many countries have had a bountiful harvest. I am also pleased to congratulate and welcome all the new countries into our midst.

I have always emphasised the contribution of the land and the role of the farmer. I remember attending; my first meeting at the FAO. Most people referred to those who produced foods as peasants. We hardly hear that at this Conference at all and that makes me happy. I have always emphasised the importance of the farmer and the fisherman in food production. I am a farmer first and a Minister of Agriculture second. It is gratifying to see more farmers at this Conference as Ministers of Agriculture than ever before. At the first meeting I attended on agriculture there was one other member and myself who were farmers and Ministers of Agriculture. That is not true today.

International conferences by themselves, no matter how good, will not solve the food problem. Technical and financial assistance, no matter how large by themselves, will not solve the food problem. Slogans and speeches are sterile without action. We have the land, we have the people to cultivate the land. But in each country must be the political will to bring together the land and the people because in past history those who have been associated with the production of food have always been treated on a lower basis, and still are in many parts of the world treated differently on an economic level. That their living standards should be below those in any other location is something that I cannot accept or understand. The bureaucrats must be dedicated to the cause of agriculture and the people who farm. Politicians and bureaucrats must reduce the pieces of paper that tend often to retard rather than facilitate agricultural production. I witnessed last night in this building a huge cart of paper going out ahead of me and I thought what a dreadful way to practice conservation. They must not allow fertile land to be idle beyond good agricultural practices. I like the proposal for a corps of volunteers who should work on the land and come from both developed and developing countries.

This year in Canada our farmers experienced considerable difficulty in harvesting their crops, but I am pleased to report that while the rain may have lowered the quality of grain produced, the bulk of the grain has been harvested practically 100 per cent. We expect the total production of wheat to approach 18 million tons. Taking into account last year's carry-over of 13. 2 million tons of wheat and 4. 7 million tons of feed grains, we have adequate grain supplies to meet our international and national commitments. It should be borne in mind that this production was attained despite the drop in world wheat prices. I should point out that Canadian farmers carry a substantial portion of the wheat stocks in the world. At one time Canadian farmers held in their own granaries 30 percent of the total grain reserves of the world without any compensation from anyone, neither from my Government nor from any other organization. In these cases these farmers did not even have enough money to decently educate or clothe their families. They will not return to that again. Our total feed grain production is expected to equal last year's crop of 21 million tons. Our feed grain reserves at the beginning of this year were about 5 million tons.

But what about those countries who have not been so fortunate? While the longer-term opportunities for expanding food production in food priority countries are great, in the short term, recognising the slow process of agricultural development, we know there are a number of countries in which diets are inadequate, where rapid improvements in agricultural production cannot be expected, and where there is a lack of foreign exchange. For these countries, the provision of food aid is an immediate means of overcoming hunger. Canada has long been a major provider of food aid and will remain so as long as the need persists. We are reviewing our whole food aid programme, both bilateral and multilateral, in order to determine how well it is meeting national objectives and the needs of developing countries. What I am saying is what the people of Canada want. The people of our country have backed us solidly on our food aid programmes and our participation in food aid programmes. We will continue to adapt our programmes in a constructive fashion as part of a sustained effort to further world agricultural development. The international community has learned that food aid can be a valuable development tool.

Canada supports the target of \$950 million as proposed by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for the two years 1979/80. We are proud that a Canadian, Mr. Gerry Vogel, the former Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board, has been appointed to this challenging position. New donors are needed and many of the current donors will have to increase their contribution if we are to reach the 1979/80 target.

We will continue to play our part. Canada's commitment to the World Food Programme in fiscal year 1977/78 is 400 000 tons of food grain which forms a portion of our one million ton food grain commitment for this year, together with \$13 million of non-grain food and \$10 million cash.

Canada has also announced its intention, subject to Parliamentary approval, to contribute \$7.5 million to the 500 000 ton International Emergency Food Reserve. I trust that many other countries will be able to take part in this worthwhile programme. We are also contributing \$33 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development as an expression of our continuing interest in investing in international agricultural development.

The theme proposed by the Director-General for this year's Conference "Investment in Agriculture" is very very timely. It is now three years since we met here in Rome at the 1974 World Food Conference and discussed measures to be taken to expand the world's food supplies. To me as a farmer three years is a long time to get a programme off the ground. If we farmers took that long to make decisions not many of us would be here at this meeting, we would have starved to death a long time ago.

Progress since 1974, while slower than we would wish, has been positive; for example, the formation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the current consultations on a Common Fund, advanced discussions and proposals towards a new international grains agreement, additional investments in agriculture by governments and international agencies, and encouraging signs towards liberalization of agricultural trade through the GATT negotiations. I intend to return to that shortly. Canada believes that efficient producers should not be hampered by trade restrictions. Furthermore producers' incomes should not be threatened by unfair dumping practices. Each country should develop the agricultural products where they have a comparative advantage. The positive role of the World Food Council should be emphasised, especially in the light of the Manila Communiqué which expresses more clearly suggested action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Following the recently held FAO Credit Conference, the international community in the future will have to give greater attention to the credit needs of farmers, particularly those small-scale farmers who make up the bulk of the world's producers. In Canada 95 percent of our farms are operated by the people who own them.

A farm owner in Canada actually does the work on his farm. He is not an absentee farmer who has a villa or two and a summer home. He lives full time on his farm and operates the farm and works with his family.

This is part of Canada's heritage of the settlers who broke the sod and who cleared the land by hand. These are the people whose independent spirit built the Canadian democracy. It was not for people who came to that new part of the world at that time for mineral richness to rob the land of its timber and its furs: it was the ones who came there to cultivate the land to become farmers who built the democracy that we know in Canada. I am astounded when I go to parts of the developing world to see the outstanding high interest rates that these poor farmers have to pay. Some say it is better than before for them, because they paid much higher interest rates than before. It is appalling when we see them paying 14 percent, 15 percent, 16 percent and even higher than 20 percent interest rates. If we charged our farmers that interest rate in Canada we would have a revolt. They would not put up with it for five minutes.

Thus in Canada farmers make their own investment decisions based on their assessment of the short and medium-term situation. The governments, both federal and provincial, help to realise this decisionmaking process by providing the institutional framework and a healthy economic environment, including stabilization programmes, marketing boards run by farmers, not by the Government, and a crop insurance programme.

Our own - that is the Federal Government's - Farm Credit Corporation loaned over 70 percent of all money loaned to farmers for purchase of land and other capital improvements on their farms. This is an interest rate that is set by the Government from time to time concerning the interest charged to the Department by the International Bank. I think that private institutions world-wide should be doing a much better job than they are as far as financing farmers - especially the small farmers - of the world. When I see the international banking institutions who have established, even some from my own country, and from other countries of the world, I think to myself: what a way to make money off these poor people. In most instances they are not even earning \$1 000 a year take-home pay.

During the past few years, the Canadian Government has placed increased emphasis on developing and implementing stabilisation and supply management policies in order to provide the long-term economic stability necessary to encourage farmers to make full use of their investment in machinery, fertilizers, livestock and buildings. Canadian agriculture is particularly exposed to fluctuations in the international commodity markets. About 40 percent of the gross income of Canadian farmers is derived from international trade. Over 70 percent of our cereal grains that we produce in Canada is exported. We import a lot of food also and it may be of interest to some people from tropical and semi-tropical countries that the food that we imported from you with no tariff whatsoever increased last year to 49 percent. If the food that we have under our supply management programme is accepted within our own



country, if we had been solely dependent on that, an increase in food prices in our own countries would have been practically static for the last year, but some of you, maybe most of you, did not get the benefit from those tremendous increases in those foods that we have bought from those tropical countries. We know you did not; we know the foods that we have to import are those that were subject to every kind of whim and fancy of the import/export organization that was in the world. This is not fair either, I do not think.

We are understandably concerned over the slow progress in GATT. Canada is one of the most open markets in the world for agricultural products from all parts of the world. We have removed practically every tariff on those products that we do not produce in our own country. At the same time our exports to many countries are restricted to what they call sophisticated trade barriers. I find it appalling when we try to sell products, sometimes to developing countries, sometimes to developed countries. We look at the tariff rates, we cannot find them, there is not supposed to be any tariff on those products but then we find the non-tariff barriers that are even greater than the tariff barriers because you must sell through an agent and if you do not treat him properly you are not going to sell your product. I say to those people who are counting on GATT being the answer to your problems: unless GATT can get to the bottom of those non-tariff barriers that are greater than the known tariff barriers, it will be a complete failure. And again I say: I am appalled and shocked, and to the developing countries: you have learned well from your overlords of before on how to take advantage of the systems of appointing agents to handle your product in your country. For what reason I do not know because many of the people who are buying that product that we sell to you are very poor people indeed and some of those people who are those agents, that I call, the non-tariff barriers, they are the ones that are making more money than any processor or any farmer in the developed part of the world. Don't you ever forget that: they make it by signing with a stroke of the pen, something that I again do not condone, but it is becoming more prevalent in the world as time goes on. We hear many wordy statements made about removing the tariffs in free trade. Some of the countries making those" statements have the most protectionist trade barriers and non-trade barriers in the world. We are emphasizing the GATT negotiations. We think they are great, in Canada; we think they are a step in the right direction, but I as a member of the Government personally do not think they are going to answer all the questions that many of us think they are going to answer, especially when over half the people of the world will not be represented in the GATT. The great country of China, the USSR, are not going to be represented at GATT, and there are many of you in this hall today that trade with both of those countries. We do, but they trade direct to you. Canada does not belong to any huge economic trading block whatsoever. We are not a huge economic power either and we find it very difficult to trade in some parts of the world, especially when you think our country is one in the northern hemisphere, and one of the most productive agricultural entities in the whole world; but we have difficulty trading in the world because we do not - and I emphasize that again: we do not - belong to any huge power trading block, or political block or anything. We are an independent, sovereign nation and hope to be able to maintain that status for a long time. We believe in the international commodity agreements which involve both producing and consuming countries. This is demonstrated in our active participation in the international wheat, sugar, coffee and cocoa agreements. I believe it was the Minister from Zambia this morning who pointed out the failure in the copper mining industries in the world. The head of one of the large copper mining industries in our country said: we must have a better supply/management system in copper mining in the world or we are going to destroy ourselves; yet when I suggest the same thing for agriculture procedures in my country and suggest that we have more of these things in the world, some of them immediately charge forward and say: you are going to destroy the free market system. The head of one of our farmers organizations in Canada said, I believe, in the World Food Conference that was held here, that the free market system about which so many of us speak in such glowing terms no longer existed; he said it is an albatross that should be shot down. If you think I am wrong, tell me so.

Mr. Chairman, let us be honest with ourselves. Until all nations, not just some, participate in expanding world trade, opening international markets, negotiating better international commodity agreements, we will not get far in raising the level of the increase of the pioneer producers in all our countries; we will not get that. As I have said, over half of the people in the world will not be involved in new trade negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, in examining the programme of work of FAO as outlined by the Director-General, we are in agreement that it is moving in the right direction. We admire the Director-General's drive. The ever-present challenge for both national governments and international agencies is how best to invest and utilize our scarce resources, particularly under the realities of current worldwide economic conditions of high unemployment and the continuing inflation which is besetting the world. In the interests of all countries, the vigour of the world economy must be improved. The agricultural industry must play its part in this process.

Actually, the agricultural industry in the world, in the total world, is doing a better job of fighting inflation than, say, any other production entity that I can think of, and here is a perfect example: let us look at the oil-producing nations. Have they cut their prices? Are they taking less to help the developing countries be more productive? We farmers in most of the productive areas of the world are. We have carefully studied the proposed budget of the FAO for 1978-80 and are of the opinion that there is considerable room for saving. While we are leaving the Director-General ample scope to carry out his activities, I fully appreciate that there is no simple formula to determine what would constitute an acceptable rate of programme growth for a United Nations Agency. But at a time when national governments are attempting to exercise restraint in spending, we must look closely at the activities of all the international organizations. I should point out that the FAO is also funded by various organizations outside the assessed payments. I would respectfully suggest there are many countries that can increase their contributions to FAO. Those of you know who I mean. In the Programme of Work and Budget I note the Director-General plans to increase FAO's efforts in the fields of training and extension. This is as it should be, but we must always remember that it is people with whom we are concerned, particularly those in the rural sector, and investment in human capital must have first priority. I welcome this opportunity to reiterate Canada's intention to do its part and would stress the key role of women in rural life and agricultural production.

It is heartening to note the FAO forecast of a record rice crop this year. When I was in Manila last June attending the World Food Council I visited the International Rice Research Institute. I was proud of its accomplishment, especially coming from a country in the northern hemisphere, when I learned that Canada was the second largest contributor to this Institute, and when I also realized the tremendous contribution this Institute is and will be making to many millions of people in our world who depend on rice as their main diet.

The problem that arises in many countries is that of storage facilities both at the farm, village and city levels. These are often inadequate and, as the Director-General has indicated, it is vital that the problem of post-harvest losses be dealt with effectively. Given the strenuous and costly efforts now being made throughout the world to increase food production through investment in land, water, new varieties, fertilizer plants and transportation facilities, it is vital that crops, livestock and fish should be protected from destruction until required for human consumption. I should add that the food processing industry could benefit not only from joint FAO/UNIDO cooperation, but also from joint ventures with private companies.

We support the principle of the Post-Harvest Losses Programme and its objectives. The details of the Programme need to be spelled out. Prevention of food losses is a global problem of immediate importance to all countries. Much food is lost on the farm, in transit, in handling, in the home and in the retail outlet. In the developed world, especially North America, surveys have been taken in some of the cities, both in Canada and the United States of America, and it is astounding and, again, appalling to find out that we throw away - and many of our people think it is right to throw away - an average of 300 lbs of food for every man, woman and child in the world in garbage, more than some people in many parts of the world eat in the year; can you imagine the tremendous loss of energy right from the mine, to the foundry, to the steel mills, to the farm machinery manufacture, the fertilizer manufacture? -- yet we are wasteful. We again have to realign our priorities, no matter what part of the world we are, but especially, I think, in the developed world, and realize what a wasteful group of people we really are.

I am way over my time, Mr. Chairman. We recognize the importance of marshalling resources for the international activities on the prevention of food losses. We have before us the Director-General's proposal for the use of the Suspense Account to fund FAO activities in this area. Quite frankly, Canada has a different point of view on this issue. I am confident that in Commission I a procedure will be worked out which will take into consideration the different views.

Our experience in Canada has shown that investments to increase agricultural production cannot be carried out in isolation. Appropriate policies relating to price and income stabilization, crop insurance, marketing, grading, farm management and research must also be in place.

Canada has made a substantial investment in agricultural research, at both the national and international level. Our annual expenditures are about \$110 million. At the national level our programme is carried on at 47 experimental stations.

Many of our crops that we developed are used in other parts of the world: soya beans, corn, short season corn, rape seed, wheat, the famous triticale wheat, dairy cattle, beef, poultry, etc., just to name a few of these. We have made substantial contributions to the International Institute of Agricultural Research. Canada funds the International Development Research Centre, well known to many countries as IDRC.

As a result of the recently held United Nations Conference on Water and Desertification, Canadian aid-related institutions have been requested to take full account of water and desert problems in their future project proposals. Canadian agriculture has considerable expertise in the areas of dryland farming.

That may amaze some of you, but in Southern Alberta we have some of the most advanced dry-land farming in the world and some of the greatest expertise in that area, and they have been farming there for many, many years in a semi-desert area and producing normal crops. In Canada, agriculture, as I said, has this expertise. We also have it in cereal breeding, seed multiplication, bulk storage and handling, control of plant diseases, forage crop improvement and range management, among other things, and are prepared to extend this type of technical assistance where feasible and requested by developing countries or international agencies.

Despite the large quantity of food that is transported between continents, most men and women depend on food produced in their own countries or near their towns or villages. This is why Canada strongly supports more food production or self-sufficiency in the developing countries. Canada has provided this leadership. Canada's target is to allocate 33 percent of its bilateral funds to agricultural development projects for the years 1977 to 1982. This will make it the most important single sector supported by our bilateral aid programme. Currently, some 300 agricultural projects are in place or in the planning stages in different parts of the world. Canada's total aid for all purposes and in many regions exceeds one billion dollars a year.

Mr. Chairman, the strength of our Organization, the FAO, depends on us the member countries. We must seek to work as a team. We should not be divided into groups. We should avoid domination by the minority or the majority. The strength of democracy lies in understanding and mutual cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, the farmers and the fishermen of the world are being challenged to produce more food. We recognize that for these farmers it is a matter of "give us the tools and we will do the job".

Make it enticing, give them a decent living and you will not have to worry too much about production. I have made the statement in my own country where I said so much about the productivity of the farmers in that northern country called Canada, that they could increase their productivity and practically all those things we produce now, in five years by fifty percent, if you want them to give a guaranteed economic return. We have done that in the dairy business: I have asked them for a 5 percent increase in one year and the opposition farmers said I was too generous, because I got a 15 percent increase in one year, not five years. We know the potential of these people if you give them that incentive; that is all you have to do, in any part of the world. We also agree with the challenge to governments to do their job. Canada will do its best to provide the favourable environment for increased efficient agricultural production both at home and abroad. I trust other countries, developed and developing, have the same objectives.

Thank you.

A. DAHLGrREN (Sweden) (interpretation from Swedish): First of all I would like to congratulate you Mr. Chairman and the other members of the bureau on your election. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Director-General for his very challenging statement. Furthermore we welcome the new members of this Organization and are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.

For hundreds of millions of people lack of food is a daily and grim reality. The tendency for improvement of the food situation that has been registered during the last few years thanks to good harvests cannot hide this serious state of matters. The countries of the world must therefore work together to eradicate hunger and malnutrition wherever it occurs and continue the efforts through increased production to bring about lasting improvement of the food situation. It is equally important that the foodstuffs; available are equitably distributed. Also in this field powerful and concerted international efforts are needed.

A little more than a week ago the Swedish Government presented to the Parliament a bill regarding a new agricultural policy. The need for an increased production of food in the world is the general background for the agricultural policy, that the government now proposes. Consequently the government has designed a Swedish agricultural policy that makes rational use of our natural resources for agricultural production. In principle this means that all arable land should be used for this purpose and the present area under cultivation retained. Our surplus of cereals can in this way contribute to the food requirements in the rest of the world. In this context I want to stress our common responsibility for the food supply in emergency situations and other particularly difficult circumstances.

We realize of course that the contribution to the world food requirements that Sweden in this way can make is by nature marginal in a global perspective. To improve the world food situation it is not enough that the so-called developed part of the world maintain or increase its production. Food production must increase in all countries. It is the responsibility of the developed countries to contribute to this increase by assisting the developing countries in the development of their natural and human resources.

The great need of developing countries for investment in agriculture is one among several important needs that have to be met in order to carry out the desired production increase. The estimates regarding the size of the global external resources, that annually would be needed, vary. Amounts in the magnitude of 8 billion US dollars have been mentioned. According to some estimates most developing countries can at best hope to mobilize two-thirds of their investment funds required.

The poorest and the neediest among them may need as much as half their investment requirements from external resources. We can thus note that the needs widely surpass the present resource flows. If developing countries are to attain the 4% annual production increase, which was set as a target at the World Food Conference, the developed world must increase its contributions.

There are signs indicating that the official aid commitments for agriculture during the last years have declined after having increased rapidly between 1971 and 1975. One possible explanation for the declining resource flow may be sought in the lack of prepared projects. If this is the case there are reasons for strengthening the planning capacity of both recipients and donors, including the organizations concerned.

Sweden welcomes the new emphasis in the Programme of Work and Budget aiming at reaching the poor rural populations and satisfying their basic needs of food, water, shelter and fuel. The efforts of the FAO ought to take place within the framework of the basic needs strategy adopted by the World Employment Conference in 1976.

This strategy is also in line with the concept of integrated rural development; the main responsibility of which within the UN system is now assumed by the FAO. We hope that these new priorities will also be reflected in the work in the field. In this context I want to particularly underline the importance of the resources being fairly and justly distributed between and within countries. The Swedish Government is thus prepared to give its continued support to the FAO in these important endeavours.

As I have already stated Sweden fully supports the proposals by the Director-General for increasing the food production particularly in developing countries. The desired production growth and, of course, also productivity improvements can only be brought about through improved techniques and increased supply of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds etc. But we must also see to it that these techniques take fully into account the environmental aspects. Inadequately applied technology cannot only be bad from a purely economic point of view. It can also upset the ecological framework and thus damage the natural conditions for production in a longer-term perspective. We have seen many examples of this in the history of mankind. They should not be repeated. Action has to be taken to avoid this and if possible also improve the situation.

I wish in this context to refer to the Action Programme adopted by the UN Conference on Desertification in August this year. This action programme - as well as that from the UN Water Conference - should, in my opinion be of direct concern for the FAO. I would also like to stress that the possibilities of a close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme should be given due consideration.

Even if Sweden, on the whole, is satisfied with the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, there are some important areas where we would like to see increased efforts. This relates for instance to FAO's activities on forestry. Conscious and consistent efforts on forestry, in particular village forestry, cannot only give most important contributions to an improved supply situation in rural areas but also contribute to maintaining the prerequisites for productive agriculture.

Increased efforts should be made both in the field and in the Secretariat, as an important element of the general efforts of the FAO to promote production growth in developing countries.

For similar reasons we would also like to recommend that increased resources are allocated to the promotion of fisheries. It is of special importance for the developing countries to utilize the food resource that exists in the sea. Particularly it ought to be urgent for the FAO to assist those countries, which perhaps lack the techniques and economic means to take full advantage of their recently enlarged fishing zones.

In our efforts to increase production and raise the nutritional standard we have to take into consideration the role of women. In certain areas of the world up to 80% of the small farmers are women. The women are thus an important group of producers in agriculture. It should be a natural task for the FAO to engage itself in activities aiming at integrating the women in the development process. This could be done within programmes related to training, education and extension activities in agriculture. I consider it to be of particular importance that the women participate in improving the nutritional standard in developing countries. This is one of the areas where the FAO in our opinion ought to increase its efforts.

One of the most important questions before this Conference is how to deal with food losses. I had the opportunity to discuss this matter with the Director-General during his visit to Stockholm in August. As I said on that occasion our position on the basic issue is quite clear. We are of the opinion that this is a very important field of activity, to which FAO should devote serious attention. It is closely linked to the decisions on a global plan for World Food Security. The world cannot afford to see foodstuffs destroyed as is the case today through faulty storage methods, attacks by rodents, fungi, insects, etc. As soon as possible a programme to remedy this unsatisfactory state of things ought to be part of the regular activities of the FAO.

Before us now is a proposal to set up a special fund for this purpose. Sweden's basic view regarding the establishment of new funds for special purposes is well known. We are of the opinion that the cooperation within the UN system does not benefit from fragmentation of resource flows.

Having said this let me state that Sweden accepts as a matter of exception, should the Conference so decide, that up to 10 million dollars from the Suspense Account are used to get the programme started. We are thus prepared to give our contribution to help the Director-General and FAO in this important programme. I want in this context also to point to the fact that Sweden through FAO finances certain multilateral projects, on storage activities, that no doubt are within the concept of the programme to prevent food losses. The Swedish contribution to these activities amounts to approximately 2 million US dollars.

Finally I would also like to say a few words on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We consider it of utmost importance that this Conference should give concrete and positive results. Thus it could contribute to the sustained engagement in rural development by FAO, as lead agency for these questions. We note with particular interest that the Director-General has stated his intention to make the Conference serve as a basis for action in the field for years to come. In order to reach this goal we would like to recommend - bearing in mind the short time of preparation for the Conference - that the preparations and the Conference itself aim at solving the most important problems. By trying to encompass too many problem areas one might run the risk of achieving fewer results.

If the Conference is successful we have also taken a decisive step towards an economic and social development of rural areas that will be of benefit to everybody. In this way we will also contribute to the relieving of hunger and malnutrition for millions of peoples.

R. SHARMA (Nepal): Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Two years have passed since distinguished delegates from member countries assembled here for the Eighteenth Session and deliberated upon the problems faced by the world community at large. The international economic scene seems to have eased and, since then, the forces which set the world economy in turmoil three years ago also appear to be in the process of being accommodated. In spite of our efforts in this regard the problems still exist and efforts to save mankind from hunger and malnutrition remain inadequate.

The past has called for numerous unforeseen sacrifices on our part. Many of us still feel the pinch of high inflation. More than 335 million people find themselves hungry in Asia alone. Nearly 750 million people suffer from malnutrition. The per capita income of developing countries is only one-twelfth that of the industrialised nations. The annual increase in agricultural production among developing countries compares disappointingly to the growth of population.

The rate of growth of exports from the less developed countries is much lower than that of the developed countries. Inequalities between rich and poor nations and between least developed and developing countries are all widening. The challenge to overcome these problems and the desire to establish a new international economic order in a spirit of "live and let live" still remain unfulfilled.

In spite of these shortcomings, I am optimistic, Mr. Chairman, that this assembly will arrive at conclusions that will be meaningful for the common man. I am equally confident that under your able leadership we shall have fruitful discussions not only on problems of food and hunger but also on working out the ways and means to solve these problems. Allow me, therefore, Sir, to congratulate you on being elected Chairman of this august House and on assuming a responsibility the success of which will elicit gratitude from the world majority - the impoverished and deprived humanity. May I also take the opportunity to congratulate and welcome amongst us the new members who have just joined this Organization.

We note from the Director-General's Report that agricultural production is not keeping pace with increase in population and rural poverty has increased in developing countries. This has happened despite the talk of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) in various forums of the United Nations and assistance from developed countries. Nepal believes in the importance of the New International Economic Order not as a gift of semantic pleasantries for developing nations but as an action-oriented programme that will provide for the minimum needs of food, shelter and clothing.

One of the greatest impediments to the creation of a New International Economic Order has been trade distortions between developed and developing countries creating unfavourable terms of trade for the latter. Nepal has stressed the need for developed countries to give import preference to the produce of developing countries. While the efforts of the UNCTAD and the FAO in this respect cannot go unappreciated, Nepal reiterates her demands for further action in this field.

However, while Nepal feels that co-operation between developed and developing countries will have to continue, she envisages a greater scope for technical and economic co-operation among developing countries themselves as well. Such a move will not only reduce our reliance on developed countries but also enhance the co-operation among the developing countries themselves in their development efforts.

We appreciate the initiative taken by FAO in organizing the first general assembly meeting of Asian and Pacific Agricultural Credit Associations in Delhi recently in line with the recommendation of the World Conference on Agricultural Credit in Rome in 1975. We believe that such activities will lead to useful exchange of experiences and dissemination of information among member countries.

I am pleased to report to member delegates that despite problems well beyond our control, we have been able to make reasonably good progress in national development under the able leadership of His Majesty King Birendra. Gross domestic product rose by over 3 percent during the last two years.

We are, however, not free of problems. A majority of the population still live below the poverty line. Nepal's population is estimated to be rising at the rate of 2.2 percent per year. Food production, on the other hand, increased by only 1.1 percent annually during 1965-70 and 1.9 percent annually during 1970-75. The last 2-year period has witnessed a net decrease of 2 percent in food production.

Agriculture still depends upon weather, and one bad harvest means years of difficulties. In the past, we have averted near-famine conditions due mainly to assistance from the FAO, World Food Programme and friendly countries. Although the food situation is deteriorating sizeable quantities have to be exported in order to finance imports of daily necessities. This compulsion reduces the per capita calorie consumption below the minimum standard. Even with these exports, the balance of trade has never been in Nepal's favour. If decline in production continues, food crises can soon be apprehended. Mr. Chairman, we desire a safer future.

Nepal has benefited from assistance provided by the World Food Programme. The food it provides for work creates some employment opportunities and adds to a limited degree, towards the increase in agricultural production. While there is a need to continue this kind of support, we feel that the permanent threat of hunger can be avoided if concrete actions are taken to make the World Food Security a more effective and pronounced mechanism. We in Nepal are of the belief that future food shortfalls can be greatly reduced if buffer stocks of food can be maintained within the country. Nepal, therefore, welcomes assistance from international and bilateral agencies which provide for the establishment of local food purchases and storage facilities.

In view of the Nepalese terrain and topography, high altitude agriculture should play a significant rôle in the country's development programme. So far no comprehensive research and studies have been undertaken on the problems of high altitude agriculture. Since continuous and persistent efforts are needed for the purpose, adequate institutional arrangements need to be made. Nepal cannot make such arrangements entirely on her own. International co-operation is required in establishing an international High Altitude Agriculture Research Centre. Nepal will be pleased to offer the venue for such a Centre.

The problems of ecology have also been a matter of serious concern to us. During the last thirty years, at least 50 percent of the forests on the mountain slopes is reported to have been destroyed. It is estimated that the area under forest at present does not exceed 11 percent of the total area of the country. Recurrent floods cause severe landslides in the upper parts and heavy siltage in the lower regions of the Himalayas. Soil erosion has proved to be not only troublesome to Nepal but also to her neighbours. Nepal alone is not in a position to solve the problem. International cooperation is needed for the purpose.

We abound in water. But harnessing of this resource has been insignificant. Although the economically exploitable hydro-power potential of Nepal is estimated at about 8,000 megawatts, total installed capacity has not reached even 100,000 kilowatts. Less than 10 percent of cultivated land has irrigation facilities. Nepal, despite her persevering attempts, has not been able to attain significant progress in this regard. It would require substantial assistance from outside to enable us to harness water resources better and improve the lot of the poor. We believe any assistance to Nepal in this sphere will be of benefit not only to her alone, but to other nations as well.

We are confident that the measures and policies taken during the past few years will soon bear fruit for the common man. In our attempt to concentrate on the majority of the population, we firmly subscribe to the principle of growth with equity. We believe that considerations of growth cannot be neglected in a country where per capita income is less than a hundred dollars. At the same time, disregard of equity would be a crime against the very principles of human welfare and social justice.

As an approach towards equity, we have adopted regionalisation in development planning. The country is divided into four regions in order to ensure adequate dissemination of developmental activities. It is our belief that measures along these lines will decentralize income, investment and employment opportunities. Since employment generation among the masses will need to form the key ingredient in any programme for the eradication of poverty in a surplus labour economy, we in Nepal have taken great pains to create employment opportunities through public works programme, intensive land use and the expansion of irrigation and other facilities.

We believe that fruits of development should filter down to the smaller farmers in order to ensure equity. To achieve this end and in support of the Manila Declaration on Food and Agriculture of 1976, we have accelerated the programme of establishing village co-operatives. Under this programme, grass-root level 'Sajha' co-operatives have been established that gear their programmes of marketing, credit, input and supplies and the collection of savings for the use of small farmers.

Some progress has been made in meeting credit requirements at village level through institutional channels. It may be noted that institutional credit supply has now been able to meet 35 percent of credit requirements of farmers, as compared to only 20 percent some years ago. The 'Sajha' co-operative acceleration programme can be expected to further raise the institutional credit substantially.

We find that the Asian economy is beset with problems faced by the small farmers. The FAO as the international agency involved in the transfer of suitable agricultural technology among member nations, has an important rôle to play in helping the small farmer increase his production capacity. We highly commend the activities of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Far East, which has been giving due attention to the problems of small farmers. We equally appreciate its efforts to strengthen village level organization to the benefit of small farmers. We strongly feel that FAO should not only continue its present efforts but also further strengthen and expand the small farmer programme.

For us in Nepal, the Green Revolution has provided hopes of a better world. Unfortunately, these hopes have not yet materialized to any significant level. Poverty is still a grim reality despite some improvements in yields. However, we have not lost faith in the High-Yielding Varieties. Given the proper usage of water, suitable prices of fertilizers and stable food prices, we believe that the Green Revolution will eventually succeed. Apart from the need to accelerate production there is also a need to make full use of all that is produced. In this regard the Director-General's proposal to reduce crop losses is certainly an act of prudence.

Recent trends have not discouraged us. We have accorded top priority to integrated rural development programmes. Since we believe that mere agricultural development is not adequate to raise living standards of the rural poor the majority of whom have, on an average, less than a hectare of farm land, we have adopted a strategy of integrated rural development wherein the entire rural economy becomes vibrant and the proper use of surplus labour and scarce land is ensured for the rural poor. With agriculture as a core component in the strategy, it embraces the entire gamut of activities bearing on the rural economy. In the agricultural component, crop-livestock integration is undertaken as an inalienable single whole at the farm level. In this context, we feel that the Director-General's programme for the organization of a World Conference on Agrarian Reform augurs very well.

Various friendly nations and multilateral organizations have been of immense help to us in project activities concerning rural development. There has been a growing emphasis on investment programmes and project formulation for investment purposes. We welcome this trend and strongly support the Director-General's emphasis on the need for project preparation. We firmly believe and emphasize that national institutions should be strengthened for preparing projects for international and bilateral financing.

We also support the Director-General's programme for Technical Cooperation which he has initiated in FAO and which we hope will provide needy countries timely assistance in their developmental activities.

We feel that the FAO has a significant role to play in initiating co-operation among developing countries. We welcome the Director-General's efforts to harmonize activities within and outside FAO and support his emphasis on the need for decentralization. We hope that in this process the regional offices of FAO will be provided enough support to play an active rôle in bringing about co-operation among the countries of the region. Similarly, we would like to see that the newly established FAO offices have enough authority and resources to provide meaningful services to member countries.

I have made these brief comments on some policy matters. There are other substantive items in the agenda, which of course will be discussed in the commission meetings. However, before I conclude, I would like to make a brief remark on the need for better harmonization of activities related to food and agriculture. This is particularly important in relation to the rôle of the World Food Council, the International Fund for Agricultural Development vis-à-vis the programmes of FAO. The complementary rôles of these organizations in assisting member nations cannot be overstated. We hope that the efforts of these agencies will lead towards a dependable system of international co-operation to save humanity from hunger and malnutrition.

A. CABLAN (Syria) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. President, it pleases me to congratulate you for the confidence which the participating delegations in this conference have vested in you by electing you as Chairman, and I wish you every success in guiding our discussions towards positive conclusions that will contribute towards the fulfilment of the normal aims of the Organization of the FAO.

It is indeed an honour for me to lead the delegation of the Syrian and Arab Republic at the 19th Session of the Conference of the Organization, and for our delegation to participate with the other delegations in dealing with the crucial issues which are tabled for this Session. It also pleases me that this Conference should take place on the land of a friendly country, a country whose friendship we cherish and a country with whom we have historical relations.

During the last few days, we have listened to the valuable statements made by delegations. I hope I shall not speak at length, but I shall concentrate on a few points which I believe it is my duty to bring to the notice of the Conference.

The issues pertaining to development of food production and all relative questions of consumer prices, trade, investment, and financing have come to occupy the attention of international circles and the governments of developing and developed countries alike. We, in the Syrian and Arab Republic are seeking to participate with the international community in dealing with this issue within the limit of the means available to us and as far as this is possible.

Foremost among these endeavours and efforts is the decisive step taken by the President of our Republic when he decided to give the efforts of our country a political domination and when he emerged from the narrow technical sphere to the wider sphere of the policy which is followed by all levels of leadership.

At a general agricultural symposium headed by the Prime Minister himself and attended by members of the political leadership, popular organizations, agricultural experts, engineers, tourists and administrators, all aspects of the agricultural problem were considered, both political, structural, organizational and technical aspects and the symposium adopted specific resolutions for the implementation of which the Government is going to work. This is on the political level.

On the technical level our fourth 5-Year Plan, 1976-1980, which is about to enter its third year, has adopted an integrated strategy aimed at consolidating the rates of production growth and ensuring the optimum growth of agricultural proposals. This strategy consists of the following main points:



First, the application of the system of agricultural intensification by virtue of which about 1 million hectares of agricultural land which are left uncultivated each year are going to be cultivated with feed crops and pulses, and we have actually achieved a surplus of these crops, a part of which we have started to export where formerly we used to complain of the shortage.

In line with this strategy, we have also started to apply a widespread programme for the protection of desert pastures and to organize the exploitation and the improvement of vegetative cover. We have received assistance in this respect from the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme, and it has become the model to be achieved in this region. Foremost among the achievements of this strategy is the expansion in the cultivation of Mexican wheats in the well-integrated lands which formally were only cultivated with summer crops. At the moment we have secured a minimum annual production which is not less than 1 1/2 million tons of wheat, and are committing ourselves to the policy of food security and increasing the storage capacity of grain silos from 400 000 tons to 800 000 tons.

In line with this strategy also, our production of eggs has gone from 200 million in 1974 to 700 million in 1976.

In the field of exploitation of mountain slopes which enjoy a fertile soil and have a sufficient amount of rainfall, we have started to implement an ambitious programme for the afforestation of about 90 000 hectares depending on rain capacity, and we expect to receive assistance from the international and bilateral sources of financing in order to complete this programme, which was considered and prepared with the assistance of the joint programme and cooperation of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the international grant for reconstruction and development.

The President of the Republic has called for the planting of 25 million forest trees and 10 million fruit trees annually.

The second important point in our agricultural development strategy is to concentrate on the integrated rural development with its housing and standard of living aspect, in addition to productivity. Enormous investments were earmarked for the plan. A considerable amount has already been spent on the industrialization of the country and the introduction of electricity and potable water for all the villages with a population of more than 1 000. A large number of agricultural industries have been initiated such as sugar, canned fruit and vegetables and oils, and other industries such as fertilisers, shoes and ready-made clothes were established in all parts of the country instead of being concentrated in the towns.

We hope that as a result of the application of this strategy we shall succeed in checking the constant migration from the village to the town.

I am moved by optimism to point to the fact that many of our agricultural projects constitute living models of what can be achieved by international cooperation in the way of study and investment. In order to find increased food production. The support we are receiving from specialised organizations and from sources of international financing, as well as from our Arab brothers and our friends all over the world, is always met with gratitude and admiration on our part. In this sphere we have welcomed the tendency to decentralization which constitutes part of the new policy proposed by the Director-General of the Organization and approved by the Council, and we shall work hard to benefit in full from the programmes of the Organization, particularly the programme of technical assistance which has already started its activities, thanks to the immediate response of the Director-General by extending aid to a number of projects and paving the way for some vital investment projects. Also among the programmes of the Organization from which we have already benefited is the programme of intergovernmental cooperation for Near-East countries, which has participated in two important projects for training and rehabilitation. We look forward to benefiting further from the other programmes, such as the international programmes for fertilisers and the industrial cooperative programmes particularly in a number of agricultural industries. I cannot but pay tribute to the conspicuous results achieved through the World Food Programme of a number of projects of self-help and food production in my country. In the name of my Government I appeal to all countries participating in the financing of this Programme to increase their contribution to enable us to achieve the target of \$950 million.

I would like to express my deep satisfaction at the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to which we are looking forward with great optimism because of the benefits which will accrue to developing countries, including Syria, from its investment services. We are confident that the person who has been entrusted with the management of the Fund is capable of fulfilling its aspirations, and the countries which have contributed merit our thanks. The effective cooperation between all these international and regional programmes and institutions will improve the level of the use of the rich agricultural resources in the Middle East regions, diverting those regions

from importers of foodstuffs to becoming self-sufficient, or even exporting regions which would contribute to solving the problem of food shortage in the world to which we are devoting great attention.

In conclusion, I would like to wholeheartedly welcome the new Member States which have recently joined the Organization.

I would like to reaffirm my delegation's gratitude to the Italian Government for the hospitality that it has accorded us.

My thanks and appreciation go to the member countries of FAO which participated in organising the Conference and which have made available excellent technical facilities.

Thank you for listening. I wish our Conference every success.

The meeting rose at 18. 20 hours

La seance est levée à 18 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 20 horas

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

NINTH PLENARY MEETING  
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENTERE  
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(17 November 1977)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09. 55 hours,  
O. R. Borin, . Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance planiere est ouverte à 9 h 55 sous la présidence  
de O. R. Borin, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava so sion plenaria a las 09. 55 horas, bajo la  
presidencia de O. R. Borin, Vicepreaidante de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

- Gambia, China, Albania, Israel, Burma, Venezuela, Finland, Portugal, Mauritius

A. YAYA L. CEESAY (Gambia): First of all, I wish to join my colleagues who spoke before me in congratulating you on your election as Chairman to preside over the deliberations of this august assembly. I am sure that under your wise guidance and Chairmanship this conference will reach very fruitful conclusions. Also, I want to take this opportunity to welcome our brothers from Angola, Comoros, Mozambique, Namibia, represented by the UN Council for Namibia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea as members of the FAO,

Once again we meet in Rome to review the World Food and Agricultural situation as well as to consider the activities and programmes which the FAO intends to follow and implement to assist in bringing about a high level of agricultural production in the world. To us in the third world this is a fundamental goal that the FAO should pursue with vigour and I am happy to note that the organization is beginning to be aware of its responsibilities in this direction. We also welcome the practical steps being taken by the FAO under its Director-General and hope that this new orientation of the organization will be strongly supported by all Governments as the impact of these new measures are beginning to be felt in some of our countries and we hope that these programmes will be further strengthened.

My Government will particularly wish to place on record its support for the Action Programme presented by the Director-General on the prevention of food losses. The Gambia, like other countries in the SAHEL, loses every year a substantial amount of crops through pests infestation. Although the Gambia with the assistance of the FAO and USA has begun to recognize, expand and strengthen its crop protection services, it still needs substantial assistance to procure the necessary pest" fighting equipment, pesticides to stem the invasion of our crops by pests. The Gambia suffers great economic losses through pests infestation and we see in this programme the possibility of a global movement to assist in removing those constraints that stop developing countries from mounting effective campaigns to reduce or prevent altogether the havoc being wrought on our crops by pests. We would also like to give our full support to the Technical Cooperation Programme which was accepted by the July 1976 Session of the Council. The Gambia is one of the first countries to benefit from the T. C. P. Without the prompt assistance we received from Technical Cooperation Programme last year, the Gambia would have suffered a disastrous farming season due to a unprecedented plague of pests that threatened our cereal crops. We feel that the Technical Cooperation Programme is the most significant and worthwhile programme ever undertaken by the FAO and its scope should be expanded by increasing the resources made available to this programme.

We also welcome the move made by the Director-General to decentralize FAO activities by strengthening the capacity of Regional Offices and the appointment of country representatives to the countries that would need assistance most in the development of their agricultural sectors. This move, I am sure, will enable the organization to be more responsive to the needs of member countries and closer to the unique realities that exist in each member nation.

My Government considers the theme of the 19th Session of the FAO Conference very appropriate at this point in time in our national development efforts. The Gambia has for the first time launched a comprehensive National Development Plan. The Plan is an attempt to take a substantial step forward, involving in particular much more specific definition of national objectives and where possible targets, establishing a frame for maximising integration, co-ordination and executive ability in the public sector. In the Plan, particular attention will be paid to agriculture and Agro-industries. This sector has priority in the plan over all other on manpower and resources that can be mobilized both nationally and internationally.

My Government has already started to implement the Plan with vigour and determination, and is now attempting to attain a significant boost in agricultural production to meet the goals of the Plan in this sector which are as follows:

- (1) improving nutrition standards in rural areas;
- (2) eliminating bulk cereal imports, in particular rice;
- (3) diversifying rural cash incomes;
- (4) achieving a 35 percent rate of growth in domestically consumed foodstuffs and 45 percent rate of growth in marketed export cash crops at the end of the plan period;
- (5) increasing development expenditure in agriculture over the period 1975-1980.

In translating this policy objective into action programmes especially in the area of food crops particularly rice, 4 000 acres of land have been brought under irrigation already and we plan to increase this acreage to 7 000 acres by 1980. The reclamation of this extra 3 000 acres to be exact, is to be phased out over five years. The expansion of the acreage under irrigation is being undertaken with the assistance of The People's Republic of China and it is heartening to note that the target is being achieved successfully. Efforts are also being made to consolidate the existing 5 000 acres of land already under irrigation. The consolidation is taking the form of replacing existing equipment and the lining of irrigation canals which are presently earthlined. This scheme will cost a lot of money and local funds are presently being used to push this project forward.

Also a major drive in increasing the production of rice in our swamp areas is being undertaken. Particular attention is being given improving swamps where salinity and/or acidity is a problem, as well as the development of two large swamps in the Eastern part of The Gambia. These swamps contain 10 000 acres of potential rice land. My Government is giving great attention to this project which needs to be urgently developed considering that our import bill for rice is rising rapidly. We are presently importing about 30 000 tons of milled rice annually and it is expected that this figure will rise with increasing population, urbanization as well as increases in incomes. We hope that with the full development of these swamps about 50 000 tons of paddy rice will be produced and that this will go a long way in reducing our dependence on rice imports. The studies for the development of these swamps have already started, using local funds, and will be completed by the end of 1978. Their development, however, will need considerable financial investment.

Our efforts in food production are not limited to rice alone. Attention is also being directed towards other traditional cereal crops like millet, maize and sorghum. Package programmes are being introduced in the production of these crops to maximize their yields. Intensive demonstration of improved husbandry practices have been mounted in all 35 districts of the country with the village serving as the unit of demonstration, using a package of improved practices such as good seeds, timely planting, adequate plant population, fertilizer, seed dressing and adequate crop protection measures. Efforts are also being made to provide families with improved implements. It is hoped that when the above programme picks up yields will be increased by 50 to 80 percent.

'We are keenly aware that our efforts must be redoubled if we have to meet the objectives and targets set for the Agricultural Sector. In this respect, an integrated rural Development Project financed from loans by IDA and BADEA and a sizeable grant from ODM has also been started. This project aims at increasing the cereal and cash crop production and livestock production of some 25 000 farming families, living in 65 selected villages. This project has many components relating mainly to the strengthening and up-grading of Mixed Farming Centres, providing training of and support for extension workers and the supplying of inputs (seeds, fertilizers, oxen and implements), as credit in kind to farmers through a strengthened and better organized cooperative movement.

In the field of Livestock Production, the project is seeking to expand Animal Health campaigns by providing the necessary drugs, equipment and transport, by a better utilization of dry-weather grazing, through the provision of water and stock routes, the amelioration of traditional husbandry practices and the improvement of marketing infrastructure. Our Department of Animal Health and Production has been significantly expanded and reorganized, and as a result, the pastoral community is being offered an increasingly improved extension service. A comprehensive sectoral livestock programme is also being developed. The project would seek to support the 42 Livestock Owners Association that have been established all over the country in matters relating to grazing, land development and utilization, improved husbandry programmes, better marketing arrangements and the development of production activities related to small ruminants and poultry.

For some time to come the development of Agriculture in The Gambia will depend on the efforts and activities of the small farmer. Thus, special attention is being given to the development of the Co-operative Movement with the view to making it more effective in delivering the necessary services in the areas of marketing and the provision of inputs etc., to the small farmer.

While my Government is concerned with the country's agricultural production capacity and so to help eliminate the food deficit, it is also not forgetting its responsibility to protect our vital natural resources. We feel that as much as it is necessary to increase agricultural production, our activities in this area must be done in concert with policies and practices best calculated to conserve the environment and promote its long range improvement. It goes without saying that in the fragile eco-system of The Gambia it is imperative that we painstakingly husband our natural resources if we have to head off the kind of disasters that have befallen some countries. In this respect, we have plans to set up a soil and water management unit under my Ministry, with the assistance of the United States Government; the major objective of the Unit will be the development of a long-term policy aimed at establishing proper land use and water management practices in the agricultural patterns of the country. In the field of Fisheries, my Government has now developed a comprehensive fisheries policy with the assistance of the FAO. The broad objective of which is to manage our fisheries resources in a rational manner so as to guard against their over exploitation and with a view to maximising the contribution of the fisheries sector to the national economy in terms of:

- a) production of sufficient food for local consumption;
- b) income generation;
- c) job opportunities for Gambians;
- d) the development of the artisanal fishery and the creation of a viable industrial fishery;
- e) foreign exchange earnings.

Considering that our fisheries industry is grossly underdeveloped, the translation of this policy objective into action programmes will involve substantial investments running into millions of dalasis. Investment in this area will be well justified both in terms of employment and nutrition, the potential financial returns and foreign exchange earnings. The EEC has recently approved funds to assist us in the development of the artisanal fisheries sector. However, more funds will be needed to develop the Industrial Fisheries Sector, the development of which will for obvious reasons be phased out over a number of years.

In keeping with my Government's preoccupation to protect our natural resources, the Forestry resources of the country will also be protected. Apart from declaring some areas as forest parks, progress is being made in preparing hundreds of acres for replanting. Following a new forestry law passed this year, we hope that the designated forest parks will be protected from wanton destruction. Furthermore, efforts are being made to find substitute fuel to charcoal which is totally derived from our forests. If we are successful in this venture, we confidently believe that what is left of our forests will be saved for future generations.

The need for the development of our water resources is paramount. The importance of water to our survival and progress demands also that the available water resources must be conserved, both in terms of quality and quantity, and efficiently utilized so as to ensure their most beneficial and reasonable usage. In this respect, my Government is looking into the matter of introducing a comprehensive water legislation in the country for the first time and establishing the necessary institutional framework for its enforcement.

Also my Government is actively involved in activities related to the Gambia River Basin Development. We are happy to inform this assembly that the Multi-Donor Mission fielded under the aegis of the UNDP, which drew specialists from as many donor countries as possible, have presented their draft report on the development of the Gambia River Basin. The Mission has formulated development strategies and support programmes that could be adopted and accomplished in three phases, beginning as early as possible up to the year 2000.

In the first phase, apart from the feasibility studies to be carried out on the various projects outlined in the Mission's report, a salinity barrage, which has been proved feasible by an ODM study, is to be constructed. The salinity barrage is vital to the future development of agriculture in The Gambia. With the construction of the barrage, it will be possible to provide a control on salt water intrusion in the Gambia River, thus making fresh water available for the production of food and fibre for the people. My Government places great importance on the construction of this barrage, without which our development programme for irrigated agriculture will be stunted. This will augur well for The Gambia as it is being increasingly realized that we cannot depend on the erratic nature of our rainfall for the sustenance of our crops, as adequately demonstrated during this decade.

In addition to the above, a study of our groundwater resources will be undertaken with the assistance of the United States Government. This project is of vital importance to the development of horticultural crops in the western part of The Gambia. The use of groundwater for irrigation will be pushed vigorously when the quantity and quality of our water resources have been determined.

Mr. Chairman, before concluding I would again wish to inform this august assembly that The Gambia has again been subjected to drought conditions like the other Sahelian countries. Rainfall in The Gambia this year has been very erratic, and the total precipitation recorded is well below normal.

As a result of the poor and erratic rainfall, crops sown during the very first rains were lost. The crops that were planted late, because of the drought, have also suffered a high incidence of pest infestation of crops, mainly by such field pests as millipedes, army worms, grasshopper and blister beetles. Our experts have estimated that our food crop losses this year will amount to about 46 percent.

In a normal year, about 59 000 tons of food crops are harvested. It is however estimated that there will be a shortfall of about 24 000 tons this year.

My Government faced with this situation, has mounted an immediate relief operation and has appealed to the international community for assistance to obviate the problem of hunger and starvation which will follow the drought. The international community has responded promptly to our appeal and I am to thank, on behalf of the Government of The Gambia, the countries that have shown, one way or the other, their humanity in coming to our aid at this time of our need. I would specifically like to extend our gratitude to the Governments of the United States of America, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, the EEC and the WFP and the Director-General, for helping to arouse the international community to be aware of the drought situation in the Sahel. We are particularly touched also by the assistance we received from a sister African country, the Republic of the Ivory Coast.

Having said this, one must accept the fact that countries like The Gambia that are persistently exposed to the dangers of drought must begin to take steps to free themselves from the vagaries of the weather. It is for this reason that my country attaches great importance to the outcome of the second conference of the Club du Sahel held in Ottawa, Canada in 1977. At this conference, a first generation programme for the Sahel was drawn up covering such areas as dryland farming, irrigated agriculture, livestock, fisheries and water resources development. What was noteworthy during that meeting was the most positive attitude adopted by the developed countries, their readiness to pledge large amounts of resources and put their technical know-how at the disposal of the Sahelian countries for the long-term development of these countries. My Government wishes to place on record its gratitude to the countries that are ready to subscribe to the development of the Sahel and would like to applaud the United States of America, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom, and also the United Nations Agencies, the IBRD, the ADB, BADEA, the Islamic Bank and all those who pledged their support for the Sahel development programme.

My Government feels that this is the type of support needed by the developing countries and if this assistance comes to fruition, some of our basic problems of food, shelter and environmental deterioration will be solved.

HSIAO PENG (China) (interpretation from Chinese): It is a privilege and pleasure for me to address this Conference today. Please allow me, first of all, to congratulate you, Minister Toyib Hadiwijaya, on being elected Chairman of the Conference, and to extend our warm welcome to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a new member of this Organization and her first delegation to an FAO Conference. Under the leadership of their great leader Kim Il-Sung, the Korean people have made great achievements and gained rich experience in agriculture and rural development. We believe that they will make positive contributions to the work of this Organization as well as to the struggle in the food and agricultural sphere for the establishment of a New International Economic Order. We also cordially welcome other new members of FAO, Comoros, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles, who will strengthen the ranks of the Third World countries in FAO and make useful contributions to its work.

The current Conference is convened in an excellent international situation which is becoming more and more favourable to the struggle of the people of the world. Uniting themselves, large numbers of Third World countries have made great efforts and achieved gratifying results in safeguarding their political independence and developing their national economies. In food and agriculture, many Third World countries have, since the last Conference, continued to develop food production on a priority basis and raised both their total grain output and rate of self-sufficiency in food.

By making full use of local agricultural resources, not a few Third World countries have implemented a policy of comprehensive development of farming, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery in the light of local conditions, thereby beginning to overcome the backwardness of their rural areas resulting from past imperialist and colonial rule. More and more Third World countries producing agricultural primary products have united themselves and fought tirelessly for the improvement of the unequal and unfair international trade terms for agricultural products.

Third World countries have also started a struggle to safeguard their sovereignty over agricultural and fishery resources against superpower exploitation and control through trans-national corporations and "joint enterprises". Through individual or collective self-reliance, quite a number of Third World countries have set up their own agricultural input industries and agro-research institutions.

What is even more noteworthy, from Freetown to Manila, from Tunis to Lima, powerful appeals were issued at all FAO regional conferences held last year for the establishment of a New International Economic Order in the world food and agriculture sphere. Some Second World countries have also endeavoured to develop food and agricultural production and continued to make dialogues and contacts with Third World countries in this respect.

Internationally, it is the common task of us Third World countries to oppose superpower exploitation, plunder and control in the food and agriculture field. Facts have proved over the years that as long as we Third World countries strengthen our solidarity, rely on ourselves and unite with all forces that can be united in waging an unrelenting struggle against hegemonism, imperialism and colonialism, the establishment of a New International Economic Order can well be realized and the prospects for food and agricultural development are also bright.

Now as ever, the speedy development of food production in the Third World remains our pressing task. Although the world food situation has somewhat improved recently, one must never forget what happened during the food shortage after the 1972 worldwide crop failure. At that time, one superpower snatched up food supplies right and left, sending prices sky-high, and the other superpower took advantage of the situation to reap huge profits, while it was the numerous food-deficient countries in the Third World who suffered most. It is, therefore, essential for the Third World countries to make tenacious efforts to develop food production and continuously raise the rate of self-sufficiency in food. With food in hand, everything else will be easier to do.

Chairman Mao, the great leader and teacher of the Chinese people, taught us, "Agriculture has a vital bearing on the nation's economy and the people's livelihood. Take heed, for it is very dangerous not to grasp grain production. " We keenly realize from our experience over the 28 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China that agriculture is the foundation of the national economy while grain production is in turn the foundation of agriculture. Only by doing a good job of food and agricultural production, will it be possible to stimulate the development of industry and of the national economy as a whole. That is why our Government has consistently attached great importance to the development of agriculture, especially grain production. We are now able to feed more than one-fifth of the world's population with less than 7 percent of the world's cultivated land. This was totally inconceivable in pre-liberation old China before 1949.

Led by our wise leader Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and determined to carry out Chairman Mao's behests, our eight hundred million people are firmly implementing the series of principles and policies personally formulated by Chairman Mao concerning the development of agriculture. In so doing, we are making determined efforts to overcome the consequences of the interference and sabotage by the counterrevolutionary conspiratorial "Gang of Four" of Wang Hung-Wen, Chang Chun-Chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-Yuan in our agricultural work and carry forward the mass movement to learn from Tachai in agriculture throughout China's countryside.

Despite the severe natural calamities, we still won a good grain output in 1976, which was slightly higher than the bumper harvest of 1975. This year, agricultural production in China has been affected, by serious drought in spring, excessive rains and typhoons in summer and various other natural disasters. But inspired by Chairman Hua's wise strategic decision to "grasp the key link of class struggle and bring about great order across the land", our people have waged a stubborn struggle against nature and managed through hard work to bring in a good harvest. The output of such staple crops as grain, cotton and oilseeds has all increased over last year, while further progress is recorded in forestry, animal husbandry, side-line production and fishery.

In recent years, the movement to learn from Tachai, the national pacesetter in agriculture, has stimulated agricultural development in China. Tachai, which is a small hilly village, has not only made a great impact on the county and prefecture where it is located, but has spurred the development of



agriculture throughout the country. This fully demonstrates the superiority of China's socialist system. Here, I would like to give a brief account of the movement to learn from Tachai in agriculture which is sweeping China's countryside.

Situated in Hsiyang county, Shansi Province, Tachai is a production brigade with some eighty peasant households. In the past, this mountain village used to suffer from inclement nature and degrading poverty. But the people of Tachai have earnestly acted on Mao Tse-tung Thought and kept to the path of socialism. Giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle and the advantages of collective economy, they have undertaken large-scale farmland reconstruction centred on soil improvement and water conservancy; they have adopted scientific methods in farming and run their production brigade with thrift and industry; and they have cultivated and displayed the noble quality of loving the state and cherishing their collective. In this way, for the last two decades and more, the people of Tachai have surmounted one difficulty after another and increased their grain output year after year. Their per-hectare yield of grain in 1976 averaged 8.3 tons, or more than four times that of 1955, the year after the first agricultural cooperative was organized. In the meantime, Tachai has diversified its production so successfully that its proceeds from forestry, livestock-breeding and sideline production were as much as 76 times higher than 1955. With public assets accumulating sixty-fold, Tachai has provided all the construction funds it needed, while the living standard of its people has improved markedly. A new socialist village brimming with vigour and prosperity has taken shape at Tachai.

Like a shining red banner, the example of Tachai was held up by Chairman Mao personally, as it points the way forward for China's new socialist countryside and provides a model to be emulated by all Chinese villages. In 1964, Chairman Mao issued the call for peasants throughout the country to follow the example of Tachai. Thereupon, a great movement unfolded to learn from Tachai in agriculture, to which Premier Chou En-lai gave his personal guidance. In the past few years, "Chairman Hua presided over two successive national conferences on learning from Tachai, which was attended by several thousand delegates, giving a new impetus to the movement. It is not just people's communes and production brigades that learn from Tachai; in the present stage, the emphasis is on building up Tachai-type counties throughout China.

The Hsiyang county where Tachai is situated is poorly endowed by nature and used to have low yields of grain. From 1967 onwards the county started to learn from Tachai's experience in real earnest. Relying on and mobilizing its human, material and financial resources, Hsiyang engaged in the integrated development of mountains, rivers, farmland, afforestation and roads in accordance with a county-wide plan. In nine years' time, a total of 110 million cubic metres of earth and stone work was done on farmland reconstruction or water conservancy projects, with the result that over 4 000 hectares of waste hillsides, dry riverbeds or barren gullies were turned into good cropland, over 5 300 hectares of rainfed land were brought under irrigation and another 20 000 hectares of cultivated fields were otherwise improved. By 1975, as compared with ten years before, the annual grain output of the county had almost quadrupled, its revenue from agriculture tripled and its public assets increased 6.7 times. By learning from Tachai, Hsiyang has brought about fundamental changes in its natural environment, its conditions for agricultural production and the mental outlook of its people. It has thus emerged as an advanced county, a pioneer in the national movement for building up Tachai-type counties.

By 1975, of China's 2 100 odd counties, over 300 had become Tachai-type counties. These were joined by another hundred or more in 1976. We are determined to turn one-third of China's counties into Tachai-type counties by 1980.

The movement to learn from Tachai in agriculture is yet another great revolutionary mass movement in the countryside following on the successive movements for land reform, for agricultural cooperation and for the establishment of people's communes. It started at a point in history when China's hundreds of millions of peasants, as masters of their own country and having taken the road of socialism, eagerly desired to build socialism in China with greater, faster, better and more economical results. It is educating China's hundreds of millions of peasants in the basic line of the Chinese Communist Party, giving full play to their enthusiasm for socialism and pushing China's agriculture ahead through self-reliance and hard struggle - such is the Chinese way of developing agriculture.

In the great movement to learn from Tachai in agriculture, the broad masses of Chinese peasantry remake nature in the indomitable revolutionary spirit of daring to battle against heaven and earth, and gradually transform all unfavourable conditions for agricultural production. We know that the kind of backward agriculture inherited from old China, when all farmland remained as it had always been and mountains and rivers were never harnessed, was utterly unreliable, as it was completely at the mercy of nature. To change this state of affairs, we have summed up the experience of Tachai in undertaking farmland reconstruction centred on soil improvement and water conservation. We are

determined to spare no pains and work our hardest to build up, gradually and throughout the country, farmland that is ensured of high and stable yields despite drought and excessive rain, thus fundamentally changing the conditions of our agricultural production.

In recent years, we have on average levelled 5.3 million hectares of cropland, improved 660 000 hectares of hillside fields and brought 1.6 million hectares under irrigation every year. In this way, we have gradually improved conditions for agricultural production, raised our ability to combat natural calamities and, moreover, created favourable conditions for the mechanization of China's agriculture.

China is a developing socialist country. At present, our agriculture is not yet advanced, neither are our food supplies plentiful. But we are determined to put in three years of hard work, so that by 1980 we expect to make still greater progress in farming, forestry, livestock-breeding, fishery and sideline production and realize in the main the mechanization of agriculture. Further on, we shall strive to modernize our agriculture before the century is out and make a greater contribution to humanity.

KRISTAQ KULE (Albania) (interpretation from Albanian): Mr. Chairman, Allow me, first of all, to extend my greetings, on behalf of the delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, to the newly-admitted members, of FAO, and wish the peoples of those countries success in their all-round development. The problems of agriculture and food are directly linked with the efforts carried by the countries and peoples for economic and social development, for the security and strengthening of their political and economical independence. By sorting agricultural and food problems out of the sheer economic framework and putting them at the fore plans of the politics of the country, we consider them as linked with all world-important problems, as well as with the international situation in general.

The 19th Session of FAO Conference is taking place in a situation when working masses and freedom-loving peoples of the world struggle with abnegation against political oppression and economic exploitation of the imperialist powers and first of all against that of USA and Soviet Union, in the defence of the sovereign rights and for securing a better life, for the achievement and strengthening of their political and economical independence. The liberation movement of the peoples is ever rising at higher levels, both in content and intensity. The struggle of the progressive and democratic forces against fascism and reaction is increasing and broadening. Peoples are becoming more conscious about the danger the policy of aggression, expansion and hegemony of US imperialism and Soviet socialimperialism presents to their life. These victories testify that in spite of all means the superpowers have at their disposal, they are not able to submit the peoples and the countries, be them small, when they are determined to fight to the end and to make every sacrifice.

The imperialist powers try by all means to throw the heavy burden of economic, politic and social crises upon the other peoples and countries, mainly through preservation and implementation of old and new forms of colonialism and neocolonialism. The superpowers and other imperialist powers try to keep untouched the forms and international institutions established since old colonial period and when this happens, as it is the case with the prices of certain raw materials, they don't hesitate to blackmail even by war these peoples and countries who want to establish the sovereignty upon their national riches, who fight for democracy and equality in international exchange and relations. But this plunder and cruel exploitation cannot last for ever. The economic decolonization is a new revolutionary process which cannot be stopped. Peoples have the right to establish their complete sovereignty upon the natural resources and to nationalize them. Nothing can stop the struggle of the peoples for equality in the international exchange and to utilize the revenue drawn from the selling of raw materials for the development of the economy and culture, for the improvement of their life.

The Albanian people has supported and will always powerfully support the just struggle of the peoples for the defence and affirmation of national independence, to exert the complete sovereignty upon national riches. The People's Socialist Republic of Albania backs with determination the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America for national liberation, for the defence and strengthening of political and economical independence, for the establishment of the just economic relations among states; it supports their struggle against exploitation and plundering of the imperialist and neocolonialist powers.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania attaches special importance to the investments in the field of agriculture. In our country we have made big capital investments for impetuous development of productive forces and the branches of the material production in general, for strengthening of the material-technical basis of socialist agriculture. As a consequence, the investments are concentrated in bonifications (which are completed over 85 per cent of the field area of the country); in water conservancy projects (by increasing watering capacity 11.8 times), in the electrification of the countryside and the mechanization of agriculture (where for every 33 ha of land corresponds a 15 hp tractor); in the extensive

chemical application to the farmland (local industry supplies 165 kg/ha active fertilizers and meets up to 40 per cent of the needs for pesticides). One of the most fundamental investments has been the massive breaking of new lands, both in field areas, but especially in the hilly and mountainous ones, which has made possible to achieve a harmonious development of different agricultural areas of our country.

This is proved by the fact that in the hilly and mountainous areas lives and works almost half the rural population and about 45 percent, the area of arable land is located there. By pursuing such a policy our government has made it possible to increase everywhere the agricultural production, to parallel develop both lowlands, hilly and mountainous areas, has made it possible to avoid the abandonment and depopulation of the countryside, which brings along the social and economic consequences weighing down so heavily upon agriculture in a number of capitalist and revisionist countries. In comparison with prewar days the area of arable land has increased by 2.34 times. During the 6th five-year plan (1976-1980) the state will invest more than the entire period of past 20 years (1951-1970) whereas the specific weight of investments in agriculture reaches 22.5 per cent as compared with the total fund of investments.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania aids agriculture not only through investments and direct material-technical base, but through a complex of ideopolitical and organizative measures, by mobilizing our entire people -by living constantly with the problems of agriculture, by supporting it materially and morally.

This just and principled stand of our government towards agriculture goes diametrically against that of imperialist powers which make use of the investments in agriculture too, as means of profit and exploitations, by making onesided investments in those sectors where there is the momentary profit and not where the fundamental needs of agriculture lie, by making more noise than achievements through "green revolution", or through chemicalization or industrialization of agriculture, where mostly it is the advertisement and merchant business profit that counts than the ensurance of true progress of agriculture at the service of working masses. These powers try to utilize the investments as means of expansion in the relations with other countries by monopolizing the capital. That is why the imperialists and revisionists stand against the important measures carried out by the progressive and freedom-loving countries, measures expressing the advanced economic and social character such as agrarian land reform, the increase of investments in agriculture, training of skilled cadres for agriculture, etc. These successes which have their direct impact in the increase of agricultural production refute the pretensions of the imperialist and neocolonialist powers that the cause of poverty and undernourishment lies in "the inability and ignorance" of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as in the overpopulation of the world. For this reason, starting from the practice of our achievements and that of a number of other countries, we support the thesis that the poverty and undernourishment can be liquidated not only for the present world population, but also taking into consideration its future growth. The real base to this end exists, but it should be made use of practically through struggle which the peoples should wage for a better and independent political, social and economic development, for putting the riches of the country to the benefit of the development of the national economy, by implementing a just investment policy in agriculture.

Mr. President: Within this framework of bitter struggle and tension, on the one hand, the persistence of the two superpowers to profit and to escape from the crises through exploiting more cruelly the peoples and, on the other hand, the struggle of the progressive forces through out the world, for political and social justice and the assurance of living wellbeing, Socialist Albania has not been caught unawares. It has elaborated and implemented a principled policy and not a technical and conjectural one -dictated by the ever running crisis which the imperialist powers impose. Our policy and strategy consist of building socialism, in the concrete conditions of encirclement and of savage imperialist and revisionist blockade, being always led by the Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Dwelling a bit more on the development and the problems of advancing the socialist agriculture in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, I would like to stress some of the basic principles of our agricultural policy and its most relevant achievements.

Albania, once the most backward country in Europe economically, covering an area of about 70 per cent mountains, where to each person belongs only 0.2 ha of arable land, has succeeded to produce all the bread grain required within the country, as well as that of other main foodstuffs. During more than three decades of people's power, the population has grown 2.5 times and its average annual growth rate is actually over 2 per cent, whereas the agricultural production has increased 4 times; at a time when the average annual rate of increase is from 6 to 8 per cent.

The agricultural policy of our country is not just mere economy, detached, but it is part and parcel of our whole ideology, and politics. It is led by certain fundamental principles: self-reliance, the agriculture is the basic branch of the economy and the concern of the entire people; the alliance between the working class and cooperativist peasantry and that between towns and countryside by promoting a multi-branched agriculture both in low lands and mountainous areas.

All these ideopolitical orientations tested in the practice of our socialist construction for more than 30 years have made the socialist property in the state enterprises and agricultural cooperatives flourish, made our economy not to know crises, rise of prices and depopulation and abandonment of the countryside. The accumulation fund makes 35 per cent of the income, by giving always priority to the fundamental investments to land and other important objects of agriculture, so as to make the future development of the entire economy be better supported.

Self-reliance, the better and complete utilization of the power resources of the country have made it possible that in the field of agriculture too, priority be given to the mechanization, electrification, chemicalization, producing locally the seeds and hybrid or elite livestock which together with the great deed of integral reclamation of land are being successfully achieved through concerted actions of Albania's industry, agriculture, science.

The struggle for intensification of agriculture, for narrowing the distinctions between town and countryside, is materialised quite in a number of favourable measures taken by our government, measures which do not stick to sheer agricultural character only but include all the problems for the development of the countryside. Thus socialist Albania is the first country in the world without any taxation system whatsoever; it provides free of charge education and health services for the entire population of towns and countryside. It has completed the electrification and telephone linking of the countryside: it has established unified pensions for cooperative peasantry just like for townfolk. The State meets the expenditure for social and cultural measures in countryside as in towns. During the 6th five-year plan (1976-1980) the increase in the average rates of real income per capita in the countryside will be over 3 times higher than those in the town, of the new houses to be built by the State, two-thirds will be built in the village cooperatives and agricultural enterprises.

All these successes bear testimony to the superiority of the socialist system of agriculture. Comrade Enver Hoxha in his Report submitted to the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania has stressed: "The collectivization of agriculture, carried out over a period, step by step as well as the unceasing strengthening of the common property, are proving the superiority and vitality of the socialist cooperativist order right now, when all over the world, not only in the backward countries, but even in the so-called advanced countries, there is great shortage of agricultural products".

Another expression of the vitality of our socialist agriculture is the coping successfully with the difficulties of this year's bad weather, with heavy rain in the winter and a very long drought and high temperature during summer, rarely seen in the last 40 years. It was only due to the mobilization and organization of the entire people working consciously and with revolutionary drive, the far-sighted policy concerning the apparent increase of the irrigated land and other fundamental investments, as well as the rational utilization of all resources and forces of the country, that have made it possible to overcome these difficulties. These results, are based on the great work done in our country for the moulding of the new man, not only highly skilled technically and advanced culturally but first of all educated with a revolutionary consciousness and political maturity, with a socialist attitude towards work and common property.

All these successes have not been easily gained, but through struggle, by overcoming difficulties and obstacles of centuries old backwardness, of the savage imperialist and revisionist blockade, the impact on of great pressure of overall crises of the capitalist and revisionist world. In spite of these difficult circumstances, the Albanian people led wisely and with bravery by our Party, by applying successfully the policy of self-reliance, is marching firmly onward in the road of building socialism.

The delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania asserts, once again, that it will coordinate its efforts with those of other States struggling for an independent economic and political development, by giving its modest contribution to the solution of the important problems which our Conference and Organization face.

F. D. MAAS (Israel): Our delegation joins with others in expressing our congratulations to our elected Chairman and to the election of the Vice-Chairman, We feel sure that you will do your utmost to conduct the Conference in the tradition of the Organization, Our thanks go also to the Government of Italy and the City of Rome for their traditional well-known hospitality.

Our deep appreciation goes to the farmers all over the world, especially to the smallholders, who have so well understood the urgent need for food, many of them to find to their dismay, that efforts and skills they invested, were not remunerated in the market-place due to its fluctuations.

The Government of the State of Israel is satisfied with many of recent developments in world agriculture and food supply. As a country with limited rainfall and irrigation water resources, in sharp contrast to a bounty of sunshine, we depend on imports of basic commodities and vice-versa on open markets for our high value field and horticultural crops. Our agricultural trade balance was greatly disturbed by the events on the agricultural world scene between 1972 and 1975. However, this year, thanks to the declining prices for essential commodities, mainly grain, oilcrops, sugar and others, we hope to achieve a favourable agricultural trade balance. This can be demonstrated by the fact, that the sales value of one ton of oranges again permits the purchase of more than two tons of wheat, compared to only one ton for one ton in 1974. This also demonstrates, that nowadays, most national economies are in reality bound up in one single world frame. Though we are a small country, we play a significant part in agricultural world trade, trading with more than 60 countries to a total value of more than one billion and a quarter US dollars, which represents 1 per cent of the world agricultural trade in 1976.

The 19th Conference again gives the opportunity to highlight basic facts of food production and supplies and likewise to stress the imperativeness of working together to achieve the goals set for the next biennium as well as to establish mid-and long term objectives. In this spirit, the members of our delegation will actively participate in the discussions in the various commissions. I, therefore, wish to limit myself today to some essential issues:

We welcome the activities of the TCP, which was established by the Council on the initiative of the Director-General and we regard the Fund as a propelling instrument for development. The delegation joins with others in the wish and hope, that efficient procedures will be established to ensure the full impact of this Fund. Our government is willing to participate in some of the activities of the Fund, where we could contribute our experience in semi-arid and subtropical agriculture.

FAO shoulders the responsibility of exploring the best use of natural resources like land and water, forests and seas. During the decade, mankind experienced again the decisive influence of another element: the weather which can upset forecasts and expectations of world yields on a scale of approximately 100 million tons of grain per annum. There is a saying that one can talk a lot about weather, but very little can be done to influence sunshine and rain clouds, heat and cold. In spite of this, it can be said, that FAO has made a major step forward through the Early Warning System and its Crop and Weather Forecast reports, which we appreciate, even if they arrive sometimes after the storm.

A number of member countries of the Organization have expressed at various occasions their readiness to study this complicated media, an undertaking in which another specialized agency in the UN family, namely WMO would also be a good partner and many national institutes as well.

Our delegation makes a strong plea through you to the members of the Organization and to the Director-General to make an effort to investigate weather formation and its influence on agriculture. While there might be at present only few possibilities of changing regional climates, hardship could be prevented by establishing a world-wide insurance system against losses by natural risks, an undertaking in which FAO has accumulated experience. The investigation should also include the widest use of remote sensing methods for climatic forecasts and predictions.

Our delegation listened with great interest to the encouraging opening statement of the Director-General on his intentions, amongst them the strengthening of the World Seed Improvement and Development Program. As one of the initiators of this program, already at the World Food Congress at the Hague together with delegates from India and Argentina and the kind assistance of the Austrians we support this programme and will make our contribution.

We strongly support the efforts to secure "a SECOND HARVEST", also sometimes called a "HIDDEN HARVEST" by proper storage treatment. I am proud to say that storage losses in our country are minimal, thanks to proper treatment and applications of techniques developed locally. As already stated at the COAG session, we are fully prepared to assist this campaign by provision of experts and conducting on the spot training courses, at a technical level.

Mr. Chairman, our delegation has noted with great interest the intention-of the Director-General to undertake a study on "AGRICULTURE 2000". We realize that certain reservations might be expressed

regarding this telescoping. We have an open ear for these comments, but we could not agree to some of the criticisms of a similar previous undertaking of FAO, the so-called Indicative World Plan for Agriculture, which was created by the former Director-General, Dr. Sen. A renewed study of the findings easily proves that many of the forecasts came true. Unfortunately there was little patience to foresee the course of events.

The year 2000 will certainly approach on the calendar with or without paperwork and econometrics. However, taking into account the complexity of the affairs, it is our belief, that Mr. Saouma has chosen the right time to start with the groundwork now, by setting targets to be achieved in another 22 years. It must also be taken into consideration that the necessary large-scale infrastructures for a successful agriculture in the year 2000 should be taken under the spade, latest in 1990, i. e. in only 12 years from now.

In the past there was an actual increase of grain production of a magnitude of 500 million tons, from 800 million to 1300 million at present. We believe, that mankind can produce in the coming years the needed additional 800 million tons for the year 2000 as well as other primary produce. This will not be an easy task, but through concentrated efforts the goal will be achieved.

In this respect an important role in shaping the future, will be played by research developments on national and international levels. Our government strongly supports the work of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and is participating in the accelerated work of the European networks for scientific cooperation, open to all members of the Organization. The mere fact that at present more than 120 European research institutes cooperate, is highly appreciated.

Furthermore, we have studied with great interest the statements of representatives of donor countries at a gathering held this spring in Munich on the initiative of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany and a careful study of this document by FAO is recommended. Regarding the transfer of science to the fields of the farmers which is its final target: in Israel extension work is exercised with great success and lately great interest was found in the design of blueprints for plant production as developed in the UK and other countries.

Worldwide developments in agriculture seem to contradict the doomsday prophecies echoed at the World Food Conference held in Rome only 1100 days ago. Whatever has happened is, that at present food has become ample and that main producers have taken steps to reduce planted areas in the coming season. Our government is pleased that progress can be found not only in developed countries. There can be no better proof of this, than the news of possible wheat exports from India or the enormous increase in agricultural exports from Brazil at present No. 2 on the world trade scale Thailand, Korea and many other developing countries, who play an increasing role in the world markets, certainly realizing trade obstacles which can not always be removed. We have to ask, if this is only a temporary development, an incidental play of nature. I have already referred to the tremendous influence of the climate and it must also not be forgotten, that climatical influences are not a new experience. Referring only to the period between 1960 and 1972 one can see, that the results of catastrophies at that period were ameliorated thanks to enormous food reserves, especially in the USA. Large reserves and binding commodity agreements are, therefore, a necessity to maintain stability. The delegation of Israel to the 17th Conference had already highlighted this point during the meetings.

"It is our opinion that countries exporting and importing basic commodities should come to binding agreements for a longer period of time. . . The system should be assisted by credits, grants and loans from international and national banks and funds.

We believe that consideration and implementation of our proposal at the 17th Conference could ensure proper production stockkeeping and fair prices and thus lead to a stabilization in main commodities like grains, oilseeds and sugar. " And I am very glad to say that the sugar agreement has been signed after 4 years.

"This could be to the advantage of exporters, who have soon forgotten the worries of previous years and also for importers. We believe that FAO can play an important role in this endeavour. "

Catastrophies in the marketplace are not less disastrous than empty rainclouds. Disappointed farmers reduce their production as a result of empty pockets and accruing debts. One should not forget, that farmers operate in the fields and not on office tables and conference rooms, dealing with global percentage targets. In our mind, the World Food Conference had to its credit making the public aware of the food situation and the undertaking of steps to improve production with the assistance of FAO. Urban populations have become aware that food is not produced in canning factories, bakeries and supermarkets. And, not less important, farmers have to be compensated according to their efforts and risks.

I shall not take up the time of the Plenary for a report on Israel's agricultural development in the last biennium, which was generally favourable. As a member of the European region we participate in FAO's wide and important regional activities and share experience with other member states. While we are not able to make great financial contributions to worldwide agricultural development as we would wish to do, we are, however, glad to state, that our experience and the results of research make a contribution. We are cognisant of the fact, that there is a growing awareness and readiness to apply modern irrigation methods, partly initiated by my country, like establishment of exact data in the field of plant-water requirements and proper timing, automation of irrigation and especially in the spread on a worldwide scale of drip irrigation. We have made considerable progress in the breeding of new wheat varieties and in developing existing methods in the integration of wild species of wheat and barley. We continue our efforts in milk production of cows and sheep and interesting progress in aquaculture could also be mentioned. Research is going on into the many possibilities of harnessing the sun's energy for agriculture. Cooperation with many countries developed and developing is expanded and the organizational side of our cooperation programme has been strengthened. Israeli experts are working for FAO and the World Bank. Our delegation wishes to respond to the suggestion of the Director-General to comment on the role of Capital and Investment in Agriculture. To be concise, we have published our experience in a special report which is at the disposal of delegations. The Bible said that man should till the land by the sweat of his brow. It seems therefore, that in those days there was no need for a banker, nowadays a prerequisite for the successful conduct of agricultural operations, including storage and marketing.

In Israel, farm operations started from zero without capital and it was therefore a wise decision of the Government to allocate the necessary means. Experience shows, that it is sometimes relatively easy to recruit foreign and local capital, but much more difficult to establish good investments and proper management of funds to allow the farming community to accumulate its own resources. This might be not a serious problem for countries with well-established banking systems and mortgageable farm assets. In Israel, there was a need to establish those instruments, because many farmers started only with their hands and brains. 12 years ago, after a period of trial and error, the Ministry of Agriculture succeeded in creating an Integrated System of Investment and Running Capital loans under acceptable conditions. This has been achieved -and as I said is fully described in the available publication- by close cooperation between the Ministry, the banks and the farmers. In the last 7 years Israel received 2 loans from the World Bank to implement agricultural development programs with the additional assistance of local capital. This cooperation was not only useful to Israel through the material assistance received, but also through the businesslike application and organizational experience gained in the execution and application of the loans, which was much appreciated by the World Bank. Subsequently we received requests from the Bank and countries to send experts to projects undertaken by the Bank.

Nowadays, farm operations are connected to capital inputs, which should flow with the same exactitude as well timed irrigation or fertilization programmes and not like sporadic rains and intermittent droughts. We appreciate the readiness of FAO, to explore this vital field and we, like others, are willing to contribute our experiences.

The story of modern Israel is a living example of the never-ending conquest of arid lands. It is the human effort combined with technological knowledge which made it possible and becomes evident to everyone who visits Israel and all of you are kindly invited to come and to see.

Summing up, we note that this Conference is being convened in a period of comparative food tranquility which will enable us to inspect the important issues with a global eye and without pressing urgent problems of immediate world food supply. We appreciate the Director-General dedication to FAO's tasks and obligations and we shall be ready to contribute far-reaching concepts, new dimensions and applicable proposals for action with the aim to eliminate the word HUNGER from our dictionaries.

U-YE GOUNG (Burma): On behalf of the Burmese Delegation, please allow me to join the other distinguished delegations in congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of this Session. The Burmese Delegation wishes to express its deep appreciation for the efficient arrangements made by the Secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization in various sectors of this Conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest welcome to Angola, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles, on their admission as members into this World Organization. The participation of the newly elected members not only signifies a growing acceptance of the principle of universality but also strengthens the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The very presence of the delegates from the World's Family of Nations at this Session of the FAO is in itself significant. As the purpose of this Session is to deliberate on the programme for the next biennium of FAO, I hardly need to emphasize that the deliberations and the policies formulated at this Session, under your able guidance, Mr. Chairman, and with the benefit of the Director-General's experience and that of his staff, would have an important influence on the outcome of the present efforts we are making to meet the problems of world food and agricultural development. I would therefore like to express the determination of my delegation to cooperate with the rest of the delegations present here, for the realization of the noble aims of the Organization as well as for a successful conclusion of this Session.

I would like to mention here that the Burmese Delegation considers the world food and agriculture situation and the question of international agricultural adjustment as the most important themes for discussion during this Session of the Organization. We are aware of the fact that the FAO has made detailed analyses of the major issues which confront its member nations in the fields of agricultural production and food problems for the next biennium and beyond. Moreover, many valuable recommendations and plans for general guidance have also been prepared. These studies would undoubtedly help the member nations in formulating their agricultural plans at the country level. However, many problems remain to be solved. A comparison of per capita incomes in the developed and the developing countries clearly indicates a wide disparity. In spite of the endeavours made under various international and national development programmes, the gap between the efficiency of agricultural production in the developed and developing countries does not seem to be narrowing at present and it is not likely to become so in the foreseeable future. This is because the industrial base of the developed nations is secure and their technological capabilities are greatly advanced, whereas the developing nations are at a low level of industrialization and their technological capabilities are not advanced.

Everyone of us here today is aware of the fact that almost all of the developing countries are striving hard to step up their agricultural production both in terms of quantity and quality, but partial achievements in respect of certain crops have only been made in some countries. The shortcomings in many developing countries are found to be due largely to the inadequacy of production techniques and limitation of capital investment. Another factor the developing countries are faced with is the ever increasing prices of essential inputs such as agricultural machinery, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and other essential items. The present trend of prices of agricultural produce is not in harmony with the increasing costs of material inputs supplied by the industrialized nations. Thus a constraint on effective investment has resulted. The Burmese Delegation is of the opinion that unless such imbalance in prices is remedied, there will always be a problem of food shortage in this world. To overcome this problem, technical and financial assistance should be provided to achieve practical results.

May I be permitted to mention the seriousness of the World Food Security problems. A few good harvest years might considerably ease the food situation but it will only be temporary. Only a substantial and sustained increase of food production in all member nations especially the developing countries would reduce the magnitude of this problem in future decades. It is therefore highly desirable that the member nations of the FAO pledge themselves to strive to the utmost with renewed dedication to achieve the objective of solving the world food problem. The Government of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma and my delegation solemnly vow to join the member nations in the effort to attain our cherished goal of accelerating the growth of social and economic development of all the nations in the world.

I would like to mention that experience shows agricultural production depends directly on the magnitude of investment and the technical know-how, and this is especially true for countries with large land resources and favourable climatic conditions conducive to agricultural production. As a consequence of the worldwide price escalation, the investment cost of such agricultural inputs as agricultural machinery, chemical fertilizers and pesticides has risen sharply and to levels far beyond the purchasing power of most of the developing countries. This, as you already are aware, Mr. Chairman, is the major constraint of such countries where the problems of procuring necessary agricultural inputs cannot be solved, until and unless prompt and effective assistance is forthcoming from the developed countries. On humanitarian considerations, I would like to urge the developed countries to take note of the fact that their sincere assistance and close cooperation can make a valuable contribution to the food production of the developing countries.

May I now make a brief statement on the agricultural situation in my country. The economy of my country is largely dependent on agriculture and for this reason the agricultural sector plays a dominant role and it will continue to do so for many years to come. As such, even in our industrialization programme, an emphasis has been placed in the establishment of agro-orientated industries. The present fiscal year 1977 to 1978 is the final year of the Second Four-Year Plan which in turn forms a part of the Twenty-Year Long-Term Plan, in which agriculture has been accorded the highest priority. The annual



average growth rate of gross domestic product has been targeted at 6.3 percent in agriculture and by the end of this financial year we are optimistic of attaining the target, though I should mention here that our investment for the current year had to be doubled from that of last year. In quantitative terms, it was raised from 162 million kyats in the last year to 371 million kyats in the current year, and this was a worthwhile step as we can judge from the results obtained. In drawing up plans to achieve the desired target, we are placing a greater emphasis on intensification, that is to step up the yield per unit area as it brings quicker returns. However, on the other hand, we have plans for the expansion of culturable land by reclaiming culturable wastes and virgin lands. Since only about 12 percent of the total cultivated area is irrigated, there is still a considerable scope for further expansion of irrigation. In the past decade we have built many irrigation works in Central Burma and at present construction and rehabilitation of embankments and improvement of drainage systems are in progress.

We have increased our agricultural production through intensive cropping but much effort has been made to meet the increasing demands for farm implements, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. High yielding varieties of rice and other important crops have been introduced with success and from this year we are striving for quality and not just quantity alone. Agricultural production technology is being modernized and agricultural extension services are also strengthened every year. At the same time, due attention has also been paid to agricultural commodity prices and the cost of production, and necessary adjustments have been made periodically.

Regarding land potentials, I would like to state that we have an abundant supply of virgin lands as well as cultivable waste lands. Though there are long-term projects for reclamation, the peasants themselves have, to attain self-sufficiency, undertaken short-term piecemeal projects under the direction of the People's Councils and Peasants' Organization at different levels. These organs at the different levels play a vital role in the mobilization and awakening of the consciousness of the whole peasantry to fulfil the planned targets of the country. This year, with the exception of certain areas in Central Burma which experienced insufficient rainfall, the weather in the rest of the country is favourable and we expect the production to be above average, especially for food crops.

I would like to say a few words with regard to forestry, livestock and fishery sectors. About 57 percent of Burma's land surface is covered with forest, out of which 14 percent is designated as forest reserve. Burma is noted for its teak and other important hardwoods and we earn a considerable amount of foreign exchange from exports of forest produce. Each year we have been expanding our forest reserve area and will continue to do so to attain a national target of 30 percent. At the same time plantation of teak and other hardwoods are being stepped up each year to supplement natural regeneration. We have drawn up a programme for the increased extraction of teak and other hardwoods. Renovation of the sawmill industry will be carried out. Extensive studies in forest potentials and resources for the development of new wood-based industries will also be undertaken. An Institute for Forest Research is already under construction with assistance from UNDP.

The livestock sector has become increasingly important on account of the current shortage of draft cattle for agricultural operation and because of nutritional deficiency though low intake of animal protein. As regards livestock itself there has been an increase in annual production. However, to facilitate further expansion, livestock projects have been undertaken with international assistance. These projects are directed primarily towards technical improvements in livestock production which would lay the foundation for further and larger livestock development schemes. Project expenditures comprise mainly public sector investments directed to improving village livestock production through the development extension, increased vaccine production and diagnostic facilities. The expenditure also covers such aspects of the livestock sector as communal pasture improvement and water supplies, the strengthening of livestock research and support for better training in animal husbandry and veterinary science.

Turning now to fisheries, I would like to mention that fresh water fisheries have been extensively explored and exploited. Since scope for expansion of inland fisheries is limited, production possibilities have to be sought in marine fisheries. Regarding fish resources, there are about 4 000 leasable fisheries out of which about 90 percent are exploitable at present. A coastline of about 1 400 miles and a continental shelf of over 80 000 square miles provide rich fish resources estimated to be one and a half million metric tons with a (maximum annual sustainable yield of 600 000 tons out of which only about 50 percent are being caught annually. In view of the immensity of our offshore fishery potential and inadequacy of financial resources, skilled technicians, modern trawlers and facilities for marine resources research, we are taking effective measures for further development.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that agricultural development is dependent on availability of capital for investment as well as the application of appropriate technology, particularly for those countries which are rich in natural resources and which have a variety of terrain and climatic conditions suitable for agricultural development. We hold the view which is gaining wide acceptance that the best

way to overcome the world food and agricultural problem is to assist the developing countries in their own efforts to achieve agricultural development. Provision of support to the agricultural development programmes of developing countries will not only mean assisting them in areas to which they accord the highest priority, but it also means assistance is given to the rural sector where the majority of their people live. In view of the difficult times ahead, we would like to urge the international community for increased support of the efforts of agricultural development of developing countries which for most of them lie at the heart of their economic development problem. FAO with its vast experience in this field and with an intimate knowledge of the rural problems of developing countries will no doubt be able to make a valuable contribution and play a vital role in this endeavour.

G. PINTO COHEN (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, señor Director General Adjunto, señores delegados, señoras y señores, en primer lugar, en nombre de la delegación de Venezuela, me place felicitar al Presidente y a los Vicepresidentes de este 19 período de sesiones de la Conferencia General por tan meritoria y honrosa designación y por la forma acertada como han venido dirigiendo los debates.

Al Director General mi felicitación por sus esfuerzos en hacer de la FAO una organización más dinámica y eficiente.

Deseo también dirigir un fraternal saludo de bienvenida a todos los nuevos Miembros de la FAO.

Voy a referirme especialmente al tema básico de las inversiones en agricultura y sus repercusiones en los planos nacional e internacional.

Venezuela ha tomado en los últimos años una serie de medidas sin precedentes por su magnitud e importancia, destinadas a impulsar la producción agrícola y crear las bases para una agricultura moderna, eficiente y dinámica. Dichas medidas abarcan una gran cantidad de campos, tales como: inversiones directas en obras de infraestructura, incentivos a la inversión privada, financiamiento en condiciones favorables, elevación de precios a nivel de productor y ampliación del número de productos amparados por la política de precios mínimos, formación de recursos humanos, investigación tecnológica, subsidios a productos e insumos, facilidades de importación de insumos y bienes de capital.

Muchas de esas medidas tienen que ver con inversiones, en el sentido amplio de esta palabra, y las restantes indudablemente inciden también como estímulos a la inversión.

Nunca antes en la historia de Venezuela se le había otorgado tanta importancia al desarrollo del sector agrícola, reconocimiento que en la actualidad le es dado tanto por el sector oficial como por el sector privado y por la opinión pública del país.

Aún es prematuro emitir un juicio sobre los resultados de esta nueva política, por la dificultad de evaluar la gran cantidad de acciones tomadas y, principalmente, por el largo período de maduración y el efecto a largo plazo propios de las inversiones en el sector agrícola. Sin embargo, no es difícil cuantificar los primeros resultados tanto mediante indicadores macroeconómicos, como en datos sobre obras físicas construidas, programas de investigación, formación de recursos humanos y magnitud de cosechas.

El volumen de inversión bruta fija en el sector agrícola de Venezuela ha alcanzado para 1975-1976 un promedio anual de Bolívars de 1 635 millones (a precios de 1968), superior en un 60 por ciento al nivel de 1973, aumentando en igual medida tanto la inversión pública como la privada, mientras que en años anteriores esta última, que representa el 70 por ciento de la inversión total, tuvo una tendencia decreciente.

En el período 1969/73, si bien hubo un ligero incremento en la inversión pública (12 por ciento), la privada se redujo en cerca de un 20 por ciento, mientras que de 1973 a 1975/76, ambas se incrementaron en más de un 50 por ciento. De importancia significativa son los aumentos en las inversiones privadas en mejoras por riego y drenaje, que hasta 1974 eran prácticamente insignificantes; las correspondientes existencias de ganado para cría de origen importado que superan, a partir de 1974, cualquier monto anual previo, y las de maquinarias y equipos, las cuales más que duplican en 1975/76 las de 1973; en cambio disminuyen las inversiones por deforestación a partir de 1975, a niveles a la mitad de los años precedentes, a consecuencia de la política conservacionista del Gobierno.

A los fines de incrementar el rebaño ganadero bovino, además de las importaciones de Colombia, se han establecido puentes aéreos y el financiamiento correspondiente para la importación de vaquillas de Costa Rica, Panamá y Nicaragua. Entre septiembre de 1976 y noviembre de 1977 han ingresado de esos tres países 70 000 vaquillas destinadas a ganaderos de la zona oriental de Venezuela. Además, en los dos últimos años se han importado 15. 000 toros sementales bovinos: 14 000 de razas de carne y 1 000 lecheros. Por otra parte, el uso de fertilizantes se ha duplicado en los últimos cuatro años hasta alcanzar las 460 000 en 1977, estimándose un consumo de 700 000 t para el próximo año.

En el campo de la inversión pública cabe destacar los programas de infraestructura física básica, tales como la construcción de unos 12. 000 km. de vialidad agrícola, importantes obras de riego y saneamiento de tierras, y el plan Nacional de Silos que comprende 15 nuevas plantas.

La exoneración del impuesto sobre la renta ha sido uno de los instrumentos utilizados para estimular el desarrollo, las inversiones y el financiamiento correspondientes al sector agrícola. En efecto, han sido exonerados de dicho impuesto los enriquecimientos provenientes de actividades agrícolas, pecuarias, de reforestación y de pesca; así como los intereses que devenguen los créditos destinados a financiar inversiones, cultivos, explotaciones avícolas, pesqueras y porcinas; a adquirir maquinarias e implementos, a importar vientes o sementales de las especies bovina y bufalina destinados a la reproducción, y las operaciones de financiamiento realizadas con el Fondo de Crédito Agropecuario y con el Banco de Desarrollo Agropecuario.

Con igual propósito, las inversiones efectivamente pagadas en acciones o cuotas de capital en empresas agrícolas, pecuarias, forestales o de pesca, gozan de una rebaja de impuesto sobre la renta equivalente al 20 por ciento del monto de tales inversiones, siempre que estén representadas en activos fijos.

Hasta 1973 el financiamiento disponible para la agricultura en Venezuela era fundamentalmente a corto plazo y en su mayoría otorgado por institutos oficiales. La banca privada apenas incursionaba en una medida limitada en el campo agrícola y en el pasado. sólo algunos programas especiales ejecutados por la banca oficial para cultivos específicos contemplaron el financiamiento a largo plazo. En junio de 1974 se establece con carácter transitorio el Fondo de Crédito Agropecuario y se le provee con recursos por Bolívares 2 000 millones, los cuales fueron colocados, a través de las entidades financieras, privadas y públicas, en financiamientos de hasta 20 años de plazo con bajos intereses y períodos de gracia de varios años. El Fondo garantiza a las entidades la recuperación de los créditos otorgados mediante una cobertura de hasta el 60 por ciento del monto del crédito, la cual puede llegar hasta un 90 por ciento en regiones del país particularmente deprimidas.

Para mediados de 1977 ya se había colocado prácticamente la totalidad de los recursos iniciales propios del Fondo, cuyo destino fue en un 24 por ciento obras de infraestructura y mejoras permanentes, en un 27 por ciento adquisición de semovientes, en un 26 por ciento compra de maquinarias, implementos y equipos y en un 23 por ciento fundación de plantaciones permanentes, deforestación, instalación y consolidación de potreros y otras inversiones.

La mitad de los créditos con recursos del FCA han sido colocados a través de la banca oficial especializada del sector agrícola y los bancos de fomento regional, y el resto por el sistema bancario privado: o sea los bancos comerciales (28 por ciento) y las sociedades financieras (21 por ciento).

En agosto de 1976 el Fondo de Crédito Agropecuario adquirió permanencia al ser transformado mediante ley en Instituto Autónomo. En julio de 1977 se le autoriza para emitir y colocar títulos de la deuda pública hasta por Bs. 1 500 millones. Estos recursos podrán ser utilizados por las instituciones financieras para otorgar créditos agrícolas, mediante un sistema de subsidios a los intereses recientemente aprobado, el cual también permitirá la colocación con igual propósito de unos Bs. 500 millones de recursos propios de las entidades financieras, en virtud de convenios ya suscritos con el Fondo por quince de estas sociedades.

Las operaciones iniciales del FCA permitieron que 27 bancos y 21 sociedades financieras del sector privado, la mayoría de los cuales nunca había, incursionado antes en el sector agrícola, participaran activamente como agentes crediticios en dicho sector, al ser proveídos de recursos a largo plazo y contar con la garantía contra riesgos. Esto les significó la necesidad de abrir departamentos agropecuarios e iniciar otros tipos de operaciones bancarias con agricultores y ganaderos del país.

Sin embargo, la medida más importante que definitivamente ha vinculado el sector financiero privado del país al desarrollo agrícola, fue la obligación de que los bancos comerciales deberán destinar al financiamiento del sector agrícola no menos del 20 por ciento de sus colocaciones, establecida mediante Decreto reglamentario de la Ley General de Bancos y otros Institutos de Crédito, promulgado el 21 de septiembre de 1976.

A estos efectos, se consideran colocaciones destinadas al sector agrícola, el financiamiento de aquellas operaciones de producción, las de almacenamiento y transporte especializado, las de empresas agroindustriales con más de 50 por ciento de su capital social propiedad de los productores agrícolas o del Estado, y las operaciones de financiamiento y los depósitos efectuados por la banca comercial en el Banco de Desarrollo Agropecuario.

Para agosto de 1977 la banca comercial tenía colocaciones en el sector agrícola superiores a los

7 500 millones de bolívares, en comparación con menos de 1 000 millones de bolívares para diciembre de 1973.

En promedio, ese monto equivale al 20 por ciento de la cartera crediticia total de la banca

comercial para esa fecha, aun cuando de los 30 bancos la mitad de ellos todavía no alcanzaba el nivel del 20 por ciento de sus colocaciones al sector agrícola, teniendo en consecuencia que encajar en el Banco Central de Venezuela sin percibir intereses por ello, los saldos aún sin colocar, cuyo montante para ese entonces era de Bs. 700 millones.

En cuanto a la banca oficial especializada, constituida por el Instituto de Crédito Agrícola (ICAP) que atiende a los pequeños productores y el Banco de Desarrollo Agropecuario (BANDAGRO), en conjunto aumentaron sus créditos pagados desde Bs. 694 millones en 1973 a niveles de Bs. 1 650 millones anuales en 1975 y 1976, sin incluir en estas cifras el financiamiento otorgado por dichas instituciones con recursos del Fondo de Crédito Agropecuario, que supera los Bs. 700 millones.

La creación de una agricultura moderna en Venezuela requiere no solo de una infraestructura física sino además, entre otras cosas, de una infraestructura tecnológica adecuada a la realidad geográfica, ecológica y social del país. A tales fines, la regionalización y expansión de la investigación agrícola ha recibido gran impulso en los últimos años.

En efecto, en el ámbito de los programas del Fondo Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (FONIA) se ha aumentado de tres a cinco el número de centros regionales de investigación y han sido creadas cinco nuevas estaciones experimentales hasta alcanzar un total de diecisiete; y los aportes presupuestarios del Ejecutivo Nacional al FONIA se han más que duplicado en cuatro años, al pasar desde 46 millones de bolívares en 1973 hasta 112 millones en 1977, aumento relativo similar al de los once años transcurridos de 1962 a 1973.

En los años recientes se ha venido realizando el catastro de avance, el cual tendrá cubiertas para principios de 1979 unos 30 millones de hectáreas en las zonas no montañosas al norte del río Orinoco, y se han iniciado igualmente estudios para la ordenación territorial y la zonificación agroeconómica del país.

En materia de recursos humanos cabe destacar el desarrollo de nuevos programas de gran magnitud e importante incidencia sobre el sector agrícola y el medio rural, como son los correspondientes a la Fundación Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho y el Instituto Nacional de Cooperación Educativa (INCE), además de la fundación de nuevas universidades, escuelas de educación superior e institutos tecnológicos especialmente ubicados en el interior del país, con carreras profesionales de naturaleza agrotécnica. Desde su creación en 1974 hasta octubre de 1977, el total de becarios graduados y activos de la Fundación Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho alcanza a 12 487 estudiantes, de los cuales 1911, o sea el 15 por ciento, corresponde a las ciencias del agro y del mar. El 65 por ciento de dichos estudiantes realiza estudios en países de diferentes regiones del mundo, especialmente Estados Unidos (36 por ciento) Europa (15 por ciento), América Latina (10 por ciento) y Canadá (3 por ciento). Cerca de 300 estudiantes realizan o han concluido estudios de postgrado, la casi totalidad de ellos en el exterior, cifra que es casi similar al número de estudiantes de postgrado becados por el Fondo Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias en los dieciséis años comprendidos de 1962 a 1977.

Dentro del Instituto Nacional de Cooperación Educativa (INCE) se ha establecido la Dirección General del INCE Agrario, a la cual le corresponde continuar y ampliar las actividades de capacitación de mano de obra especializada para el sector agrícola iniciadas hace dieciséis años por el INCE. Durante el presente año de 1977, se están realizando programas móviles que permiten capacitar a más de 14 000 personas mediante unos 1 100 cursos en actividades agrícolas, pecuarias, pesqueras y artesanales.

Como parte del Plan Nacional de Alfabetización Andrés Bello, se está iniciando la ejecución de un proyecto de Educación Básica Acelerada para Adultos, el cual se ha fijado como meta la atención directa e integral de 1 500 familias rurales en el plazo de un año, a fin de dotarlas de destrezas y habilidades para una participación más efectiva en su medio.

Las cosechas de cereales, papas y otros cultivos en el presente año muestran resultados bastante satisfactorios, al alcanzar los más altos niveles de producción en toda nuestra historia. Las de maíz, arroz y papas, superarán en 35 por ciento, 30 por ciento y 18 por ciento los máximos niveles logrados en 1971, 1975 y 1974 respectivamente y son suficientes para abastecer el consumo nacional de dichos productos. En sorgo, cultivo de reciente introducción en el país, cuya producción en 1973 fué de apenas 8 mil t, se cosecharán más 350 000 t, cantidad superior en un 60 por ciento a la obtenida en 1976 y equivalente a la mitad de los cereales requeridos para alimentación animal.

En cuanto al producto agrícola en su conjunto, durante el presente año alcanzará una tasa de crecimiento bastante superior a la del ya elevado incremento de la población venezolana.

Venezuela ha tenido en los últimos años una participación de cierta importancia en numerosos organismos y foros internacionales a nivel del tercer mundo y como país latinoamericano, la cual se ha visto reforzada y adquiere características especiales por nuestra condición de miembro de la OPEP, dada la evolución de la situación petrolera mundial en los años recientes.

Mi país, además de participar activamente en los foros internacionales que han venido dilucidando el concepto de interdependencia entre las naciones y forjando las bases de "un nuevo orden económico internacional", ha tomado iniciativas y acciones específicas de apoyo a los países en vías de desarrollo, especialmente a aquellos de nuestro propio continente latinoamericano y del Caribe.

La cooperación financiera internacional de mi país se canaliza principalmente a través del Fondo de Inversiones de Venezuela (FIV), organismo creado en 1974 y en menor cuantía mediante la participación del Banco Central de Venezuela y de los Ministerios de Hacienda y de Relaciones Exteriores.

Hasta el 30 de septiembre del presente año, el FIV habrá desembolsado Bs. 5 330 millones en préstamos internacionales y en fondos en fideicomiso. Algunas de las operaciones han tenido o tendrán efectos sobre el sector agrícola de los países beneficiarios ya sea directa o indirectamente. Es de mencionar, al respecto: préstamos al Banco Mundial por un total de Bs. 2 147 millones (14-8-74) destinados a contribuir al aumento de los recursos del BIRF para sus programas de desarrollo, cuya expansión y reorientación hacia el sector agrícola son ampliamente conocidas.

Los fondos en fideicomiso depositados en el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) y en el Banco de Desarrollo del Caribe, que alcanzan a Bs. 1 127 millones (1 073, 5 y 537 respectivamente), destinados principalmente a financiar proyectos y programas que tengan efecto significativo en los países de menor desarrollo relativo o mercado limitado, miembros de esas instituciones. Entre los sectores a financiar se incluyen el agroindustrial y el agroforestal. Estos Bancos, en coordinación con el FIV, han otorgado créditos a largo plazo con cargo a dichos recursos para proyectos en siete países latinoamericanos y del Caribe, y para el financiamiento de exportaciones de otros cinco países de nuestro Continente.

Los acuerdos de cooperación económica con los países de América Central, Jamaica, Panamá, Perú y República Dominicana, en cumplimiento de los cuales Venezuela ha depositado Bs. 2 050 millones en los respectivos Bancos Centrales con el objeto inicial de contribuir al financiamiento de los déficits de balanza de pagos de dichos países. Estos acuerdos prevén la utilización de los depósitos antes de su vencimiento para financiar a largo plazo programas y proyectos de desarrollo en los países respectivos, mediante préstamos de hasta 25 años plazo, sujetos a ciertas condiciones, tales como la existencia de un financiamiento paralelo para el mismo programa otorgado por una institución financiera internacional de primera clase.

Hasta el 30 de septiembre de 1977, el Fondo de Inversiones de Venezuela había aprobado para el financiamiento de programas y proyectos un total de Bs. 712 millones, de los cuales se han realizado pagos por Bs. 379 millones, que benefician a seis países centroamericanos y del Caribe. Del monto total de préstamos aprobados el 10 por ciento corresponde a programas y proyectos agrícolas o agroindustriales, los cuales comprenden desarrollo agrícola, desarrollo pesquero, electrificación rural, crédito agropecuario y la construcción de una central azucarera.

Mediante el programa de cooperación económica con el Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica, el FIV adquirió dos emisiones de bonos por Bs. 86 millones, recursos éstos que están siendo utilizados por dicho Banco para el financiamiento de programas de desarrollo en los países miembros del mismo.

De acuerdo a su política de solidaridad internacional el FIV ha desarrollado la modalidad de cooperación para la protección de los precios de las materias primas producidas por los países en vías de desarrollo. Dentro de la línea de esta política, se encuentran los Acuerdos de Cooperación celebrados con Centroamérica para la retención del café, que contemplaban un financiamiento de aproximadamente US\$70 millones, y el proyecto de constitución de la Empresa-Cafés Suaves Centrales S. A. (CAFECENSA).

El mejoramiento de los precios internacionales del café hizo que estos mecanismos de protección no comenzasen sus funcionamiento. No obstante, la nueva situación del mercado cafetalero mundial ha reactualizado su importancia y es probable que la empresa multinacional latinoamericana CAFECENSA quede legalmente constituida a breve plazo, con el objeto de comerciar en general en el ramo del café y sus productos y actuar en los mercados nacionales de los países que la integran y en los internacionales, con miras a regular la oferta y la demanda.

Otra iniciativa de Venezuela en el campo de la cooperación internacional ha sido la creación del Fondo Simón Bolívar, que opera de acuerdo a las políticas y objetivos del Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas a los fines de contribuir a acelerar el desarrollo rural de América Latina y el Caribe. Se trata de un fondo multinacional creado con un capital de 20 millones de dólares, cubierto en un 50 por ciento por Venezuela y el resto mediante contribuciones voluntarias de otros Estados Miembros.

del IICA. El Fondo ha firmado más de 15 convenios para 17 proyectos qntran en marcha, para beneficio de 16 países del área, en materia de producción, productividad y comercialización agropecuarias, desarrollo rural regional, cambios estructurales y organización campesina, formulación y administración de la política agraria.

Especial interés na tenido mi país en el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA), cuyo establecimiento fue acordado por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, en noviembre de 1974, y el cual está llamado a jugar un papel de relevancia en el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario de los países más pobres del mundo. Venezuela ha tenido importante actuación en la Comisión Preparatoria del FIDA, se ha comprometido a aportarle 66 millones de dólares del Fondo especial de la OPEP, y fue uno de los tres primeros países y el primero de la Categoría II en suscribir el Convenio Constitutivo, el cual ya ha sido ratificado mediante Ley de nuestro Congreso, promulgada por el Ejecutivo Nacional en el pasado 22 de agosto.

Es de esperar ahora que luego de efectuarse la primera reunión de la Junta de Gobernadores, convocada para mediados del próximo mes de diciembre, entre definitivamente en operación esta novedosa iniciativa para el financiamiento agrícola internacional.

Venezuela ha sido uno de los países propulsores del establecimiento del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (SELA), cuya sede es la ciudad de Caracas.

El Convenio de Panamá y el Consejo Latinoamericano, organismo máximo del SELA, han establecido un conjunto de novedosos mecanismos de cooperación entre los 25 Estados Miembros soberanos de América Latina, y en particular, ha definido una vigorosa acción de cooperación en el ámbito agropecuario y alimenticio como cuestión prioritaria.

Se seleccionó un grupo de productos én virtud de su importancia estratégica, tanto en la estructura de la dieta alimenticia como en la producción agrícola, sobre los cuales se decidió emprender una serie de acciones concretas de cooperación regional destinadas al aumento de la producción, del consumo intraregional y de la difusión y adopción de nuevas técnicas.

Entre dichas acciones figura el establecimiento de Empresas Multinacionales Latinoamericanas de Cooperación Agropecuaria y Alimenticia. La orientación fundamental de dicho programa es el abastecimiento del mercado latinoamericano, buscando atenuar el subconsumo y reducir los altos indicadores de desnutrición que prevalecen, mejorando la eficiencia productiva y idisminuyendo así la dependencia y vulnerabilidad regional del sector.

Los mecanismos de adopción de decisiones en el SELA son los Comités de Acción, organismos que tienen novedosas características por cuanto en ellos participan exclusivamente los países interesados, tienen carácter temporal y se constituyen con el objetivo fundamental de ejecutar proyectos específicos en áreas claramente delimitadas. Hasta el momento en el marco de la cooperación agropecuaria y alimenticia se han establecido los siguientes Comités de Acción:

Fertilizantes y Ciertas Materias Primas Básicas con sede en México. Su objetivo central es alcanzar en el menor plazo posible, la autosuficiencia productiva de la región.

Complementos Alimenticios con sede en Caracas. Su objetivo principal es elaborar e instrumentar un programa de fabricación, comercialización y distribución de complementos alimenticios de alto valor nutritivo, a fin de contribuir a mejorar la situación nutricional de los grupos humanos más necesitados.

Productos del Mar y de Agua Dulce con sede en Lima. Su objetivo básico es incrementar sustantivamente la oferta de alimentos de suficiente valor nutritivo en condiciones de precios, preparación y presentación adecuados a las necesidades de la población de bajos ingresos de la región.

Próximamente se procederá a la instalación del Comité de Acción de Carnes, Lácteos y Derivados de la Carne, que tiene su sede en Montevideo y el de Granos, Semillas, Oleaginosas y Frutas que tiene su sede en Buenos Aires.

Es el caso reconocer que la FAO ha brindado una valiosa cooperación al SELA, que es necesario que se fortalezca en el futuro, apoyando tanto la formulación como la ejecución de proyectos de acciones concretas.

Una actitud de esta naturaleza es coincidente con los esfuerzos que realiza la organización para hacer más efectiva su colaboración con los países en desarrollo que atienden no sólo a la producción, sino también a los requerimientos de la mayoría de la población.

En este orden de ideas es de mencionar igualmente la cooperación que la FAO ha venido prestando al Grupo Andino, del cual Venezuela es miembro. En su III Reunión del Consejo Agropecuario del Acuerdo de Cartagena, efectuada en Caracas hace tres meses, se resolvió solicitar a la FAO "que estudie la posibilidad de preparar un Anuario de Sanidad Vegetal, a nivel mundial y listas de plagas y enfermedades que afectan a los principales cultivos, agrupándolas de acuerdo al daño que producen, a la facilidad de su propagación y a la dificultad y costo de su control".

Señor Director General: Venezuela ve con simpatía las iniciativas que usted ha tomado en cuanto al nuevo rumbo y al nuevo espíritu infundidos a la Organización, por cuanto espera que ellos se traduzcan, en la realización de programas de acción concretos y eficaces, que efectivamente contribuyan a favor del desarrollo agrícola y rural de los pueblos más necesitados del mundo.

Reconocemos el gran aporte que para el abastecimiento alimentario podría obtenerse de la reducción de las cuantiosas pérdidas de alimentos, y por ello apoyamos la pronta puesta en marcha de un programa práctico y completo, mediante la utilización de recursos financieros sobrantes y sin que ello implique la creación de nuevas organizaciones ni la proliferación burocrática.

Mi país ha mantenido especial interés en la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, convocada para 1979, entre cuyos asesores figura el Presidente de la Federación Campesina de Venezuela, aquí presente. Consideramos que dicha Conferencia deberá prepararse y realizarse a un nivel de altura y madurez tal que, lejos de constituirse en campo de enfrentamiento de posiciones dogmáticas irreconciliables sea terreno fértil para el aporte de experiencias y enfoques, que reconozcan y respeten las diferencias propias de las realidades económicas, sociales, culturales, demográficas, y políticas de nuestros países.

Como promotor de la noción del mar patrimonial que se generalizó con el término de "zona económica exclusiva", Venezuela siempre defendió la tesis de los derechos soberanos de los Estados Ribereños sobre los recursos naturales renovables, incluyendo los recursos vivos, hasta una distancia de 200 millas náuticas medidas desde las líneas de base del Mar Territorial.

Por otra parte, mi país, puede aceptar la presente solución de compromiso que reemplazó la noción de libertad de pesca en alta mar, por la de derecho de pesca en alta mar, con la obligación para los Estados de cooperar para la conservación y administración de los recursos vivos del alta mar. En este campo, Venezuela está a favor de la atribución de competencias extensas a las organizaciones internacionales competentes.

Al tender la mirada hacia otros foros internacionales es de desear que no se interrumpa el diálogo Norte-Sur y que continúe dentro del ámbito de las Naciones Unidas. Venezuela apoya decididamente las gestiones que se están adelantando en la Asamblea General, a fin de establecer los mecanismos más apropiados para dicho diálogo y hace una exhortación a la buena voluntad de los países más desarrollados para que satisfagan las demandas de los países en desarrollo orientadas al establecimiento del nuevo orden económico internacional.

Venezuela apoya igualmente las conversaciones que se realizan en la Conferencia de Ginebra bajo el marco de la UNCTAD relacionadas con el Fondo Común del Programa Integral, que abarca productos agrícolas y desea que éste comience a funcionar cuanto antes.

Quiero finalizar esta exposición citando unas palabras pronunciadas hace justamente un año por nuestro Presidente Carlos Andrés Pérez, en este mismo recinto" de la FAO al referirse al problema agrícola y alimentario mundial: decía nuestro Presidente, "Venezuela apoyará todas aquellas medidas que honestamente tiendan a favorecer la solución del problema capital del mundo. Aspiramos a que las naciones industrializadas comprendan ciertamente que su propio bienestar y la paz del mundo requieren del apoyo amplio, dedido y suficiente. Todo se resume, ilustres dirigentes de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, en un solo objetivo, en un solo propósito: la creación del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional".

J. VIROLAINEN (Finland): Since the last session of the FAO Conference, held here in Rome two years ago, the food situation in the world has improved. The annual growth of food production in the developing countries has reached the target of 4 percent put forward in the Strategy of the Second Development Decade. This year's crops, too, seem to be satisfactory. We know, however, that the growth of food production in the developing countries since the beginning of the current decade lies far below the 4 percent target.

The Director-General states in his introduction on the Programme of Work and Budget that the world food situation is still fragile. Therefore basic investments in agriculture in developing countries should be increased substantially.

Mr. Chairman, the follow-up activities and the implementation of the recommendations of the World Food Conference of 1974 were widely discussed at the last session of the FAO Conference here in Rome in 1975. In our view, the most important outcome of the World Food Conference has been the establishment of IFAD which will become operative in the imminent future. The last session of the World Food Council in Manila last summer marked a considerable step forward. However, concerning World Food Security, which was one of the main themes of the World Food Conference, very slow progress is being made. We feel that the main responsibility in implementing the recommendations of the World Food Conference rests upon this Organization. FAO has already taken steps in this respect. As regards the promotion of investment in agricultural development, I would like to mention the new Technical Co-operation Programme. Wise utilization of the resources available for this programme could make a concrete contribution to the actual needs of many countries.

Mr. Chairman, I shall now turn to one of the main items of this Conference, namely the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79. First, I would like to say that we support the strategy and the framework for the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization as presented by the Director-General. We recognize also the right and the responsibility of the Director-General for definition of priorities and formulation of programmes and programme changes. We appreciate that the approach now has been more concrete and problem-Oriented. We believe that this will contribute to a more rational use of all available resources. In this context, I want to add that the measures initiated by the Director-General and supported by a great majority of member nations, aiming at a rationalization of the number of meetings, the paper work, and the availability of posts in the Organization, are welcome steps towards economies and efficiency of work. We hope that the Director-General will continue also in the future along this line.

My delegation will make detailed comments on the Programme of Work and Budget in due course during the Conference. At this stage, however, I want briefly to touch upon a few programmes which we feel are of great importance in the global agricultural context for the developing world. We appreciate very much that greater emphasis will be attached to integrated rural development, which is a complex question in many countries. We support the arrangement of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in 1979. My country will make its full contribution to the conference, and our national preparations have already begun. In these preparations we shall present our own experiences in the field of agrarian and land reforms which may be of some value in the deliberations of the Conference on Agrarian Reform. In the fight against hunger, it is not only the technical aspects of the modernization of agriculture, like the use of fertilizers and pesticides, mechanization, better seed, etc., that are important. In many developing countries also institutional changes and agrarian reforms leading to the improvement of rural employment, to a more equal distribution of income and, generally, to better social justice are of decisive importance. Each country is fully responsible within its sovereign judgement to enter upon integrated socio-economic reforms. FAO for its part should provide a discussion forum on an international level for countries interested or engaging in such reforms. It lies within FAO's responsibilities to assist developing countries in establishing national frameworks and goals, and in rendering advice on administrative, organizational and technical matters. We welcome particularly the concrete approach to the problems involved, the need to help small farmers in the development process and to include the participation of other rural poor.

Mr, Chairman, the complexity of rural development problems concerns also other UN agencies besides FAO. Concerning the need to provide food and income for the rural population, and the need to improve agriculture in rural areas, we see FAO as the leading and coordinating agency for rural development activities within the UN organization. Another activity which has been especially emphasized by representatives of my country on several occasions in the past, - is the programme concerning reduction of food losses, Without any further comment here, I just wish to express our appreciation of the fact that this programme is being taken up and for the general and solid approval granted to it by the Council.

As the delegate of Finland, coming from a country where forestry is of vital importance^FAO's forestry



activities are also of great interest to me. We have earlier often stressed the need for good forestry programmes and programme components to be appropriately composed and fitted to assist countries in improving their forestry and forest industry sector. On this occasion we particularly welcome the sharper definition of priorities regarding forestry programmes and the concentration of available resources which has been undertaken. Among the programme objectives I would like especially from our side to endorse the priority which has been attached to forestry's role in rural development, and to the assistance to be given for establishment of medium and small-scale forest industries in countries with the required resource base. Both of these objectives will very well support FAO's general rural development programme by contributing to the improvement of economic conditions and employment situation of rural areas.

Having dealt with FAO's Regular Budget activities, may I touch briefly upon the other side of the FAO's work, namely the field activities which are financed by extra-budgetary resources. According to FAO's own information, there has been a substantial decline in real terms in the total commitments of concessional aid to agriculture over the current biennium. This means in reality a reduction of the field activities of the Organization. It means, also, growing insecurity regarding the planning and execution of projects. This is in my opinion a matter of grave concern, all the more so as the objectives of FAO in the future are to provide a basis for stronger links between field activities and the Regular Programme. In order to obtain a fruitful and effective operational interaction between FAO's Regular Programme and field activities, we should achieve stability in the resource base of extra-budgetary funds,

Finally, Mr, Chairman, on behalf of the Finnish Government I wish to commend the Director-General and his staff for their fine work during the last biennium for the welfare of the developing world.

A, BARRETO (Portugal) (interprétation du portugais): Acceptez, Monsieur le Président, mes chaleureuses félicitations pour votre élection.

C'est pour moi un grand honneur de m'adresser pour la première fois à cette Assemblée, surtout dans un moment où le Portugal connaît un processus de transformation de fond de son agriculture et de ses structures agraires. Et un autre fait est pour moi motif de joie, comme j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de l'exprimer. L'admission de trois pays africains de langue portugaise: l'Angola, le Mozambique et Sao-Tomé-et- Principe, qui sont venus se joindre à deux qui en faisaient déjà partie, la Guinée-Bissau et le Cap-Vert.

Monsieur le Président, le Portugal accorde une grande importance à la FAO, dont nous soulignons les grands efforts et l'action en vue de la résolution de quelques problèmes fondamentaux de l'humanité. Dans ce sens, nous sommes prêts à soutenir les travaux et les efforts conduisant à une plus grande efficacité dans le terrain auprès des agriculteurs et de tous les producteurs.

La pire lutte qui soit est celle du pain. Le Portugal joint sa voix à toutes celles qui regardent le futur avec l'optimisme du combattant, mais aussi avec la crainte que la lutte des aliments ne vienne succéder à celle de l'énergie ou des technologies. Or, la seule manière d'empêcher la lutte du pain consiste en l'élimination de la pauvreté et de l'inégalité.

Nous regardons avec satisfaction les quelques progrès enregistrés au cours des dernières années, en matière de production et de stocks alimentaires. Mais ces améliorations conjoncturelles ne représentent qu'un soulagement et peuvent même être source d'illusion. Or, il n'y a de vraie solution qu'à long terme, structurelle et solidaire, qui remplacera même les actuels mécanismes d'aide. Nous soulignons avec force que mieux que l'aide c'est la justice. Justice dans les échanges et le transfert de la technologie, dans l'emploi et l'investissement, les mouvements de capitaux et la répartition des revenus. En développant l'égalité, en combattant pour la justice, l'humanité trouvera une solution acceptable et durable aux problèmes alimentaires. La faim ne pose plus de problèmes techniques insurmontables: nous pouvons donc l'éliminer si nous le voulons.

C'est dans cet esprit que le Portugal continuera d'apporter sa collaboration et ses contributions à la FAO, dans la tradition de notre vocation universelle, mais aussi dans le prolongement de notre action externe. C'est ainsi que nous aurons tendance à privilégier et renforcer les mécanismes régionaux et décentralisés,

A ce propos, laissez-moi vous transmettre un souhait du Portugal: nous verrons avec beaucoup d'intérêt toutes les initiatives qui, au sein de la FAO, mettront en coopération étroite tous les pays de la région méditerranéenne, de l'Afrique du Nord et de l'Europe du Sud. Cela peut sembler paradoxal, mais

le Portugal se considère aussi un pays méditerranéen: l'écologie, la culture et l'histoire le démontrent avec une force éclatante. Des questions telles que l'aridité, l'érosion et la désertification et l'irrigation pourront être traitées en commun. D'ailleurs, aucune de ces questions ne pourra être résolue unilatéralement. La coopération méditerranéenne sur une base paritaire, outre tous les avantages évidents et pragmatiques, aura encore une signification supérieure: elle sera, part intégrante du dialogue Nord-Sud et des liens qui unissent l'Europe et l'Afrique,

Le Portugal verra aussi avec beaucoup d'intérêt et satisfaction le développement des activités de la FAO en Europe, dont le progrès dans l'agriculture et les pêcheries profiteront sans doute à tous les Etats Membres en plus de sa contribution pour réduire les déséquilibres internes de la Région.

Monsieur le Président, le Portugal continue à être en quelque sorte un pays de paradoxes: il traverse une grave crise et connaît le début d'une grande entreprise nationale. Crise des ressources, de l'équilibre démographique et des échanges extérieurs; épopée d'une société en pleine transformation, où l'on est allé jusqu'aux bases les plus fondamentales de l'identité nationale, des relations entre les hommes et de leur destin. Le grand défi que nous avons accepté se résume de manière simple: il faut surmonter la crise actuelle afin de poursuivre cette entreprise.

Une transformation sociale et politique comme celle qui a eu lieu depuis avril 1974 constitue un événement dont les causes et les effets, concernant toute la communauté et les institutions, caractérisent un phénomène qui n'a lieu que très rarement dans la vie et l'histoire d'un peuple.

La décolonisation a reconduit le Portugal à son territoire européen et originel (sans pour autant mettre en cause notre vocation universaliste), ce qui a eu comme premières conséquences: réexaminer la présence du Portugal dans le monde et l'augmentation soudaine de la population résidente d'environ 7 pour cent (600 000 personnes). De cette situation découlent des problèmes très sérieux qu'il faut résoudre immédiatement. Or, nous nous trouvons à un moment où l'on cherche, avec toutes les forces du besoin vital, à réorienter notre économie, de manière à corriger les graves injustices sociales, à éliminer le sous-développement et à construire un régime démocratique. Dans "cette direction, nous avons déjà fait les premiers pas et commis les inévitables erreurs initiales de quelqu'un qui désire rester maître de son destin. La création d'un important secteur public et sa coexistence avec les secteurs coopératif et privé; la réforme agraire en cours; la participation active des travailleurs; l'élaboration des premiers Plans d'ensemble et des projets visant la modernisation de l'économie; le développement et la consolidation de nos relations extérieures avec tous les pays du monde; voici quelques idées-force et quelques réalisations, consacrées dans notre nouvelle Constitution et vécues déjà dans la pratique. Tout ceci, cependant, va exiger un grand effort collectif, un véritable sacrifice et un esprit civique élevé, vu les difficultés économiques que nous connaissons, résultat d'une politique et d'une politique économique qui, pendant de longues décennies, n'ont pas développé l'industrie ni l'agriculture, ne se sont pas souciées de l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles et nationales. L'effort que le Portugal doit réaliser est encore plus difficile, face aux répercussions des récentes crises économiques mondiales et régionales.

La période de trois ans et demi que nous venons de vivre fut une période mouvementée, au cours de laquelle on pouvait parfois croire que l'on perdait le sens des transformations et la maîtrise des changements. Nous sommes néanmoins arrivés à un point où l'effort essentiel va vers l'institutionnalisation d'un nouvel ordre social, politique et économique. Les aspects les plus radicaux de tout ce processus, qui ont eu pourtant l'utilité de lever ou éliminer des obstacles sérieux au changement, ont pu être vigoureusement corrigés et résorbés.

C'est non seulement le système économique corporatiste et un régime non démocratique qu'il a fallu défaire et remplacer, mais aussi les bases mêmes et les orientations de notre relation avec le monde. Du point de vue du stade de développement économique, nous avons certaines affinités avec la problématique du sous-développement, et nous attachons donc une grande importance à l'application des principes d'un nouvel ordre international. Par ailleurs, le Portugal affirme néanmoins son appartenance et son caractère européens. Nous en avons tiré les conséquences et le Gouvernement a posé sa candidature à l'adhésion au Marché commun. Cette intégration, un autre défi, créera évidemment la nécessité d'un effort accéléré de transformation de l'économie portugaise, avec de très importantes implications dans le secteur agricole et alimentaire.

La stagnation agricole que le Portugal connaît depuis 2 ou 3 décennies doit être vaincue, si nous voulons réduire considérablement les déficits commerciaux et des paiements, ainsi que surmonter les ' obstacles au développement. Pour ce faire, il est absolument indispensable d'amener un important progrès technique subordonné au principe de l'utilisation prioritaire des ressources naturelles et disponibles, tout en respectant rigoureusement leur conservation rationnelle.

Le stratégie qui sera mise en pratique dans le cadre du plan qui devra être approuvé bientôt par le Parlement, dépasse de loin le domaine restreint de l'agriculture et intègre de nouvelles politiques de l'eau, du commerce, du crédit, de la transformation des produits alimentaires, de la recherche et de l'enseignement. Pour cela, nous avons les ressources, les capacités et la volonté; il faudra cependant un immense effort de réorientation.

Il ne faut pas le cacher, le Gouvernement se trouve confronté à de nombreux besoins et des problèmes apparemment contradictoires qui en quelque sorte illustrent nos difficultés: la crise à court terme, mais le développement à long terme; la nécessité d'une plus grande justice sociale et la rupture des ressources et de la production. D'un côté, nous voyons clairement le besoin de moderniser et d'augmenter la productivité par homme et par hectare; d'un autre côté, nous devons prendre toutes les précautions afin de créer de l'emploi et éliminer le sous-emploi, un des plus graves problèmes actuels. C'est ainsi que nous conduisons le processus de la réforme agraire, subordonné à trois principes: justice, sécurité et développement.

Après le déclenchement des grandes transformations qui ont eu lieu peu après 1974, nous nous trouvons dans une situation de particulière importance, qui consiste à donner une voie cohérente, des objectifs sûrs et une philosophie socio-économique à la poursuite sociale de la Réforme agraire. En effet, le mouvement spontané et révolutionnaire des années 74 à 76 a essentiellement fait éclater l'état des structures traditionnelles et des puissants obstacles qui s'opposaient à tout essai de réforme sociale et qui empêchaient une modernisation sérieuse de l'agriculture. Celle-ci révélait sa plus grave distorsion: la sous-utilisation des ressources nationales (terre, eau, travail et capital). Depuis 12 mois, nous nous sommes engagés dans une deuxième phase: la création des nouvelles institutions, la mise en pratique d'une nouvelle politique agricole d'ensemble. L'investissement et la modernisation consolideront les changements effectués dans les structures foncières.

A cet égard, nous sommes particulièrement intéressés à la question des institutions: quels sont les modèles, à définir et à concrétiser, qui présideront à l'organisation des nouvelles unités et structures productives? Les expériences que nous pourrions connaître par l'intermédiaire de la FAO seront de grande utilité. C'est pour cela que nous avons l'intention de contribuer très activement à la Conférence mondiale sur la Réforme agraire et le Développement rural, dont les résultats, nous l'espérons, contribueront à une meilleure compréhension de la complexité d'une problématique si controversée.

A propos encore de la réforme agraire portugaise, la question essentielle est évidemment celle du statut de la terre, des liens entre les hommes et de la responsabilité de l'Etat. Le gouvernement portugais, conscient des réalités de son territoire et de son peuple, a pris une sérieuse option en faveur d'une véritable société rurale, modernisée, basée sur un certain "esprit paysan", c'est-à-dire, nous voulons promouvoir la fixation à la terre et à la communauté rurale en donnant aux paysans et aux travailleurs ruraux les moyens de mieux contrôler leur production, ainsi que d'autres aspects essentiels: la recherche, la commercialisation et l'industrialisation. La paysannerie ne constitue pas une profession, mais bien plus un mode de vie et une culture. Cette culture doit présider à la production. S'il est vrai que l'on produit pour des hommes, il ne faudra jamais oublier que ce sont des hommes qui produisent.

Cette année encore, le gouvernement approuvera une très importante législation sur les statuts des unités productives et sur le régime d'utilisation de la terre. A ce propos, je souligne que les coopératives de production, d'agriculteurs ou complémentaires constituent le modèle que nous voulons privilégier, tout en laissant aux agriculteurs, évidemment, la liberté de s'organiser.

Les transformations qui sont advenues récemment en conséquence des négociations en cours à la troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur le Droit de la mer et du nouveau règlement pour les océans ont eu de profondes répercussions sur les pêches portugaises. C'est ainsi qu'on a défini une zone économique exclusive, dont nous nous proposons d'exploiter et de développer rationnellement les ressources dans un cadre adéquat de coopération régionale car les produits de la pêche ont une importance vitale dans le régime alimentaire du peuple portugais. Ce développement aura aussi son importance pour l'amélioration de notre balance de paiements, de même qu'il sera un stimulant pour les industries connexes.

Nous savons bien que la plus grande partie de l'effort vers un développement socio-économique équilibré est la tâche du peuple portugais, mais nous sommes fort encouragés dans cette tâche par les différentes formes qu'a prises l'aide reçue des pays amis, et nous souhaitons pouvoir en bénéficier davantage par l'entremise des Nations Unies et de ses agences spécialisées, notamment la FAO.

Le gouvernement portugais considère le cadre multilatéral comme étant particulièrement convenable pour la promotion des investissements et pour rendre plus facile la coordination des activités d'aide technique, dont les résultats sont étroitement liés à la compétence technique et à l'efficacité des agences d'exécution.

C'est pourquoi, à notre avis, les activités de la FAO doivent continuer de s'élargir de façon à augmenter aussi le rôle qu'elle joue déjà dans l'effort pour réduire l'immense écart entre les capacités scientifiques et technologiques des pays développés et celles des pays en voie de développement, et ceci dans le sens déjà préconisé par le Programme de Travail pour le biennium de 1977-78.

La sensibilité politique, l'énergie et le dynamisme dont a fait preuve le Directeur général au cours de ces deux années, ainsi que les propositions qu'il a soumises, ont tout notre appui. Nous croyons que les mesures envisagées par le Directeur général et adoptées au cours de la 69<sup>ème</sup> séance, en juillet 1976, surtout en ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique et la décentralisation des services du siège, sont opportunes et prises dans la direction correcte.

Dans mon pays, les reflets de l'action de la FAO sont encourageants et je saisis cette occasion pour remercier de la rapidité et de l'efficacité avec lesquelles la FAO et le Programme mondial pour l'alimentation ont répondu aux sollicitations du Gouvernement portugais. Nous souhaitons que les projets en cours, ainsi que ceux qui vont bientôt commencer, puissent contribuer à l'acquisition des technologies les plus conformes aux conditions socio-économiques des populations rurales, particulièrement celles du minifundium, car il faut prévenir la répétition de ces cas où la politique de développement ne favorise que les couches sociales les plus privilégiées.

En ce moment de l'histoire de l'humanité où l'on veut traduire dans la pratique les objectifs d'un nouvel ordre économique international axé sur la "self-reliance", nous considérons, d'après notre expérience, que la plus haute priorité doit aller à la transference de technologies en des conditions satisfaisantes et à la concentration des ressources financières internationales dans le sens du développement. Nous nous réjouissons donc, si la FAO prenait la position qui lui revient d'après son statut, dans la préparation de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur la Science et la Technologie, où certains de ces aspects doivent être discutés. Nous aimerions que dans la restructuration des Nations Unies déjà à l'étude la FAO puisse occuper le leadership en ce qui touche l'application d'un N. O. E. I. aux secteurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches. Surtout pour ce qui regarde les pêches, il est urgent de développer des modèles élargis pour la transference des technologies et la coopération mutuelle, de telle façon que les Etats riverains puissent profiter pleinement de leurs zones économiques exclusives et assurer la conservation des ressources ainsi qu'on l'a déjà souligné à la dernière réunion du COFI.

Au cours du débat général à l'actuelle Assemblée des Nations Unies, le Ministre des affaires étrangères du Portugal a annoncé notre position sur l'institution du nouveau règlement pour les océans et les avantages qu'il apportera, dans certains cas, à la rationalisation des organismes des Nations Unies compétents dans ce domaine. Dans ce cadre, la FAO aura un rôle important et il pourra s'avérer nécessaire renforcer le Département des pêches de la FAO et de faire des arrangements dans les organismes régionaux pour la pêche créés dans le cadre de l'organisation, de telle façon qu'ils puissent remplir les nouvelles fonctions qu'attend d'eux la communauté internationale.

L'effort qui sera demandé à la FAO au cours des prochaines années sera donc remarquable et il exige la consolidation de sa capacité technique et la mise à disposition des services dont dépendent la qualité et les résultats de l'application des projets. C'est seulement dans ces conditions qu'il sera possible de profiter pleinement des projets mis en oeuvre dans le cadre du PNUD ou d'autres fonds, dont la diversité et la spécificité ont justifié la création récente de l'International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). Nous pensons, aussi, d'après l'expérience positive que nous avons eu, que le Programme de Coopération Technique est un instrument d'action qui s'est avéré capable de répondre avec flexibilité, efficacité et rapidité aux sollicitations des Gouvernements concernés.

Les progrès qui résultent d'une plus juste application de la science et de la technologie à l'Agriculture et à la Pêche (à laquelle a beaucoup contribué l'action de la FAO) ont consenti jusqu'à présent à éviter la dégradation chaotique de la situation alimentaire mondiale. Le programme d'action destiné à réduire les pertes alimentaires proposé par le Directeur général et les propositions pour son financement, non seulement correspondent à un objectif de la plus grande importance pour beaucoup de pays et de régions, mais se placent dans un domaine qui répond à la vocation d'appui fonctionnel de la part de la FAO aux pays membres intéressés.

Subsiste finalement le besoin impérieux d'une lutte efficace contre la famine, qui continue à affecter une partie importante de la population mondiale. Au-delà des problèmes de production au niveau national, il devient chaque fois plus urgent d'assurer une distribution juste et équilibrée des produits alimentaires et d'adopter des mesures de sécurité alimentaire, qui puissent contribuer à la prévention ou à la réduction des situations de crise.

Après une première phase, dans l'immédiat après-guerre, dans laquelle la FAO a assumé des responsabilités vis-à-vis des différents aspects du problème, on a assisté dans les dernières années - au moment où les questions de l'alimentation sont peut-être devenues le problème fondamental pour la communauté mondiale - à la création d'un nombre grandissant d'institutions spécialisées dans le secteur de l'alimentation, dont on a reconnu l'urgence d'une action concertée.

Poursuivant l'orientation que le Gouvernement portugais a toujours défendue et réaffirmée lors de la dernière séance de l'Assemblée, nous pensons qu'il est indispensable d'assurer la primauté de la FAO dans ce domaine.

Etant donné sa nature intergouvernementale, cette Assemblée doit accompagner les activités de ces institutions-là, analyser les progrès accomplis et donner des orientations qui puissent contribuer à une coordination efficace, dans le respect des compétences des différents Programmes et Agences.

En outre, ce but exige que la capacité de la FAO soit ajustée aux besoins accrus en tout ce qui concerne le maintien et le développement du système d'information, la préparation des synthèses et des analyses à différents niveaux, d'après les besoins spécifiques des différents types d'utilisateurs.

Le processus de décentralisation en cours, ainsi que l'appui au renforcement des capacités nationales, justifie l'orientation proposée dans le sens de renforcer le système des représentants de la FAO, laquelle pourra ainsi maintenir une liaison quotidienne avec les activités et les problèmes des pays membres.

Nous avons déjà affirmé que dans le monde d'interdépendance où nous vivons, la coopération internationale dans le cadre des Nations Unies nous semble le système le plus ajusté pour la recherche des solutions tenant compte des intérêts nationaux et de ceux de la communauté mondiale. Il faut sauvegarder le caractère universel de telles organisations et le principe de l'égalité des Etats dans le système de décision.

Le Portugal, dans la mesure de ses possibilités, fera tout pour contribuer aux activités de la FAO, ayant la certitude que nous nous aidons nous-mêmes et qu'en même temps nous contribuons à l'effort collectif dans le cadre de l'Organisation. C'est donc avec le plus grand plaisir que je saisis cette occasion pour exprimer la satisfaction que nous aurons à accueillir l'année prochaine, à Lisbonne, la onzième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe. A l'avenir nous continuerons de faciliter la réalisation dans notre pays d'autres réunions de l'Organisation.

S. BOOLELL (Mauritius): On behalf of my delegation, and in my own name, I wish to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, my warmest congratulations on your election to preside over our deliberations. I have no doubt that under your leadership, this 19th Session will be a success.

I should also like to congratulate and welcome to our Organization the new members: Angola, Comores, Djibouti, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles. This addition to the membership is an indication of the importance of the FAO as an international forum for the discussion of the problems of food and agriculture. It is also an expression of our conviction that this Organization has a vital role to play in helping countries to free their peoples from the scourge of hunger and malnutrition.

We note from FAO documents that FAO's assessment of the world food and agricultural production indicates increases in 1977 of only 1.0 to 1.5 percent in world food production and 1.5 to 2.0 percent in total agricultural production after satisfactory results achieved in the three previous years when the 4 percent average annual growth called for in the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade had been recorded. We also note with concern that the average annual increase in food production in the developing countries has been 2.5 percent only over the last seven years, which is below the rate of 2.9 percent achieved in the period 1961-1970. The FAO's survey of the food situation over the last two years also indicates that the lowest production has been recorded in the most seriously affected countries where food production per capita fell 0.4 percent in the 1974-76 period. How do we explain this sad situation?

Developing countries in general and the most seriously affected countries in particular have to face enormous difficulties in their efforts to increase their food production. Apart from climatic factors such as drought, and other calamities such as floods and cyclones, which can destroy a whole year's labour within a matter of hours, the farmers sometimes do not have access at the appropriate time and in adequate amount to the essential inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, high-yielding varieties of seeds and modern technology. Our primary products on which we depend for export earnings are at

the mercy of the market forces over which we have no control. With the best of intentions governments often find themselves in the helpless situation of being unable to provide the necessary credit to farmers to buy the essential inputs. The incentives to increased production lie in adequate remuneration to the producers. But the developing countries have to face the double scourge of low prices for their exports and high prices for their imports. The market of both primary products and manufactured goods is controlled by developed countries. Unless these inequities are resolved the developing world will stagnate in underdevelopment and there will never be a new international economic order.

We get assistance for temporary relief in areas of disaster. But little effort is made to find permanent solutions to prevent disasters. The recurrent droughts in Sahel should be a stern reminder that relief measures on an ad hoc basis are not the answer to solve the problem of hunger in that region. Concentrated efforts to develop and mobilize water resources in that area should not only be given priority but treated as a measure of urgency.

The mobilization of resources in developing countries themselves for increased food production is dependent on export earnings. It is unfortunate that progress in resolving these problems at international level continues to be slow, much to the disappointment and frustration of the developing world. It was only after long and protracted negotiations that it had recently been possible to reach an international sugar agreement. We only hope that a majority of importing and exporting sugar countries will ratify the agreement which will enable the current low price of sugar which is below the cost of production, even of the most efficient producers, to reach a level which will be both equitable to consumers and remunerative to producers. With regard to tea, we are hopeful that the present efforts towards arriving at an international tea agreement will come to fruition. We also hope that the negotiations in GATT and UNCTAD in respect of other commodities would move towards more positive conclusions and that agreement would be reached on the establishment of a Common Fund which is a key element in UNCTAD's Integrated Commodities Programme.

While we appreciate the importance of assistance for the development of agriculture in the poorer countries we have to deplore that the commitments by the donor agencies are far from adequate. In fact total official commitments of external assistance to agriculture are estimated to have fallen by 7 percent in real terms in 1976. This sad state of affairs can no longer continue, especially at a time when developing countries require massive investment for the development of their agriculture and have to pay very high prices for their imports from developed countries. It is unfortunate that the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation failed to solve this important and other outstanding issues.

The agricultural development in Mauritius, as in many other developing countries, has been adversely affected by events in the world at large. We depend mostly on sugar production which alone accounts for 84 percent of our total export earnings and provides employment to about 90 percent, of total employment in agriculture. Our progress in 1976-77 has been affected by a decline in the price of our main export, while the price of industrial goods which we import continues to rise. In fact, the average price of our exports fell by 18 percent in 1976 while the price of our imports rose by 10 percent. We cannot but be concerned by this situation. In view of our heavy dépendance on trade, this has involved a substantial reduction in our country's real resources - both for consumption and investment.

Investment in agriculture is the key element in our development plan which, in so far as agricultural development is concerned, aims at:

- (i) maximization of sugar-cane production not through an extension of acreage but through improved cultural practices;
- (ii) greater agricultural diversification through bringing more lands under cultivation of crops other than sugar and greater use of the interlines of sugar plantations; and
- (iii) increasing livestock production to meet the requirements of the local market.

The attainment of these objectives requires a large investment expenditure in the agricultural sector, representing about 20 percent of the total planned investment for the period 1979-80. More than one third of the investment in this sector will be carried out by the public sector, which relates to the supply of irrigation water, provision of mechanical services to planters, improvement of extension services and construction of storage facilities for agricultural produce. With a view to achieving substantial increase in output of crops, we have envisaged the implementation of three irrigation projects. These projects when completed will provide water to some 12 500 hectares of land of which about half belong to small farmers cultivating less than 5 hectares each.

Our development plan also provides for the implementation of a comprehensive programme of research in crop and livestock. Although we are not a major food-producing country we are aiming to more than double the present production of food crops, so as to reach self-sufficiency in several types of agricultural produce we consume. With regard to livestock development, research work undertaken over the recent years with the collaboration of UNDP and FAO has demonstrated the feasibility of utilizing sugar cane by-products for the cattle reared intensively in feedlots.

We are conscious of the fact that without adequate application of fertilizers food production is bound to suffer. We have therefore set up a fertilizer plant to meet all our requirements and for some exports. We have also established a National Fertilizer Scheme to subsidize the prices of fertilizers and to ensure an adequate supply to farmers. These measures have already been having their beneficial effects in that farmers are making increasing use of fertilizers.

We are glad that the international community, including the World Bank and the FAO, are giving more emphasis to rural development. We support the activities of the FAO aiming at giving more emphasis to the small farmers and to the role of women in the development of agriculture. In this connection my government has intensified its effort in attacking rural poverty. The first phase of our rural development programme which is being assisted financially by the World Bank has been providing a package of improvement works in the rural areas in order to motivate the villagers in self-help and rural reconstruction. This programme has been reshaped in the light of experience and the second phase lays emphasis on the creation of short-term employment opportunities and the raising of the quality of life of the people. It is essential to provide remunerative employment opportunities especially for young people, in the rural areas.

Another main problem in the developing world is the unwillingness of the young people to take up farming because farming is considered to be the activity of the poorer section of the community. In Mauritius, we are striving to create conditions which will attract the young to agricultural occupation. We are bringing certain changes in our education system in order to make it more development-oriented. We are also encouraging organizations like Young Farmers' Clubs to participate more effectively in the development of agriculture through the use of improved technology, such as mechanization.

We are glad that the Director-General has made some concrete proposals to give a new orientation to the work of the Organization. We welcome the strengthening and restructuring of the Investment Centre as proposed in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. We hope that, with the effective cooperation of FAO, IFAD, the World Bank and other lending institutions, developing countries can expect finance to a greater extent and more speedily for their agricultural projects.

With regard to the Technical Co-operation Programme of FAO, we believe that even with the short period of its life, it has clearly proved its usefulness. The very wide range of agricultural projects which have been financed under the Technical Cooperation Programme amply demonstrate that the Programme fulfils existing needs in agricultural development.

My delegation also fully supports the other proposals made by the Director-General in his Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79. On the question of reducing post-harvest losses, we consider that this is an important step. The urgency and importance of implementing as soon as possible a programme of action, which will have an impact on the availability of food for human consumption, need not be elaborated.

Science and technology have placed at the disposal of mankind the means of meeting the challenge of world food shortage. Yet, as Ambassador Andrew Young, in his McDougall Memorial Lecture, has mentioned, millions of people throughout the world are facing starvation. The Director-General also, in his most stimulating address to the Conference, referred to certain areas where "a billion people are at the lowest levels of existence and hundreds of millions are lacking in one or more of the basic needs - enough food, clean drinking water, adequate housing, minimum hygiene." That such a situation should prevail is a matter of grave concern to all of us. And we all stand self-condemned.

It has therefore become more than ever imperative for effective and determined efforts, both at the national and international levels, to deal with the present world food situation. The efforts made by individual developing countries need to be strongly supported by developed countries and international agencies with adequate help and resources.

It would be pointless to appeal to members of the Third World to urge their farmers to produce more food, if proper conditions do not exist to provide the necessary incentives to the workers on the farm.

Already the young generation which constitutes a majority of the population in the developing world are dissatisfied with the present state of affairs and are exploding with impatience and anger. Conditions have therefore to be created to ensure that they have a decent living and a better quality of life. This objective can only be achieved if the export earnings of the developing countries are stabilized by the regulation of international trade. It will only be then that it will be possible for the Third World countries to plan for larger investments in agriculture and guarantee an adequate return to the farmer.

We have the firm conviction that under the leadership of the present Director-General who has given a new dimension to the activities of the FAO, we can look to the future of food and agricultural development with greater hope.

The meeting rose at 13. 00 hours

La seance est levée à 13 heures Se levanto

la sesión a las 13. 00 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

TENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(17 November 1977)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 50 hours,  
T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50  
sous la présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 14. 50 horas  
bajo la presidencia de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the Tenth Plenary Meeting to order. We will continue the item General Discussion and I now give the floor to Mr. Ives, Secretary, Department for Primary Industry, Australia.

W. IVES (Australia): Mr. Chairman, like all the other delegations which have the opportunity so far, I should like to congratulate you very sincerely upon your election to this high and distinguished office. I should also like to offer my personal thanks and congratulations for the very effective way in which you have been discharging what are heavy and sometimes quite awkward responsibilities. Secondly, I should like to offer congratulations to the Director-General, Dr. Saouma, on the completion of the first two years of his period of office and on the successful discharge for two years of his heavy responsibilities. Those of us who have what we ourselves may regard as the quite onerous responsibilities of worrying about agriculture in our own countries can understand, I think, the difficulties and the responsibilities which the Director-General is carrying in coping with this very important international body.

This afternoon I have no intention of talking to you about the problems of Australia; they are numerous and they are varied, but we do recognize the fact that they have no particular interest for you. Instead of that, I intend to confine my remarks to three main issues.

The first matter that I intend to deal with is the need for us all to be much more realistic in recognizing the limitations to what FAO can be expected to do with the resources, that are likely to be at its disposal. Secondly, I intend to refer to the urgent need, as I see it, to develop some simple way whereby there can be effective and not just formal discussions between the divergent viewpoints which, obviously and understandably, exist between member countries of FAO. Then, finally, I intend to make a plea for proper support of the important programme which will be concerned with reducing the losses of food which occur after we have gone to all the trouble and expense of producing it.

Turning to the first point, I had occasion to say on Monday, when I was congratulating Ambassador Young on his McDougall Memorial Lecture, that every FAO Conference has found it difficult to agree on priorities within the proposed programme and that I am certain that this Conference will be no exception. I think you can sense that already. Indeed, could you really expect anything else? We know that in our countries every year when we are formulating our agricultural budgets, important and often quite urgent measures have to be put aside because we cannot find the money. In other words, our governments consider that they cannot hit the taxpayer any harder. So it is not surprising that when about 140 countries are all trying to get their problems dealt with as a matter of urgency, there is very strong competition for funds. That is no news to you but I do not think that we should feel any surprise when in every Conference we are confronted with the same situation. In my own view there is really very little to be gained by spending much more of our time in talking about general objectives and about what we should like to be done. There really is not much room for disagreement about our ultimate aims. They are in fact the same today as when FAO was founded and you can read them in the main entrance as you come into this building.

The disagreement between us comes when we try to decide what should be done first. That is where the trouble is: what should be done first, and what funds should be spent on particular proposals. The time has passed, at least in my judgement, of simply saying that more should be done. We know that only too well. We will use our time to greater advantage if we remember that, difficult though it may be, we have no option but to agree about what are the most urgent and the most important problems for the coming few years. If we do not reach agreement, somebody else is simply going to make a judgement on whatever data can be found. It is inevitable, in my opinion, that some of us will always go away from these Conferences feeling disappointed.

Turning now to my second point, I should like to elaborate on some remarks that I made when I addressed this Conference two years ago. I pointed out then that the tendency for countries to become members either of the Group of 77 or of some other group had reached the stage where discussions both in the Commissions and in the Plenary sessions were becoming increasingly formal and increasingly unproductive. I suggest that it is now high time that we face the fact that while often there appears to be vigorous discussion within each group, there is no effective mechanism whereby those groups can exchange their viewpoints in a quiet and informal atmosphere which would be conducive to compromise. I would like to point out that many things can be said, many things can be accepted, if they are said in private; things which would probably cause a tremendous row and lasting bitterness if they were said in public -and if you have doubts about that statement, ask any wife, ask any husband. I think on the basis of my own personal experience both in FAO and in the World Food Council that - progress in each body will continue to be quite seriously impeded unless we take account of the realities of the present situation.

It is not only that the present differences of viewpoint between the groups make the position of the Director-General unnecessarily difficult, but no group seems to have adequate opportunity for understanding the basic reasons for the viewpoints of others. Of course I realize as you do that most of our difficulties come back to the fact that the resources of FAO are limited. Moreover, it is a fact of life - human nature being what it is, and what it is always likely to be - that taxpayers all over the world are reluctant to assume heavier burdens even when better services are going to be provided in their own countries. It will never be easy for any government to persuade its taxpayers to pay up more to help other countries of whose circumstances those taxpayers usually know very little.

Therefore, if only because FAO's funds are bound to be always less than could be used to advantage, it is vital that the problem of helping each group to understand the approach of all the others should be resolved. Now, there are several ways in which useful consultation could be developed. The first essential, in my own view, is that the leaders of these groups should recognize quickly the damage that will be done to FAO if the present unfortunate situation is not corrected.

I have had a lot of hesitation about speaking to you in these terms because of the danger that I might be misunderstood, particularly when my words must be interpreted into many languages. Added to that is the fact, as I expect some of you may know by now - I am only a bureaucrat, not a minister - but there is a good spirit in this Conference, and as I have been to four of these from 1971, I think I can make some judgement of that: there is a good spirit in this Conference and an evident desire for cooperation even at the cost of difficult compromise. For that reason I hoped that this might be the moment to make a positive suggestion which I should like to think would be in the interests of progress.

I now wish to come to make a few comments about the programme for reducing the loss of food after it has been harvested. This programme has in fact been discussed for a very long time, and detailed and careful technical analyses have been made in relation to it. The programme is in fact very urgently needed because all the forecasts of future food requirements indicate that if food losses in storage were to continue at their present appallingly high level, the provision of adequate food for future populations would require capital investment in agriculture which I am told would approach U. S. \$4 000 million every year. This to an Australian is such a vast sum, an enormous sum that there must be some considerable doubt about the possibility of its being achieved. In order to reduce the need for such an enormous investment, the most economic approach is to reduce the big losses of food which occur after crops have been harvested. Many of the technical problems in reducing these losses are already quite well understood but there are still very many obstacles indeed to a rapid solution of this enormous practical human problem.

As I am sure you all know, the biggest losses occur in the warmer and in the moister climates of the world and particularly in the areas in which rice and other grains form the great bulk of the people's diet. Thus the reduction of losses would not only improve the food position of the peoples living in the tropics and the sub-tropics but would also make a very big contribution to the foreign exchange shortages of many countries; I might say exchange shortages which are often critical and chronic. I do not intend to over-burden you with masses of statistics but I would remind you that no less than 60 percent of the world population even today depends very largely on rice for the staple part of its diet.

It will of course be essential that the countries in which the post-harvest food losses occur should be closely involved in and should accept the main responsibility for the proposed pest control projects. Nothing else would be of much value.

FAO can define the problems carefully and it can support a detailed demonstration of control methods. It must, however, leave it at that stage to each country to make certain that effective pest control is applied to all its food storages. Now, here we face one of those incessant dilemmas, because not everything can be done at once. Some areas in which it is likely that a rapid technical progress could be made may in fact have to be put aside for a little while so that full attention can be concentrated on those countries in which the greatest need exists. Such a decision may, for some of us, be very hard to accept but we must not be tempted into trying to tackle everything at once and find as a result we do nothing effectively. Here, if I may add an interpolation, there are institutions in Australia which are ready and competent to make effective contributions in training people in many fields and while it is always invidious to single out one in particular I would like to mention particularly Roseworthy Agricultural College in South Australia which already has a very active training programme in which many of the young agricultural people from the Near East, North Africa and South-East Asia are already involved and will continue to be involved year by year.

Just before I close may I say that I would be very concerned indeed if any of you felt that what I have said this afternoon was designed to be abrasive; far from it. I certainly do not intend it in that way at all. On the other hand, as Dr. Sen said on Monday, because he and I belong to the generation which is now passing away, not too rapidly I hope, but passing away nonetheless, I felt I could

not avoid mentioning, on what may be the last occasion I address this Organization, a few of the basic issues which as far as I can see will never disappear, no matter how much we may wish that they would. FAO has done a tremendous amount for mankind and it will undoubtedly do a great deal more year by year but it is essential that the member countries, and by that I mean every single one of them, even including Australia, should be determined to look at the total situation, to look at it dispassionately and objectively. Without that progress will be impeded, it may well be frustrated. However, as I said, I am very, impressed by the spirit of this Conference. I suppose that an old man might be permitted to say it has a much more positive, a much more cooperative spirit than the one that I recall two years ago, four years ago, six years ago and for that reason I have not any doubt that member countries will be anxious to help one another and that the future will be in the hands of people who are determined to make the best of the opportunities that they can offer this Organization.

A. M. AL-SUDEARY (International Fund for Agricultural Development) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am very happy first of all to address to you, Mr. Chairman, very warm congratulations upon your election as Chairman of this Conference. This without any doubt will constitute a reason for the success of this Conference. I am extremely happy to have this opportunity to address this Conference in my capacity as Chairman of the Preparatory Commission of IFAD.

This occasion is particularly significant because in less than four weeks from now the Governing Council of IFAD will hold its first meeting and begin its operations.

It has taken exactly three years to implement the historic Resolution 13, adopted by the World Food Conference to set up a new International Fund for Agricultural Development, but this interval would not look very long if we recall all the important stages that had to be crossed before the Fund could become a reality. If the Preparatory Committee of IFAD had its task facilitated that was because the officials facilitated that task and great courage had to be used and many efforts had to be made in order to respect the terms of the Convention for the creation of the Fund.

Following approval of Resolution 13 of the World Food Conference by the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary-General convened meetings of interested countries to discuss its implementation.

The stage was thus set for the Fund's Preparatory Commission of which I have had the honour to be Chairman, to start its work with the help of a small secretariat. There was much to be done if the Fund was to become operational as soon as possible after the conditions stipulated in the Agreement had been complied with.

The next important stage was reached on 20 December 1976 when the target of one billion dollars of pledges was reached and the Agreement Establishing the Fund was opened for signatures and ratification by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Many of the delegates present here participated in the long and constructive negotiations that became necessary to resolve the conflict of views on various matters.

It has taken almost 11 months since the Agreement was opened for signatures, for the Governments concerned to complete the process of ratification of the Agreement. Since a sufficient number of countries have ratified the Agreement, I have accordingly convened the first meeting of the Governing Council from 13 December 1977 in Rome.

I would like to point out here that the Preparatory Commission, which started its work in September 1976 has covered a lot of ground. It has drawn up and negotiated an agreement with the United Nations to bring IFAD into relationship with the United Nations as a specialized agency. It has also concluded draft agreements with FAO, the World Bank, UNDP and the three regional development banks for operational support. It has formulated for the consideration of the Governing Council the Fund's lending policies and criteria. It has also prepared all the first or preliminary drafts of the various rules of procedure, regulations, byelaws and certain other legal instruments that will be required by the Fund. Thanks to this preparatory work, the Fund will be able to commence its lending operations soon after the Governing Council has met.

The Fund will differ in a number of ways, and notably in its structure, from the remainder of the other agencies of the United Nations system and other international financing agencies.

Its member countries are divided into three categories. The first consists of OECD members, Category II is made up of the OPEC countries, and Category III consists exclusively of "developing" countries, namely the beneficiary countries. As each category will have an equal number of votes -that is 600 each - on both the Fund's Governing Council and Executive Board, donors (that is OPEC and developed countries) and developing countries (or OPEC and developing countries) can obtain a majority vote since Category II consists of countries with are both "donors" and "developing", in other words beneficiary.

This new arrangement will, I hope, greatly help the interaction between donor and recipient countries and in following new approaches to the problems of development.

Another way in which the Fund will differ from other specialized agencies is in size. Its staff will be small. The total, in all categories, during the first two years of operations, will not be more than about ninety. This is because the Fund intends to engage the services of other competent international and national institutions and agencies for the various stages of its operations.

Just as the United Nations itself and its specialized agencies, founded after World War II, were born of an idealism nurtured in the long and exhausting years of that struggle, so today more than 30 years later the International Fund for Agricultural Development is the product of a growing international anxiety about the world's ability to feed its rapidly expanding population.

The Fund, to quote Article 2 of the Agreement, will "mobilize additional resources, to be made available on concessional terms for agricultural development in developing Member States".

That is the Fund's overall directive.

Article 7 defines its priorities. The Fund shall be guided "by the need to increase food production and to improve the nutritional level of the poorest population, in the poorest food deficit countries", and, in regard to other developing countries, "by their potential for increasing food production". But likewise with them, the Fund shall give priority to the nutritional level of the poorest of people and the conditions of their lives. In considering eligibility for assistance, criteria to be used shall include in particular, the needs of low income countries and their potential for increasing food production, and due regard shall be paid to "a fair geographic distribution" of the Fund's resources.

In other words, while the Fund's resources will be available to all developing countries, its major target groups will be the small farmers and the landless cultivators. The latter now represent approximately one-third of the agricultural population in developing countries. The Fund will thus be coming into being with its focus primarily on the rural poor.

While the Fund will be a welcome new and additional source of finance for agriculture in the developing countries, it must not be forgotten that it will be only one of a number of such sources of external finance and that external finance is only one of the elements in the development of their agriculture. The Fund will therefore seek to maximize the impact of its resources by playing a catalytic role in increasing national and international funds directed to improving the lot of their rural poor. Thus, it will be prepared to take part in projects, jointly with other multilateral as well as bilateral agencies, while maintaining its own identity in the process and keeping its own objectives in mind.

The related aims in all the Fund's projects will be to increase food production, increase rural income and improve nutrition in developing countries. In seeking to realize these aims, emphasis initially will be on quick-maturing projects and accelerating a greater production of low-cost foods - particularly grain and root crops - which are most in demand and frequently consumed by people with very low incomes. At the same time, the Fund will consider cooperation with other agencies in longer-term activities such as land and water development, possibly bringing into cultivation land at present uncropped or lying fallow.

The range of projects in the field of food production qualifying for IFAD financing will include fisheries and livestock projects as well as projects for storage and processing.

I think it goes without saying that to be successful, programmes and policies which aim at increasing the incomes of the rural poor call for complementary programmes of agrarian reform, appropriate improvements in policies and institutions, the training of adequate extension personnel, and research which has particular relevance to small farmers and the landless. The Fund will therefore support efforts directed to these ends.

The Fund will normally finance projects whose overall impact benefit income distribution among small farmers and those without land. This is the first time that such a criterion will be adopted as an operational principle by an international financing institution.

As regards technical assistance: the Fund will provide it as part of its lending operations to help countries undertake feasibility studies for suitable projects and programmes for financing by the Fund, to increase the number of trained personnel available for research and extension; to assist countries in implementing monitoring systems for projects financed by the Fund; for special studies or pre-investment projects in areas which present particular problems; and to assist countries at the project implementation, stage, through training for project management staff.

Allow me here to refer to the proposed lending terms and conditions which the Fund will offer: a large proportion of the Fund's loans will be provided on highly concessional terms, carrying only a service charge of 1 percent annually with a repayment period of 50-60 years.

Loans will also be made on intermediate terms, with an annual interest rate of 4 percent and a repayment period of 20 years.

And there will be loans, on ordinary terms also, at 8 percent a year with a repayment period of 15 to 18 years.

It is now for the developing member countries of the Fund to make the best use of these resources in tackling their food problem and helping the rural poor. The Fund will be able to open its doors for business next month and will anxiously await proposals for project loans from its member countries. Where projects have not been already identified or prepared the Fund will be ready to organize on request by the member countries, special missions to identify or prepare projects for consideration by the Fund.

The process of formulating and implementing IFAD-funded projects will call for a high and continuing degree of cooperation and understanding between the parties to each project agreement, that is borrowing governments, the international and national institutions which will be called upon to assist in the implementation of projects, and the Fund itself. In this task we will look forward to close cooperation between FAO and IFAD. In this context I am gratified that full agreement has been reached on the cooperation agreement between FAO and IFAD. I would like to take this opportunity to express very deep gratitude to the Director-General of FAO for his support for the work of the Preparatory Commission and his readiness to give maximum support to the Fund in the future.

The Fund will expect to be judged by the results of its lending operations. To assess them, it will no doubt be necessary to evolve special indicators and techniques to measure the extent of its success in contributing to an improvement in the quality of life of the people concerned. A reduction in rural poverty, an improvement in nutrition and an increase in food production cannot be assessed solely in terms of pure economic indicators, such as food production or agricultural growth rates.

An essential pre-condition for the success of the Fund's lending operations will be that the recipient countries should be strongly committed to a development strategy designed to bring the prospect of a better life to the rural poor.

A. R. TANCO (World Food Council): Chairman Toyib, Director-General, Chairman Al-Sudeary, Mr. Vogel, my colleagues the Distinguished Ministers of Agriculture, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Exactly three years ago to the day, the World Food Conference completed its meetings in this city. That was a time of crisis: starvation in Bangladesh and the Sahel, vastly increased prices of oil and fertilizer, a serious world grain shortage. The Conference, in which many of you took active part, adopted the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition. Out of that Conference also arose a new body: the World Food Council, designed to ensure that the 22 action resolutions forming the Universal Declaration were put into effect.

I stand before you today as the new President of this World Food Council, having succeeded a most distinguished predecessor, Mr. Sayed Marei, the newly re-elected head of the Egyptian Parliament.

Mr. Marei, together with Drs. John Hannah and Sartaj Aziz, with the untiring efforts of my good friend Ambassador Al-Sudeary, have of late been responsible for one immense success; the establishment of the billion-dollar International Fund for Agricultural Development. By sheer resolve and consensus, as I reported to the General Assembly two weeks ago, with the new-found power of the OPEC countries put to good use, we have collectively managed to create the new source of funding for the developing nations of the world in their quest for increased food production. The World Food Council has pride of parenthood, but like a good parent we must now recognize that the child has grown to manhood. IFAD now has its own wellsprings of energy and will henceforth be a moving force in the world, under able leadership, channelling its considerable resources to the task of increasing food production in the hungry countries amongst us. We wish IFAD well on the eve of the first session of its Governing Council.

We now turn to other urgent matters on the agenda of the World Food Council.

I am not here, after all, to review past successes: rather I am here on behalf of the 36 nations of the World Food Council to dramatize the need for action on current food problems, to speak about the need for food plans as a means of increasing food production in the food-deficit nations, to spur the world community toward a concerted and systematic attack on the problem of malnutrition, to urge the rich nations to help build, in this time of plenty, stable mechanisms that will ensure world food security, and finally to offer assistance to nations in that most difficult of tasks - the negotiation of grain agreements which will ensure that farmers throughout the world are not betrayed into producing more but receiving less.

Neither am I here to burden you any further with an analysis of the world food situation, which has already been very adequately described by Director-General Saouma and other speakers in this assembly.

Instead, I would like to report to you that 36 Ministers and Plenipotentiaries, meeting quietly in Manila - on behalf of the United Nations General Assembly - arrived at a general global programme of action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The Council thus gave life to the resolutions of the World Food Conference by spelling out the steps that must be taken to translate these resolutions into reality. The Council - developed and developing nations alike - agreed in Manila that it was a necessary, feasible and attainable human objective to work deliberately to abolish global hunger and malnutrition.

This programme was not arrived at without disagreements, for there were disagreements over ideas and programs. It is our proud boast, however, that the programme was hammered out without the political division between developed and developing nations that has of late come to characterize almost all international fora. Hunger, we proved in Manila, knows no political boundaries.

We therefore commend to you the Manila Communiqué, which has been reproduced for you in FAO in Document C 77/24-Rev. 1. The programme of action it contains was unanimously endorsed by the ECOSOC last August in Geneva and only yesterday was adopted by the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

The main objective of the Council's Manila Communiqué is to help create the conditions and obtain the assistance that will make it possible for food deficit countries with severe malnutrition problems to increase their own food production. To help nations to feed themselves is our major goal. It is the only permanent solution to world hunger.

Thus, the continuing concern of the World Food Council, as indeed of all international food agencies, is to help build the capacity for increased and self-reliant food production in developing countries. This can be done, despite the limitations wrought by history and circumstances. It will take time to complete the task but in the words of the Chinese sage of old, Lao Tzu: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step".

In Manila, we took the first step.

We called on developing countries, especially the 43 food priority countries identified by the Council, to draft their own food plans, to initiate their own specific proposals for increasing food production, to develop the package of inputs and investments that they need to reach and sustain a 4 percent growth rate in food production.

We called on these developing countries to put a larger share of their own resources into food and agriculture. As it is today, the food priority countries have not more than a 2 percent growth rate in food production per annum and are therefore falling behind *the* population growth. In effect, they have a negative growth rate in food production per capita. In this, as in other concerns, to stand still is indeed to move backward.

We called on international agencies such as FAO and UNICEF to provide the necessary technical assistance to help developing countries to formulate food plans and bring them to a bankable and operational stage as soon as possible.

We called on the World Bank, the regional banks, IFAD, and UNDP to provide the necessary investments required to implement these food plans.

Finally, we agreed that developed and other donor countries must be prepared to back these proposals -bilaterally and multilaterally - with adequate external assistance; we estimate this to be of the magnitude of at least 8. 3 billion dollars, or over twice the level now flowing, of which 6. 5 billion dollars must be concessional.

This three-way set of obligations - developing countries to commit themselves to food plans and increased resources going to food, international financing institutions and donor countries to invest in these food plans, and international technical assistance agencies to provide supplementary manpower and expertise - this three-way relationship is fundamental to progress in increasing food production in developing countries.

The Bureau and the Secretariat of the Council have not stopped at plans.

As a first step of the implementation food planning exercise, we have approached most of the major international financial institutions to enlist their support for food planning in food priority countries. I have talked to President McNamara of the World Bank, Ambassador AI-Sudeary of IFAD, President Yoshida of the Asian Development Bank, Brad Morse of UNDP and Administrator Gilligan of USAID. They all without reservations subscribe to the concept of comprehensive food planning by the most food-short nations. They are all willing to help finance the preparation of such plans to provide technical personnel if need be for this purpose. Equally important, they are more than willing to invest in the bankable components of these plans. In fact, many of the heads of these financial institutions have declared categorically that the bottleneck to increased investment in food production is not a lack of funds but a lack of well-thought-out, bankable projects. If this indeed is the bottleneck, then let us by all means collectively help food-deficit countries prepare feasible food plans ready for funding, because in so doing we will thus help increase the amount of both external and internal resources going into food production in developing nations.

That food plans are essential is beyond question. We may quibble over which specific food agencies will perform the different functions involved. But the task must be undertaken.

We in the World Food Council conceive of our function as one of harnessing the political will in a country, among the highest political leadership in the nation, to commit itself and its resources to a food plan and to its successful implementation including a commission to devote more internal resources to such plans. Beyond that, we hope to be instrumental in getting developing countries and financial institutions or donor countries together to help, in short, in obtaining increased investments in food production programmes in developing countries.

Already, the Consultative Group for Food Production and Investment, the CGFPI, has started food plans in four food priority countries, Bangladesh in Asia, Honduras in Latin America, the Sudan and Senegal in Africa. In addition, the World Bank is now fielding five missions to Indonesia to help that country prepare an integrated food plan which they can then invest in. The Council hopes to push these plans, help bring them to the point where they are bankable, match countries and sources of funds, and thereafter step back and monitor the realization of each of the components of these plans. It is hoped that the World Bank will take responsibility for Bangladesh and Indonesia, the Inter-American Bank and USAID in Honduras, IFAD perhaps for Senegal, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for Sudan. These responsibilities should include assistance in the final preparation of plans and in feasibility studies that may be required for components of the plan, and for the necessary investments thereafter. We trust that these projects will materialize shortly.

Food plans for other food priority countries should follow in due time, bearing in mind the warning that we must not take on too much, too soon, lest in attempting everything, we accomplish nothing.

Three additional imperatives, in our view, are required to increase food production.

First is the need to correct the paucity of research on tropical crops. This means that our international research institutions must continue to focus their resources and efforts on developing high-yielding varieties and modern technology which are suited to the tropical conditions of developing countries in the South. Since the rich developed nations in the North are in the temperate zone, most agricultural research in the past has been concentrated on temperate crops and animals. This has become a handicap to the developing world. We must now speedily increase the sum of our knowledge of tropical flora and fauna if we are to increase our production in developing countries.

Knowledge, however, is useless if it cannot be conveyed to those who need it most. Equally important, therefore, is the need to establish an institutionalised effective mechanism for transferring the technology developed by international research institutions to national research systems and even further, to the farmers themselves of developing food-priority countries. FAO, with its capable leadership and its immense reservoir of skilled manpower, can and must fill this need. It is, *par excellence*, the international institution most qualified to act as the link between the centres of research and the developing countries. We trust that FAO will emphasize this function.



We trust that FAO will continue to undertake this function as a very special one that belongs uniquely to this premium world food agency. We trust also that the developing countries will strengthen their national research systems so that each nation or region can ultimately generate its own intermediate technology.

In this connection I would like to strongly endorse the concept enunciated a few days ago by Ambassador Andrew Young of the United States in the McDougall Lecture for this year. He proposed in this forum the establishment of a food corps within the United Nations system. I believe that the establishment of such an international volunteer organization within the United Nations would have clear advantages. It would serve to harness the idealism of the youth of all nations towards the clearly defined and urgent objective of eliminating hunger from the world. It would serve to sharpen the focus on the problem of food to the exclusion perhaps of other less important concerns. There are, however, as many people will see, various facets of this proposal which will require further study before such an idea can become operational. It is my hope that we can overcome operational difficulties and thus be able to ride on the idealism and energy of the youth of the world. If we do succeed in this we will be able to unleash a force that will know no barriers.

In addition to relevant research and its effective transfer, the second imperative for increased food production in developing countries is the need, often neglected, to provide adequate credit for the small farmer. We often overlook the fact that the farmer in developing countries is too poor to buy the inputs required to increase his crop. Without enough credit he cannot reap the fruits of advanced technology.

The third imperative is the need for management training to help developing countries build their own corps of competent food managers. This will, in large part, answer the often asked question of "absorptive capacity" which has come of late to the verbal language of international financial institutions which is invariably raised in measuring the ability of a country to deal with its own food problems. If this indeed is the problem, then by all means let us mount managerial development programmes to train food managers in developing countries instead of simply bewailing and bemoaning the absence of such managers.

These three prerequisites for increased production in food priority countries - research, credit and management training - will require both manpower and funds. It is our hope that the World Food Council will turn its attention at its Fourth Session in Mexico to these urgent problems.

Until now everyone has piously extolled the need to solve the problem of malnutrition in developing countries. However, very few have clearly explained how this is to be done. This is an area where good intentions far out-distance concrete programmes and actions.

The World Food Council has constantly battled for more attention, a better and shorter focus on the problem and more integrated action by UN agencies towards a solution of the problem of malnutrition. As the Director-General, Mr. Saouma, has mentioned, no less than the ACC, composed of the heads of all the major UN agencies, has created a sub-committee to resolve this problem. It is fortunate that this sub-committee is headed by the No. 2 man in UNICEF, Mr. Hayward, whose dedication is as deep as his competence. He has pledged to the World Food Council that he will present an integrated programme of action to the Fourth Session of the World Food Council by June of next year, that he will present some kind of a grand design to lessen the degree of malnutrition in the most severely affected developing nations. This will be a major item on the Council's agenda next June in Mexico City.

It is clear to those of us familiar with food problems that increased food production in itself is not sufficient to solve the problem of malnutrition. There is the close relationship between size of family and the malnourishment of a child. There is the problem of income. Above all else, there is the problem of the housewife not knowing what to feed the child that she weans from her breast, a problem of nutrition education.

Malnutrition is a compound of problems in different disciplines and must thus be approached from the vantage point of different ministries. It requires a high degree of coordination often missing in developing nations and in the world itself.

We hope that together we will be able to come up with a concrete programme of action, globally and by country, on the problem of malnutrition by June.

Until developing countries become self-sufficient in food, until they have solved their problem of malnutrition, food aid will continue to be a major interim measure to help people feed themselves. I will not dwell on this, because the Director-General has already explained where we are. I will simply say that contributions of between 300, 000 tons and 400, 000 tons to the emergency reserve is already

a reality, but we do need and are seeking from traditional donors as well as from developing countries, socialist countries, OPEC countries, the balance of some 100, 000 tons to 200, 000 tons which we need as an emergency reserve for this year. The need for this may become evident very soon. The Director-General has already pointed out the growing and very serious problem of drought in the Sahel countries. We need only a few hundred thousand tons of grain to reach the World Food Conference's minimum level of 10 million tons. We are now up to 9. 6 million tons. Hopefully we will reach this goal this year and donor countries will find ways of guaranteeing at least this amount on a long-term continuing basis. But this is not enough. It is not enough if we are to use food aid as an interim measure to relieve hunger now and in the next ten years. The way we use food aid, for instance, is not good enough. The Committee on Food Aid was formed by the World Food Conference to increase and improve the policy framework of food aid. Policies have to be developed that ensure that food aid will promote rather than hinder increased food production, that it will promote and bring about more local food security, better nutrition, more employment and higher incomes for the poor and the hungry. I am sure that the Committee on Food Aid is taking this task seriously and that it will now turn its attention towards policies designed to attain those objectives. However, it is the governments represented in this room, yours and mine, which must come to the CFA meeting next year prepared to say that we must transform food aid and we must start now. No one else can do it.

Steps were announced at the Manila meeting by a number of grain exporting countries to establish domestic reserves, including domestic reserves announced by the United States. Grain exporters have recently made positive proposals to the International Wheat Council. Importing countries at the IWC have responded to these proposals. I am informed that there is a large area of agreement, but still many significant problems to be negotiated. This is a crucial time in these negotiations and we urge all countries participating in the International Wheat Council meeting in London on November 28 to lend their greatest support to a newer draft agreement which can be negotiated by February 1978. It would be inexcusable if a sound reserve proposal did not emerge in the next few months. Any claim of concern for the hungry and malnourished is a hollow cry without an international grain reserve. No commercial or regional considerations can justify a callous disregard for the needs of the millions who must suffer silently, even die, if a reserve is not in place.

Finally, the Council also recognized that the increasing food surpluses and food self-sufficiency in developed countries is in part due to national policies that subsidize farming. This is also linked to the growing food deficits of developing countries, where agriculture is often the main source of revenue. Imbalances in world food trade which result from these policies have a direct bearing on the food problems of the developing nations.

After years of delay, negotiations in GATT to stabilize, improve, liberalize and expand food trade have started anew. We are watching these negotiations to determine how the Council can best act to encourage further improvements in trade to help solve the food problems of the developing countries.

All that I have said thus far means that we have taken a few steps away from the precipice. What is important is not the words in our Communiqué. What is important is that the words be implemented, that action results from the words.

The success or failure of implementation will not in the ultimate analysis depend on the actions of the World Food Council. It will depend on the actions of FAO, the World Bank and the regional banks, the UNDP, IFAD, UNICEF, WHO, the World Food Programme and others. More than these agencies, it will depend largely on the actions and policies of individual governments, yours and mine. We must take the decisions that are needed in our own countries and we must reflect our concerns and intent in the governing bodies of the agencies which deal with food.

As I said to ECOSOC, the World Food Council will discharge its responsibilities quietly wherever possible, with fanfare when urgently necessary.

I also said in Manila, in Geneva and in New York that we are not in competition with any person or entity. The job entrusted to us by the General Assembly is one of initiating, coordinating and monitoring. We are not supposed to - we will not - duplicate the functions of others. But we cannot and will not relinquish the responsibility entrusted to us of pushing, prodding, coordinating and monitoring the progress of the world towards the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

We all believe that the World Food Council is not a forum of futility, not an international debating society. It can get things done. It can triumph over the problems of international bureaucracy, of red tape in the United Nations, because our determination to achieve will triumph over all, and determined we are. We are determined to increase food production in the world, particularly in the poorest and hungriest of nations in a spirit of self reliance. We will persuade the grain-rich nations to set aside international reserves in a concerted burst of generosity, to increase food aid and donate to an emergency food reserve in a spirit of compassion.

We will strive in a spirit of love to direct the world's efforts to save our malnourished children from a half-life or even death. To these ends we must all bend our collective political will. Hunger recognizes no colour or creed. We must implement our agenda for action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from the face of this earth for all time. I said in Manila: it can be done, it must be done, it will be done. I ask you all, I ask the whole world to join us in this solemn undertaking.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

S. S. BARNALA (India): Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: first of all, Mr. Chairman, let me congratulate you on your election to this high office. We are especially proud that you come from our region. Also I should like to join others in congratulating and welcoming the new members of our fraternity in FAO, with whose aspirations and feelings we have always identified ourselves.

I feel privileged to address this august assembly, attended by 97 Ministers of Agriculture, and exchange views with distinguished colleagues from all parts of the world. The biennial Conferences of FAO provide an excellent opportunity for taking stock of the performance of world agriculture and for outlining the future course of action. I am glad that the main theme selected for discussion at this Conference is investment in agriculture, which indeed is of vital importance for accelerating the pace of development.

It is a matter of gratification that the last two years have witnessed a considerable improvement on the food and agricultural front. World cereal production in 1976 was up by over 100 million tons; in 1977 again, the estimated production may be around the 1976 level. Both the developing and the developed countries have shared the increase. In my own country, the cereal output during the past two years was higher than the levels attained earlier. Present indications for 1977-78 also point to an excellent crop. The improvement in the food situation has been reflected in the easing of the supply and price situation. Cereal stocks in India are at a level which is the highest so far. Fortunately, world stocks have also risen to a relatively reasonable level.

Weather alone has not contributed to the growth in food output. The developing countries have been making vigorous efforts in the adoption of modern technology, which has helped to strengthen the very base of agricultural development.

In India, the new Government is according a place of primacy to the development of agriculture in its National Plan. During 1977-78, the public sector outlay for agriculture and allied activities has been enhanced by 31 per cent over the previous year's level. This has helped in raising the tempo of agricultural development. Irrigation facilities are being extended by over two million hectares a year. The offtake of fertilizers, which was below 2.9 millions tons in 1975-76, is expected to increase by about 50 per cent in two years' time. Special programmes have been launched for increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds which are important sources of protein and fat. We propose to intensify the various development measures in the coming years for achieving sustained increases in food and agricultural output.

Even though the overall performance of agriculture in the developing countries during the last two to three years has been satisfactory, we have to consider whether this performance is adequate and evenly distributed among countries and whether this would be sustainable in future. The available data show that for cereals, the average annual increase in production in the developing market economies during the three years 1974-76 was 2.9 per cent which fell short of the estimated rate of growth of demand of 3.3 per cent.

There were, besides, wide disparities as among different regions and countries, and even a negative rate of growth in the least developed countries; the countries in the Sahelian Zone are again facing a food crisis due to crop failures. We also know that weather-induced fluctuations and intermittent declines in output would retard the growth rates over a longer period.

Whether or not a sustained growth in agricultural output would be feasible in the future, would depend on a number of factors. Inputs like fertilizers and pesticides being vital for augmenting agricultural production, any constraint on their availability may affect the growth. Here I may express concern about the renewed upward movement in the prices of fertilizers witnessed recently in the international market. If this trend is not reversed or at least curbed, I am afraid, fertilizer consumption in the developing countries would suffer considerably.

Investment being a pre-requisite for growth, the pace of development in the future would also depend on the availability of financial resources. The World Food Conference had identified the principal programmes of food production and rural development needing additional investment.

Mr. Chairman, irrigation is a basic input for increasing and stabilising crop yields and diversifying agriculture. The developing countries have vast irrigation potential but they have not been able to exploit large ground and surface water resources due to paucity of funds. In my own country, against the irrigation potential of nearly 107 million hectares, we have not been able to exploit even half of that so far. A forward and determined irrigation plan is being developed with the aim of bringing nearly 17 million hectares under irrigation during the next five years. An idea of the financial resources required for implementing the new irrigation plan will be had from the fact that for extending irrigation during 1977-78 to an additional 2.4 million hectares, we have provided 16 billion rupees or 1.9 billion US dollars.

Mr. Chairman, in most of the developing countries, large areas have to practise unirrigated agriculture. The approach in such areas has to be two-fold: extension of dry farming technology and soil and land development so as to control erosion, improve soil fertility and conserve moisture. If these programmes have to make any tangible impact on agricultural output and levels of living of farmers, they must be mounted on a massive scale.

With a view to diversifying the agricultural economy in the developing countries, much greater stress than hitherto, will have to be laid on animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries and forestry. For livestock development, broad-based programmes covering the entire cattle population, health cover, production of deep frozen semen, fodder, dairying and marketing components would need to be taken up.

Mr. Chairman, we had taken up in India an Operation Flood for the development of dairy industry with assistance under the World Food Programme. Based on the experience of the first phase, the second phase of the Operation Flood, which would be much bigger in dimension and involve much larger financial investment, would be taken up. This experience can be drawn upon by other developing countries too.

The possibility of exploiting the marine fisheries, has increased substantially with the declaration of 200 miles of exclusive economic zone towards the coast-line. For this purpose, the countries concerned would require large trawler fleets. This will have to be accompanied by a programme of harbour development and augmentation of indigenous trawler manufacturing capacity. In the sphere of island fish culture, there has been a research breakthrough. There has, however, been a lag in converting the new knowledge to practice. Measures to increase yields from inland sources will have to be pursued vigorously, and techniques of induced breeding passed on to fish farmers through a widespread programme.

Mr. Chairman, the developing countries are as concerned about agriculture as about rural developments. Since agriculture development *per se* does not eliminate rural poverty, we will have to accelerate the pace of employment and income generation in certain backward areas and among weaker sections of the people. An integrated rural development programme is being launched in several countries for achieving the twin objectives of increased agricultural production and full employment. This programme will no doubt aim at integrating the on-going programmes like those for small farmers, marginal farmers and drought prone areas, but to make it a success, not only these on-going programmes will have to be intensified but also additional resources provided for.

We from the developing countries recognise that bulk of the resources needed for agricultural development will have to be provided through internal means. It is, however, evident that the capacity of these countries to find additional resources is limited. It is in this context that I would like to draw the attention of this Conference to the Resolutions adopted by the World Food Conference, the World Food Council and the Conference on International Economic Cooperation calling for significantly higher external assistance.

The World Food Council and the Conference on International Economic Cooperation have recently recommended that the international community should increase its official development assistance to food and agricultural production in order to achieve, as soon as possible, at least a four per cent sustained rate of growth of food and agricultural production in developing countries.

The estimate of US\$8.3 billion at 1975 prices in external resources on an annual basis is considered a necessary element for achieving this four per cent minimum rate of growth.

The estimate of aid requirement at 1977 prices has now been revised upwards -close to a level of US\$10 billion.

I might mention in this regard that the envisaged rate of growth of four per cent in food and agricultural production would be the barest minimum if we want to make a dent on the problem of rural unemployment and poverty in these countries.

A recently completed study by the United Nations indicates that the achievement of the objectives of the New International Economic Order, including an approximate halving of the ratio between per capita income in developing and developed countries, would entail an increase in agricultural production in the developing countries of the order of five per cent per annum. This rate has to be compared with the actual performance of around 2.5 per cent a year in 1971-75 and is indicative of the need for considerable step-up in the total investment and in the flow of external resources. Even the estimate of external assistance of US\$10 billion per annum would have to be improved upon.

I am, however, constrained to observe that the total commitment of aid to agriculture during 1976 is estimated to be 7 per cent lower than that during 1975.

The overall grant element of aid to agriculture has fallen from 61 per cent in 1973 to 50 per cent in 1976, and the terms of lending have hardened. Regional flows bring out disparities among the recipient countries; the aid per capita as well as per hectare of cultivated area received by the poor countries is much less than that received by the others. These are disquieting developments and call for concerted action so that the present trends can be reversed. I feel that a coordinated strategy should be developed by all international agencies including the International Fund for Agricultural Development in ensuring the continued flow of resources to developing countries to help them to initiate and build programmes of national relevance.

Before I conclude, let me deal with an important element of food security system to which the world community stands committed. Augmenting world foodgrain production and building up of a sizeable grain reserve are essential pre-requisites for ensuring food security. Food security in the world has no doubt improved during the last two years as a result of increased grain production and consequent replenishment of stocks. But these developments should not make us believe that the world has come to possess unwanted surpluses or that excessive resources are being deployed in agriculture. We are far from this. A widespread drought across the Continents can still land us in difficulties.

I would, therefore, suggest that not only the developing countries but also the developed countries should continue efforts towards augmenting food supplies. The developing countries, particularly those whose production falls short of requirements should be enabled to build up and maintain national reserves which could be used for meeting the emergencies at short notice. Modern storage facilities would also be required in these countries. We would, therefore, urge that food aid and financial resources should be provided not only for meeting the current consumption but also for helping the developing countries to build and hold stocks and to create storage capacity. Expanded food aid is also needed for improving the nutritional standards of the under-nourished and malnourished peoples of these countries. It is unfortunate that food aid in recent years has remained below the minimum level of 10 million tons recommended by the World Food Conference. I would, therefore, suggest that specific provisions should be made in the new International Grains Agreement for assuring food assistance of not less than 10 million tons a year and safeguarding other economic interests of the developing countries.

We welcome the establishment of the International Emergency Reserve of cereals which in our view would help promote World Food Security. Even though a developing country like ours is not really a food surplus country. I am glad to say that in response to the appeal made by the Director General, my government has decided to contribute to this Reserve 50 thousand tons of wheat on replenishment basis.

The recent upturn in food production should not lull us into complacency. There are teeming millions in the world who do not get even two square meals a day. The problem is not merely of availability of food; it is also of purchasing power of the poor people. They are not interested in getting food free. They are keen to work and earn a reasonable income for buying food and other requirements. The valuable human resources available in the developing countries could be put to proper use only by creating infrastructure for development and providing job opportunities. Augmenting food and agricultural production coupled with special programmes for weaker sections could provide fuller employment and higher incomes to the farming community in these countries. This calls for substantial increase in investment. We are convinced that the requisite order of resources can be found provided there is purposive action and commitment at the national and international levels.

FAO has a vital role to play in reducing poverty and improving nutritional standards of the people. This Organisation, therefore, needs all support of the member nations to achieve the objectives for which it was set up.

My delegation, therefore, supports the imaginative and concrete measures which the Director-General has initiated in fulfilment of the objectives of this Organisation.

We support the level of the budget suggested by the Director-General, which is very pragmatic and is the barest minimum to implement the task set before him by the earlier Conferences and Council Sessions.

We would also like to support the Director General's proposal for setting apart a Special Fund to prevent the food losses.

We would like to compliment the Director-General for his dynamism, initiative and drive in putting forward these proposals. I would also like to congratulate his band of colleagues who are strengthening his hands in implementing the concrete programmes.

The war on hunger and poverty is to go on even though it will be a prolonged and protracted one. It is a war which has to be fought by the entire international community transcending all barriers of race, religion or ideology. I would like to assure this Organisation that we in India identify ourselves with the entire human race in fighting this war and we shall continue to play our role in this regard.

M. G. MARCORA (Italie): Je suis heureux, au nom du Gouvernement italien en mon nom personnel, de souhaiter la bienvenue la plus cordiale aux délégations des Pays Membres de la FAO, aux représentants des autres organisations internationales et à tous ceux qui sont ici présents.

Je désire saluer de façon particulière les Collègues Ministres de l'Agriculture. Leur présence à Rome à cette occasion souligne l'importance des travaux de la Conférence de la FAO pour l'économie de nos pays et en même temps pour la recherche d'un meilleur équilibre mondial.

Je désire aussi exprimer au Directeur général de la FAO mon appréciation pour les résultats du travail bien complexe et délicat, accompli par l'organisation pendant ces années.

Cette appréciation je dois aussi l'exprimer pour d'autres motifs. Un de ces motifs est le choix du thème de la section spéciale du Rapport annuel sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture consacrée cette année au problème des ressources d'énergie, avec référence au secteur agricole.

Nous savons tous que la situation de l'énergie et ses perspectives constituent un problème d'envergure mondiale, sur lequel la plupart des pays se penche avec beaucoup de souci. Je suis d'avis que la large revue des ressources énergétiques et des consommations d'énergie en agriculture et dans la chaîne alimentaire, aussi bien que les indications fournies pour le futur, représentent une importante matière de modification pour chacun de nous. Je pense aussi qu'une discussion plus approfondie de ces sujets à l'occasion d'une de nos prochaines rencontres pourrait être très opportune.

L'autre motif d'appréciation dérive du thème relatif aux investissements dans le secteur agricole, sur lequel notre attention a été attirée de façon particulière comme point de référence pour les déclarations des Chefs des délégations à cette 19ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Mon pays est particulièrement sensible à ce thème. D'autre part l'Italie se trouve dans une situation d'une certaine façon particulière. Tout en étant un pays industrialisé elle souffre encore, surtout dans quelques zones, de certains des problèmes auxquels doivent faire face les pays en voie de développement.

En plus, surtout au cours des années plus récentes, elle est devenue une grande importatrice de produits alimentaires à cause de la croissance rapide des consommations, auxquelles l'augmentation des disponibilités nationales, quoique remarquable, n'a pas réussi à faire face.

Dans ce sens, le déficit de la balance commerciale du secteur agricole-alimentaire constitue sans doute un des problèmes les plus critiques de l'économie nationale. Il est rendu plus grave par les difficultés de la situation énergétique.

Mon pays connaît donc soit les difficultés connexes avec le développement de l'agriculture, soit celles concernant l'approvisionnement des aliments nécessaires sur les marchés internationaux.

Sur la base de notre expérience nous sommes donc convaincus que la solution du problème alimentaire mondial exige l'adoption simultanée de nombreuses directives.

Nous n'ignorons pas la présence de situations particulières et savons que, face à ces situations, des initiatives impliquant la solidarité des peuples sont rendues nécessaires.

Nous sommes cependant d'avis que la voie principale pour la solution du problème est celle de procéder en suivant les critères de l'économie.

Nous sommes aussi convaincus qu'en respectant ces critères, une grande contribution peut être donnée par l'adoption de méthodologies capables d'assurer une mobilisation sur les marchés des surplus que plusieurs pays peuvent mettre à la disposition pour faire face aux exigences mondiales, dans la mesure où ils ont résolu leurs mêmes problèmes.

Il s'agit d'une thèse; que nous avons maintes fois soutenue au sein de la Communauté Economique Européenne, dont l'Italie fait partie. La Communauté dans son ensemble enregistre - par l'effet de la politique agricole suivie jusqu'à présent dans certains pays, et pour un grand nombre de produits - la formation de remarquables quantités de surplus qui encombrant ses entrepôts, qui entraînent de notables charges financières et qu'elle tâche souvent de vendre à des prix largement inférieurs à ceux qui ont été payés aux producteurs. En même temps, dans certaines zones de la Communauté, des situations de carence se vérifient, qui finissent par favoriser la spéculation.

Nous avons soutenu que le stockage de ces surplus ne doit pas avoir lieu seulement dans les zones où ils se forment, mais dans tout le territoire de la Communauté, de façon à en permettre une introduction plus aisée dans les circuits commerciaux, lorsque cela est nécessaire. Si la caractéristique de la Communauté est la formation d'un marché agricole unique, avec toutes les charges qui s'en suivent, surtout pour certains pays, il est juste que les surplus de la Communauté soient distribués dans toute la zone de ce marché, afin d'éviter des situations particulières de carence et des manoeuvres de spéculation.

Nous pensons que cette ligne directrice peut être suivie aussi sur le plan mondial et que les surplus des pays excédentaires, une fois satisfaites leurs exigences, même de caractère stratégique, peuvent être disloquées non seulement dans leurs territoires, mais dans les zones du monde sensibles, tout en restant la propriété des pays producteurs.

Il ne s'agit pas d'assistance et il ne s'agit pas de sortir du marché, puisque le pays producteur devrait utiliser ces surplus non pour les donner, mais pour les vendre.

Cependant, avoir la disponibilité immédiate de ces produits sur les marchés déficitaires, signifie être en mesure de gérer directement la manoeuvre des stocks.

Cela peut dire agir non sur le plan de l'assistance mais sur le plan de l'économie et de sa rationalisation.

En tout cas, nous sommes aussi convaincus que le problème alimentaire ne peut pas être résolu de façon permanente sans un accroissement notable des productions, surtout dans les pays en voie de développement, et donc sans une augmentation massive des investissements dans le secteur agricole.

Cette nécessité a été du reste reconnue déjà, il y a trois ans, par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation et a été accueillie par la FAO, qui a fait des investissements une des matières prioritaires de sa nouvelle politique.

Nous sommes tous donc d'accord sur ce principe. Mais, à mon avis, nous devons dépasser la question du principe. Il s'agit surtout de voir quel est le sens qu'il faut donner à une politique des investissements, qui ne signifie pas seulement convoyer vers le secteur agricole un certain courant de capitaux.

Mon pays, dans le cadre de la politique d'amélioration des activités agricoles-industrielles, est en train de préparer une série de mesures (Plan Agricole-Alimentaire) visant surtout à la réduction des déséquilibres existant entre zones rurales plus développées et zones à économie faible (comme justement se présente le Midi de l'Italie), moyennant le renforcement de l'agriculture.

Les investissements agricoles, dans la logique de la politique agricole nationale, constituent un des instruments essentiels pour réduire la différence économique-sociale existant entre zones pauvres et zones riches. Dans ce sens, nous sommes profondément convaincus qu'un modèle de développement économique ne peut pas faire abstraction, à côté d'une dotation suffisante de structures industrielles, de l'existence d'une agriculture, bien articulée tant sur le plan de la production que sur celui de l'organisation. Seulement si la collectivité est douée de pareilles réalités économique-productives nous pensons qu'il est possible d'atteindre une croissance harmonieuse de l'économie et un progrès constant du pays. Mais, à côté de ce premier objectif, le programme massif d'interventions qui depuis longtemps, mais surtout dans le futur, sera adopté au fur et à mesure dans notre pays, vise aussi à la réduction du déficit de la balance agricole alimentaire. Cela non, seulement afin de contribuer, même dans une mesure très modeste à l'assainissement de nos comptes avec l'étranger (qui, comme l'on sait, présentent dans les cinq derniers cinq ans une allure très dangereuse pour notre économie), mais surtout pour commencer à nous placer dans l'optique de la spécialisation régionale, en favorisant ainsi

le processus de coopération économique internationale qui trop souvent est sacrifié aux intérêts d'autre nature. Ainsi pour atteindre cet objectif, nous sommes profondément convaincus que, moyennant la spécialisation régionale agricole, il est possible d'atteindre l'intensification des relations entre pays, et surtout entre pays en voie de développement et pays industrialisés. C'est une prémisse que nous pensons nécessaire pour le raffermissement des liens d'amitié et de coopération économique et des rapports d'amitié et de coopération entre les pays de notre planète.

Enfin l'ensemble du programme en faveur de l'agriculture nationale est consacré à l'amélioration des conditions de travail et de vie de tous ceux qui travaillent dans les campagnes. Nous sommes convaincus qu'il ne pourra pas y avoir de promotion dans ce secteur primaire, ni que l'agriculture aura une position centrale dans le cadre du développement économique, si elle ne se fonde pas sur l'homme, l'ouvrier agricole, le paysan, avec ses principales exigences de travail de vie, de santé. C'est justement diaprés cette conviction qu'au moyen des ressources financières que nous allons affecter à l'agriculture, nous nous efforçons d'améliorer sensiblement la dotation actuelle de services sociaux dans les zones rurales, dotation de services sociaux constituant la garantie pour atteindre soit les objectifs quantitatifs de production soit les objectifs de modernisation des structures et des infrastructures agricoles.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai voulu souligner la direction dans laquelle l'Italie a l'intention de faire face à ses problèmes agricoles-alimentaires parce que je suis convaincu que cette manière d'établir ce plan peut représenter un point de référence utile pour tous ceux qui dans des conditions analogues se préparent à promouvoir l'amélioration des agricultures respectives. Nous savons que plusieurs autres pays sont en train de réaliser des programmes de développement agricole et nous souhaitons qu'on puisse arriver, même à court terme, à une confrontation continue et serrée de sorte que l'union des efforts soit à même de contribuer de façon valide à résoudre les graves problèmes que le déséquilibre de la balance mondiale de l'alimentation pose continuellement à l'attention des gouvernements. Nous sommes conscients des difficultés et des obstacles dépendant des réalités économiques et des situations politiques. Nous sommes cependant d'avis qu'ils peuvent et doivent être surmontés, même au moyen de modalités concrètes de contacts continus, pour que la communauté mondiale parvienne assez vite à un développement plus rapide et équilibré.

A. A. AHMADI (Iran): Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Please accept my heartiest congratulations on your election as Chairman of this important Session. Here I would like to express appreciation to the Director-General and staff for the hard work that has been accomplished during the past two years. As we all remember in the early years of the present decade the world passed through a severe food crisis; the situation was especially serious in parts of Africa, and Asia. In 1974 world grain stocks fell to a minimum level of 107 million tons, and between 1971 and 1974 prices of wheat, rice and vegetable oil increased severalfold. This adverse situation was largely the result of unfavourable weather conditions which prevented increase of grain production at the rate necessary to meet the steadily increasing demand caused by a growing world population and by a rise in per capita consumption.

Thanks to generally favourable weather conditions the situation has improved since 1974. This improvement is no grounds for complacency. Two consecutive unfavourable years could easily wipe out reserves, again causing world food shortage, and in some areas famine.

The dangers are now recognized, and the need to increase global food production and carry adequate reserves to ensure worldwide availability of sufficient food with proper nutritional value is now accepted as an international obligation. Resolutions to this effect have created hope of better times ahead, especially in the developing countries. Still, by an all-out effort on international scale, we must ensure that resolutions are adequately translated into action. The general acceptance of the principle that food should not be used for political ends and the production from world resources of land and water should be optimised, places a responsibility on every nation to increase its agricultural production within its means. If the developed and industrial countries have the resources to make the greatest contribution in increasing agricultural production, this in no way lessens the obligation on the less fortunate to play as full a part as possible in this respect. One of the hidden dangers in massive aid programmes is that they may undermine self-help among the recipients or distract them from giving the necessary priority to food production in favour of more attractive industrialization and urbanization programmes. No doubt, introduction of a better pricing mechanism for raw materials exported by the developing countries could lessen the burden of aid and deficit financing on the part of industrial countries.

In Iran the major objectives of agricultural plans, in addition to increasing productivity, are to raise the standard of living and welfare of low-income groups in the rural areas. To this end considerable sums have been allocated to build infrastructural facilities in rural areas and production



regions. With due attention to the characteristics of the rural economy several organizational models have been introduced. Among these are: Farm Corporations, rural and production cooperatives, medium-size mechanized farms and agro-industrial units. Finally our new "Agricultural poles" pattern which aims at an integrated development of farming and animal husbandry in various regions with optimum utilization of the country's soil and water resources is another approach to increase production. However, we have not committed ourselves to these patterns only but intend to introduce any approach which may prove to be of specific benefit in certain areas of the country.

We aim, by the turn of this century, to be self-sufficient in staple food grains, fruit, vegetables, poultry products and to produce over 80 per cent or more of our vegetable oil and sugar. Important contributions, particularly in connection with red meat production, will be needed from rainfed pasture and rangeland, which will produce 50 per cent of the red meat needed. To do so modern methods of cultivation designed to conserve soil moisture, will be introduced in the crop areas, and a major planned destocking programme is being initiated on the rangelands, to prevent their further degradation and eventually increase their productivity.

The implementation of this plan will call for concerted efforts by both the public and private sectors. The Government sees its role to provide the necessary infrastructure; establish the institutional framework through which necessary inputs reach the farmer; instigate desirable changes in farming structure, such as amalgamation and consolidation of uneconomic small plots into viable farm units; determine priority areas on which to concentrate services; and to provide means essential for the promotion of investment in agriculture.

The Government has embarked on an incentive programme providing outright grants, low rate interest loans to farmers and guaranteed minimum purchase price for basic agricultural products, as well as tax exemption for investment in agriculture.

At this point I wish to emphasize the importance we place on the prevention of waste. Our Sovereign, the Shahanshah, has called for the reduction of waste and losses, which have been estimated at present to be as high as 25 to 30 percent for some commodities. Considerable sums have been earmarked for investment in cold stores for meat and fruit, storage facilities at the village level and grain silos.

On the question of technology, Iran is well aware of the need to introduce into her agriculture the best available technology, to obtain the best available varieties of crops and breeds of livestock and to manage them in the most beneficial manner. We are also aware that much of this technology was initiated and developed in the industrial countries to suit an agricultural pattern structured differently from ours. This applies especially to agricultural machinery, which appears to become more sophisticated and more expensive year by year. Therefore, we should be selective in the use of imported technology and adjust them to our own needs.

Small-holders in Iran are the vast majority of our farmers; they make significant contribution to our agricultural production. I believe that a case can be made for seeking machinery to fit the existing farming structure, rather than fitting the structure to improve machinery. I believe that the time has come for developing countries to start research into designing machinery suited to their own individual needs, and to lean far less on the work of engineers in developed countries with quite different conditions. I believe small farmers deserve to receive tools suited to their trade.

I wish to draw your attention briefly to a problem that has been causing much concern to agriculturists and environmentalists. I refer to the problem of desertification. In Iran we have been aware that our rangelands are grossly overstocked, that the grazing is deteriorating to a condition from which it might not recover, and that its productivity in the long term can only be restored by a destocking programme. My Government has started implementation of such a programme with due recognition of the socio-economic problems associated with the implementation of this policy.

Other programmes directed toward preservation and survival of natural resources are, sand dune fixation, watershed management, preservation of ecosystems and re-seeding of rangelands which are being successfully implemented and in many circumstances have served as model projects to various UN agencies including Food and Agriculture Organization.

The problem and its solution is not Iran's alone and there is already international cooperative effort in this direction. Iran will continue to support such cooperative endeavours. Realizing that the provision of adequate food supplies is a pressing need, Iran has gone beyond its territory to invest in the agricultural sector. Joint investment projects have been initiated in several parts of the world and assistance has been granted to other countries for the production of important agricultural inputs such as chemical fertilizers. My country, as you all will know, has also been a firm supporter and the second largest contributor to the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Thus Iran has placed high priority on increasing food production within and outside its territory. The pursuance of this policy will, however, depend on our future financial resources and our economic development requirements.

I am confident that the developed countries, being members of our world community, are aware of the fact that continued shortage of basic human needs, such as foodstuffs, in other parts of this community will, in the long run, have adverse effects on their economies. We are of the opinion that the New International Economic Order will not materialize unless the developed economies accept a considerable share of the burden in solving the world food problem.

E. CAKAJDA (Czechoslovakia) (interpretation from Slovak): Let me, first of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and all vice-chairmen upon the election for highest functions in the directing bodies of the General Conference.

The Czechoslovak delegation believes that the development of the food production which is relatively favourable in comparison with the past, is also due to FAO's efforts, namely the various programmes which are being fulfilled along with the forms of bilateral cooperation and with the aid rendered by the economically advanced countries to the developing world.

The delegation of my country, therefore, essentially supports the main line of FAO's orientation to those member countries which need assistance most of all, particularly for the consolidation of the material and technical basis of their agriculture, for rational use of natural resources and for education of qualified and skilled cadres. This will undoubtedly be a further valuable contribution to their own agricultural production serving as the main source of their food security.

We believe that in the solution of many problems of agricultural development the close collaboration of agricultural organization with Trade Unions could be very useful.

My Government fully supports the justified requirements of the developing countries for a desirable adjustment of the international economic relations and for stabilizing the prices. We also support the requirement for an extension of developing countries share in the world trade in agricultural raw materials and foodstuffs and for their greater involvement in international division of labour.

Irrespective of our general and full consent to the draft plan of work and medium-term programmes, I would like to point out the specific position of the European region. I am aware of the more favourable situation in the agricultural and foodstuff production of Europe as a whole, as distinct from most of the other regions. I strongly believe that the working programmes of cooperation among advanced countries in further technological development of European agriculture, will rend the European countries able to sufficiently fulfil their mission in relation to the developing world.

I am glad to note that the plan of FAO's work as well as the medium-term programmes have been adjusted to incorporate the main issues ensuing for agriculture, foodstuff production, forestry and water management from the Concluding Document of the Helsinki Conference.

I propose that one of the nearest future European Regional FAO Conferences deal with the concrete results and further prospects of European cooperation- in the fields of land fund, water resources, environment protection, standardization, exchange of fellowships, study stays etc. As to the topical problems of the use and protection of land, I repeat our recommendation to discuss this matter in the nearest future.

The Czechoslovak delegation fully supports the effort of FAO and particularly its Director-General Dr. Edouard Saouma, for enhancing FAO's mission and for thorough division of work between our Organization and other authorities concerned in the nutrition of mankind.

At the same time, I point out the broad and active bilateral relations of Czechoslovakia with many countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and our present as well as further possible involvement in programmes and projects of expertise, technical and technological character.

We welcome the fact that a conference on land reforms and rural development will be held in 1979. Czechoslovakia will take its active part in the preparatory work as well as in the conference with her own experience and findings gained in the establishment and development of socialist agricultural cooperatives, state farms and the whole system of agricultural services. I would like to say again, judging from our experience, that for effective development of agriculture in FAO member countries it

is not enough to deal just with the technical and technological tasks but that it is mainly necessary to solve the mentioned socio-economic problems, including the general position, planning and management of agriculture within the whole system of the national economy, as well as a just re-distribution of the national income.

About thirty years ago, Czechoslovakia faced similar tasks under her conditions, having to provide a sufficient quantity of good-quality food to cover the continuously increasing consumption. Other socialist countries were in a similar situation at about the same time, and the Soviet Union sixty years ago, after the victory of the Great October Revolution. Having made radical socialist changes of our agriculture, we succeeded in reaching our economic and social aims within a relatively short period of history.

My delegation fully supports the dimensions and the structure of the programme of work as proposed to be accepted by the Conference. We agree also with the budget level proposed by the Director-General as logically corresponding to the programme of work.

As the Organization could face the difficulties in financing caused by an instability of the monetary exchange system, the idea to have a small limited reserve in the frame of FAO budget seems to be acceptable for us.

Now let me follow up with the main problems of the development of agriculture and foodstuff production in developing countries as included in the draft plan of work and in the medium-term programmes. I shall mention in brief how these problems are being solved in Czechoslovak agriculture.

Our intention is to achieve, in the nearest future, self-sufficiency in the production of cereals, and generally in all food of the moderate climatic zone. This effort, important for our country, complies with FAO's effort on the world scale. To make our intentions reality, we take various measures, including high interest in effective capital investments in Czechoslovak agriculture and processing industries.

In the mentioned period the capital has been mostly used for the development of crop production and grain fund management. The particular fields into which the capital has been invested are land improvement, construction of lines for post-harvest grain treatment, building of grain and potato stores, drying plants, fruit and vegetable production and handling facilities, including greenhouses for forced vegetables, establishment of agrochemical centres and development of machine-repairing centres. In animal production we have been mainly building cattle housing premises, particularly calf sheds and cow sheds.

The objective of this and further development of the material and technical basis of Czechoslovak socialist agriculture is to finish the building-up of a highly productive and intensive agricultural great production, based on large-capacity principles of industrial type.

Our investment policy in agriculture is aimed to the minimalization of food losses during the whole process of production, handling and processing, which are considered as a very important potential reserve for further raising and better quality of our agricultural food production.

We fully support the idea of the Director-General, that this problem may be approved as a high priority activity of this Organization.

In 1976 our agriculture suffered from extraordinary drought, whereas this year has been characterized, on the other hand, by extremely high atmospheric rainfall that rendered the harvest of cereals very difficult.

In comparison with the years 1975 and 1976, the total output of crop production was lower by 2.7 per cent. Despite all this, the level of animal production has been kept unchanged.

This 1977 year's total grain output in spite of difficult harvesting conditions is the highest one in the whole history of the socialist economy.

Also the output of sugar-beet, potatoes, and bulk forage is a record this year.

The good results of Czechoslovak agriculture in the last two years, achieved in spite of the very unfavourable weather conditions which necessitated higher costs, are due to the advantages of the socialist system built-in agriculture, with a strong material and technical basis.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic closely cooperates with other socialist countries within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. Besides the mentioned bilateral contacts with many developing countries, it is particularly in the recent years that, inspired by the conclusions of the Helsinki Conference, my country has evolved active and mutually advantageous cooperation with many West-European as well as overseas countries.

In conclusion, let me express my gratitude to the Director-General Dr. Saouma for accepting the official invitation by my Government to visit Czechoslovakia this year. Dr. Saouma met the President of Czechoslovakia, our Prime Minister and other high level representatives of the Czechoslovak Government. During their talks with the Director-General, the highest representatives of Czechoslovakia also expressed their understanding and support to the general line and strategy of FAO for the future period, as asserted by him.

He also could, at least in brief, familiarize himself with the present level and prospects of Czechoslovak agriculture and, generally, with our country.

In this connection I would like to reassure the Conference that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic intends to continue to actively participate in FAO's work.

H. R. LLOMPART (Cuba): Señor Presidente, señores Delegados: En nombre de nuestra Delegación deseo agradecer al pueblo de Italia la cordial hospitalidad que se nos dispensa en esta nueva oportunidad en que Roma acoge tan importante evento, y congratular al señor Director General y sus colaboradores, por la excelente preparación de esta Conferencia.

Nos complace felicitar al Dr. Saouma por la Declaración hecha a esta Conferencia, y manifestar nuestro apoyo más decidido a sus esfuerzos encaminados a hacer de la FAO una organización dinámica y eficiente, que responda cada vez con más efectividad, a las imperiosas necesidades de los países subdesarrollados. En este objetivo encontrará siempre nuestro resuelto y firme apoyo.

Aprovechamos también para felicitar al Sr. Toyib Hadiwijaya por su elección como Presidente de este período de sesiones, a los integrantes de la Mesa, y a la Sra. Jean A. S. Ritchie y el Sr. Talât Ereil por haber recibido el Premio B. R. Sen.

Asimismo aprovechamos esta oportunidad, señor Presidente, para mencionar que Cuba en los años recientes ha sido beneficiada con un proyecto del Programa Mundial de Alimentos consistente en la entrega de leche en polvo y mantequilla, el cual es destinado al Sistema Educativo del País, incluyendo los hogares infantiles y que tiene una importancia significativa dado que cubre una etapa de déficit, dentro de los importantes esfuerzos que realiza el país en el Desarrollo Ganadero y las instalaciones lecheras e industriales. Nuestro país se siente muy satisfecho con la forma y el alcance de este proyecto por la gran significación que tiene para nuestro desarrollo agropecuario.

Deseo reiterar el regocijo con que el Gobierno y el pueblo de Cuba acogen el ingreso a la FAO de la República Popular de Angola, del Estado de las Comoras, de la República Democrática Popular de Corea, de la República Popular de Mozambique, de la República Democrática de Santo Tomé y Príncipe, del Gobierno de la República de Seychelles, el Consejo de las Naciones Unidas para Namibia y la República de Djibouti, recientemente liberados en su mayoría del yugo colonial.

Estos pueblos emergen a la independencia, después de decenas de años de despiadada explotación colonial durante los cuales no se formaron médicos, no se crearon escuelas, maestros ni sistemas de enseñanza y de salubridad.

Nos satisfacen los logros alcanzados por los hermanos del llamado Tercer Mundo en su lucha contra el colonialismo, el neocolonialismo y el imperialismo, en beneficio de sus pueblos, y reiteramos que Cuba se mantendrá siempre solidaria e internacionalista con la lucha revolucionaria por la emancipación de todos los pueblos que luchen en el mundo por su independencia definitiva.

El número de seres humanos azotados por el hambre y la malnutrición pueden variar de una a otra Conferencia, pero el orden de magnitud siempre es de varios centenares de millones. El volumen de las producciones agrícolas y de alimentos varía también, pero aunque lo hagan en sentido positivo, las terribles consecuencias de una alimentación insuficiente y una distribución no equitativa aún se mantienen presentes para la mayoría de la humanidad.

Y esto se nos presenta en un mundo de abundancia aparente, donde deben ser de general preocupación las dramáticas consecuencias que tendría la dilapidación de los recursos naturales a que se dedican una cuantas "sociedades opulentas" en las cuales, paradójicamente, no deja de existir también el hambre. Pero el punto crítico no se encuentra en estas sociedades. La casi totalidad de los 500 millones de habitantes azotados por la falta de alimentos se encuentran en Asia, África o la América Latina.

El hecho de que esta vasta zona del mundo padezca del hambre en una proporción tan asoladora, no se debe a circunstancias de ubicación geográfica ni a características raciales de sus pueblos. Es un hecho que se deriva de la historia: es una consecuencia del subdesarrollo, impuesto a esos pueblos por el colonialismo y el imperialismo. Con estos pueblos han contraído una deuda incalculable las metrópolis coloniales y neocoloniales que se beneficiaron de su explotación. Nuestro país considera que es una obligación para los países capitalistas desarrollados culpables del despojo de los países por tan largo tiempo expoliados, restituirles los recursos que les han sido sustraídos, a través de adecuados finanelamentos para su desarrollo.

No obstante, la experiencia nos dice que eso no sería suficiente. Los países en desarrollo tendrán que realizar profundas reformas en la estructura social sobre todo en lo que respecta a la tenencia de la tierra, que rompa los obstáculos de latifundio improductivo y resuelva las limitaciones del minifundio destinado a una autosuficiencia familiar precaria.

Señor Presidente: Esta Conferencia se celebra a casi tres años antes de terminar el "Segundo Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo". Es por ello oportuno revisar y evaluar los logros alcanzados hasta el momento desde la pasada Conferencia. Una vez más el cuadro que se nos ofrece es desalentador. Los estudios y documentos preparados por la Secretaría para esta Conferencia así lo demuestran.

En el informe de FAO sobre la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación se expresa que durante 1976 se produjo una notable mejora en la situación inmediata de la alimentación y la agricultura mundiales, pero que la tendencia de la producción alimentaria a largo plazo de los países en desarrollo continúa siendo lamentablemente insuficiente en relación con la necesidad de mejorar los niveles de nutrición.

A pesar de las buenas cosechas obtenidas por los países en desarrollo en 1975, su producción alimentaria sólo aumentó en un 2, 5 por ciento anual durante la primera mitad del presente decenio, siendo esta cifra inferior al índice anual de crecimiento de la población en esos países, y muy inferior al 4 por ciento anual, objetivo trazado en la Estrategia Internacional para el Desarrollo adoptada para el Segundo Decenio por las Naciones Unidas.

Los promedios nacionales del consumo de alimentos y nutrición en los países en desarrollo no sólo muestran de por sí una situación extremadamente trágica, sino que ofrecen una indicación global del desastroso estado nutricional que padecen y ocultan la conocida y muy desigual distribución del consumo de alimentos dentro de cada país, a lo que se une que los índices de precios de los alimentos al consumidor continuaron siendo altos en 1976 y al parecer tienden a continuar su alza en la actualidad.

Por otra parte, los ingresos recibidos por exportaciones agropecuarias por los países en desarrollo han sido significativamente menores en relación con sus necesidades. El incremento total entre 1975 y 1974, ascendente a 1071 millones de dólares por este concepto en el plano mundial se explica por un aumento de 1594 millones de dólares de las exportaciones procedentes de las economías de mercado desarrolladas y por una disminución de 299 millones de dólares en las economías de mercado en desarrollo y 224 millones de las economías de planificación centralizada. En síntesis, un comportamiento totalmente inverso al justamente esperado por los países subdesarrollados.

En el informe que comentamos esta situación se hace más evidente en el continente africano, zona realmente crítica, ya que el incremento de la producción alimentaria fue sólo del 0, 5 por ciento en los años 1971-1975, y el índice por persona bajó en un 2, 1 por ciento al año en igual período.

No contribuye a mejorar esta situación la posición adoptada por algunos países capitalistas desarrollados que se proponen reducir sus áreas de siembra hasta un 20 por ciento. El objetivo velado de esta medida es mantener altos niveles de precios. Estamos seguros de que la Comunidad Internacional vería con agrado que se mantengan sembradas esas tierras con niveles de productividad más altos, y así lograr precios más adecuados.

Eliminar esta medida, y suprimir además la política de subsidios y trabas arancelarias que aplican algunos países capitalistas desarrollados, sería una contribución efectiva para evitar el encarecimiento de los productos alimenticios

El señor Director General, en su Declaración ante el Comité de Políticas y Programas del PMA expreso: "El problema de la malnutrición en los países pobres es tan urgente que no puede esperar a la consecución de un nivel satisfactorio de crecimiento económico. Descuidar la nutrición significaría retrasar el desarrollo económico por un período crítico y quizás indefinido".

Nuestro país comparte estas preocupaciones y respalda plenamente las recomendaciones y medidas que se propongan para atenuar la trágica situación descrita. Respalamos el objetivo propuesto por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos de obtener 950 millones de dólares en promesas de contribución, que en realidad es un objetivo modesto si se toman en consideración las necesidades reales de los países más necesitados.

La situación en el Sector agrícola y de alimentos no es más que un reflejo del acentuamiento de la brecha existente entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo, resultado del continuado deterioro en los términos de intercambio y los crecientes efectos de la inflación y la recesión de los países capitalistas desarrollados y de su arbitrario sistema monetario internacional.

Los precios de las mercancías provenientes de los países desarrollados siguen en un constante aumento, sin embargo, el precio de las exportaciones de los países subdesarrollados disminuyen, o no logran crecer en la misma proporción.

Consideramos de imperiosa necesidad el establecimiento de convenios o acuerdos de productos básicos para los productos agrícolas, que sirvan de instrumentos reguladores, facilitando así una participación más justa de los países en desarrollo en el comercio internacional.

Las raíces históricas del colonialismo, primero, y el imperialismo económico, después, han quebrado los mecanismos sociales en los países en desarrollo, pero no por trasplantar allí los progresos de Europa o, más tarde, las ventajas del crecimiento económico norteamericano sino para convertirlos en países productores de materias primas, saqueándoles sus recursos naturales, imponiéndoles regímenes opresores que utilizaban en su provecho, cortando el progreso cultural y condenando a esos pueblos al analfabetismo y al atraso perennes.

A pesar de las reiteradas discusiones sobre estos temas, los países capitalistas desarrollados no han adoptado acciones que contribuyan a eliminar esta situación. La Conferencia sobre Cooperación Económica internacional demostró lo inflexible de sus posiciones indicando a las claras no estar dispuestos a renunciar a las prebendas y beneficios que secularmente han disfrutado. La reunión de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores del Grupo de los 77 - celebrada en septiembre pasado - arribó a similares conclusiones.

Sin embargo, a los países en desarrollo nos confirmó la necesidad de mantener la unidad y ratificar el criterio de que el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas es un órgano apropiado y representativo para ejercicios de ese carácter. Es por ello, señor Presidente, que nuestra delegación apoya los criterios conducentes a lograr relaciones económicas internacionales basadas en la justicia y la equidad, la no discriminación por motivo de diferentes sistemas económicos y sociales, el interés mutuo y la cooperación entre los Estados, considerando como base de nuestros trabajos la Declaración del Programa de Acción adoptado en el Sexto Período Extraordinario de Sesiones de la Asamblea General y la Carta de los Derechos y Deberes Económicos de los Estados.

La base de nuestro desarrollo descansa en muy buena parte en nuestros propios esfuerzos, pero no es menos cierto que es necesario recurrir a la cooperación y colaboración internacional, en especial entre nuestros propios países, y que los países capitalistas desarrollados cumplan con sus obligaciones internacionales facilitando el que se resuelva el grave problema de la deuda externa de los países subdesarrollados y que se eliminen las limitaciones de acceso a los mercados de los países capitalistas desarrollados estableciendo condiciones favorables y justas.

En momentos en que el imperialismo ha orquestado una campaña propagandística tendente a presentarse como defensor de los derechos humanos, situaciones y datos como los que hemos citado son la más profunda negativa a sus pretensiones, ya que los mismos demuestran que el imperialismo y su despiadado sistema colonial y neocolonial representan en su esencia, la más absoluta negación de esos derechos para los pueblos.

No pueden hablar de derechos humanos, Sr. Presidente, los responsables de que hombres, mujeres y niños de los países pobres no gocen de los más elementales derechos, como es el de la alimentación indispensable y el acceso a la educación, la salud pública y a disfrutar por lo menos de unas bases mínimas para el desarrollo humano.

La solución de estos graves problemas requieren medidas concretas por parte de los países capitalistas desarrollados para solucionar la situación financiera y de acceso al comercio internacional que padecen los países pobres, para que así puedan comenzar a sentar bases sólidas que le permitan resolver estos problemas en forma estable y con visión perspectiva.

Al calor de estos reclamos y de la trágica situación que atraviesan nuestros países, se levantan voces, unas con ingenuidad y otras procurando soslayar el fondo del problema, ofreciendo ayudas humanitarias que resultan insuficientes, tales como ejércitos de voluntarios de cuyas actividades no tenemos las mejores experiencias, o procurando imponernos modelos de desarrollo agrícola basados en la imagen idílica del granjero individualista de país desarrollado, que no puede constituir en modo alguno una alternativa de solución para nuestros graves problemas.

Nuestro país ha continuado avanzando en el desarrollo del sector agrícola y alimentario, aun dentro de las condiciones adversas de bloqueo económico que le han sido impuestas a lo largo de casi dos décadas. Esto ha sido posible por el sacrificio y esfuerzo de nuestro pueblo, y por la ayuda solidaria de los países de la comunidad socialista, en particular la Unión Soviética. Aprovechamos para saludar el 60 Aniversario de la Gran Revolución de Octubre que ha hecho posible que muchos países que luchan por la liberación, entre ellos el nuestro, hayan comenzado unos, y otros consolidado, su verdadera independencia y soberanía.

Hemos avanzado en la organización de la economía agrícola, en consecuencia con los profundos cambios de índole social que han caracterizado los casi 19 años de la vida de la Revolución Cubana, partiendo de la Reforma Agraria como punto inicial e indispensable para el cambio de la estructuras en el Sector Agropecuario.

La creación de comunidades rurales con las necesarias facilidades sociales -tales como edificios de viviendas decorosas, escuelas, postas médicas, campos deportivos, etc. -, no solamente han modificado el paisaje de los campos cubanos y elevado sustancialmente el nivel de vida intelectual y material del campesino, sino que también han permitido niveles superiores de producción agropecuaria con una mayor eficiencia y productividad.

Paralelamente al desarrollo del Sector estatal se organizan, impulsan y perfeccionan las cooperativas de producción agropecuaria con aquellos campesinos que, dueños de sus tierras, piden constituir las o incorporarse a las ya existentes, para participar así en formas superiores de producción agropecuaria.

Otro aspecto de no menor importancia y que ha influido de manera determinante y definitiva en la realidad de la agricultura cubana, lo constituye la combinación del estudio con el trabajo en los distintos niveles del sistema educacional. Este principio encuentra sus raíces en los postulados del procer de nuestra Independencia José Martí, sustentados además, al iniciarse la construcción del Socialismo, en las ideas para la formación de las nuevas generaciones, que sentó Carlos Marx en sus geniales concepciones.

Por otra parte, al desarrollo agropecuario se dedican cada año considerables recursos para la adquisición de tractores, combinadas para la cosecha mecanizada de la caña de azúcar, del arroz y otros cultivos; la construcción sistemática de modernas vaquerías con ordeño mecánico; modernas construcciones avícolas y porcinas; instalaciones o talleres para la reparación y atención de la maquinaria agrícola; modernos y complejos sistemas hidráulicos, etc.

Uno de los más importantes esfuerzos en mecanización agrícola es la puesta en marcha de la fábrica de cosechadoras cañeras Modelo KTP-1 con una capacidad anual de producción de 600 unidades, base fundamental para alcanzar en 1980 una mecanización superior a un 55 por ciento de la cosecha de caña de azúcar.

Asimismo se destaca la creación y desarrollo de institutos de investigaciones para la mecanización agrícola en general, para suelos y fertilizantes, sanidad vegetal, sanidad animal, pastos y forrajes, riego y drenaje, pesca, forestales, etc. que constituyen premisas, en la infraestructura, fundamentales para nuestro desarrollo actual y futuro.

Señor Presidente, los esfuerzos cubanos parcialmente expuestos en apretada síntesis, significan resultados positivos para nuestro sector agrícola y alimentario. En caña de azúcar, nuestro principal cultivo, se logró superar la producción del bienio anterior en 12 por ciento.

En producciones importantes para la dieta del pueblo cubano se alcanzaron en el mismo período incrementos sustanciales. En carne vacuna durante 1976 se produjeron 47 000 t más que en 1975; mientras que en carne de cerdo el incremento fue de un 70 por ciento y en carne de ave de un 91 por ciento con relación a la producción del bienio 1973-1974. La producción de huevos del pasado año aseguró un consumo anual per capita de 180 unidades sobrepasando la producción la cifra de 1800 millones de huevos.

Si comparamos los resultados obtenidos durante 1976 con relación al año que le precede vemos cómo el arroz sobrepasa el rendimiento por ha en un 21 por ciento, y en tubérculos y raíces, hortalizas, tabaco y banano en un 16 por ciento.

En el nivel de capturas de pesca cubanas el pasado año se obtuvieron alrededor de 200 000 toneladas esperando que en 1977 nuestras capturas asciendan a las 230 000 toneladas, lo que significa una gran diferencia con lo capturado en 1958, que fue solamente de 21 000 toneladas. El consumo per capita en 1974 fue de 20, 3 Kg.

El ritmo de desarrollo de la industria pesquera cubana ha permitido que se esté trabajando actualmente en el montaje de una planta conservera que procesará alrededor de 50 000 toneladas anuales de productos del mar.

Otra área de especial atención por parte del Gobierno cubano es la forestal, donde durante 1976 y lo transcurrido en el presente año se han reforestado 44 000 ha y manejado 104 viveros forestales, entre otras actividades.

No quisiéramos terminar, señor Presidente y señores Delegados, sin expresar el apoyo de nuestro Gobierno a la celebración de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, que se celebrará en 1979.

No cabe duda de que esta Conferencia significará un paso adelante en la consecución de nuestros objetivos respecto a la Conferencia celebrada en 1966. Por esa razón estimamos que este nuevo encuentro de carácter mundial irá orientado, no sólo hacia los aspectos técnicos de la agricultura, sino primordialmente dirigida hacia aquellos problemas de carácter socio-económico, que son la base para la implementación de una verdadera y profunda Reforma Agraria en los países en desarrollo.

Dada la trascendencia y la importancia que tiene para los países subdesarrollados, deberá disponer de los recursos financieros necesarios para su celebración. En este sentido apoyamos la propuesta de presupuesto presentada por el Director General para poderla llevar adelante con el objetivo propuesto.

Nuestro país viene prestando atención especial a los pronunciamientos que sobre Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo se están formulando en las Naciones Unidas y organismos como FAO. Cuba desde hace varios años viene desarrollando la prestación de asistencia técnica y la colaboración mediante convenios y proyectos con los países en desarrollo, a pesar del bloqueo económico que aún se nos mantiene. Pese al mismo, Cuba realiza un modesto pero importante esfuerzo enviando médicos, maestros, técnicos agrícolas y brigadas constructoras a los países subdesarrollados que lo han solicitado.

A fines del presente año más de 6 000 técnicos y profesionales cubanos estarán prestando sus servicios de asistencia técnica en países en vía de desarrollo, fundamentalmente en el continente africano, de los cuales 700 son médicos.

Esto sólo como un ejemplo y comprende un modesto aporte de nuestro país a la solidaridad y cooperación internacional dentro de nuestros limitados recursos.

Actualmente, también nuestro país está prestando esta asistencia técnica a través de organismos especializados de las Naciones Unidas. La cooperación técnica y colaboración entre nuestros países constituye en sí misma una acción de defensa de nuestros intereses.

Señor Presidente: Los países capitalista desarrollados, responsables de las políticas coloniales y neo-coloniales, han mantenido y mantienen las relaciones económicas internacionales más injustas y desiguales y contribuyen a que el panorama de producción agrícola y la situación alimentaria en los países subdesarrollados, sea terriblemente desalentador.

Como contraste, y según ha expresado nuestro Presidente del Consejo de Estado, Comandante Fidel Castro: "Si las revoluciones tienen muchas flores hermosas, la flor de la solidaridad humana, de la capacidad de sacrificarse por los demás - en su patria y aun fuera de su patria - es la más hermosa".

"Nuestra pregunta. . . y la pregunta que tenemos que hacernos todos los hombres progresistas del mundo es ésta: ¿Cómo debemos trabajar y cómo se van a resolver los problemas del mundo subdesarrollado?".

Ese es el gran desafío al que tiene que responder urgentemente y en forma positiva la comunidad internacional.



J. GIBBONS (Ireland): I should like to join all those speakers who have preceded me, in congratulating you sincerely on your election as Chairman of the Conference. I am confident that in your capable hands, the Conference will succeed once again in advancing still further the growing level of cooperation and understanding that has been stimulated at previous Conferences. I have no doubt that the Conference will also make further progress towards solution of the ever complex problems that confront all of us who are concerned with agriculture and with food production.

I wish also to welcome the 8 new members who have been admitted into the Organization.

My colleague, Mr. Humblet has already addressed you on behalf of the European Community and has dealt very fully with the Community's own work in this field both internally and in relation to developing countries. I have no hesitation in declaring my own and my Government's support for the Community's work for developing countries. I fully endorse his view that we all have a common purpose and that jointly we will get the results.

The main theme for your Conference is Investment in Agriculture. This subject was rightly given pride of place by the new Director-General when he placed before the Council for the first time his proposals for a new approach by the Organization.

In doing so he was, no doubt, directing our attention to the very heart of the problem of developing food production. This is in keeping too with his determination to concentrate the work of FAO on programmes for direct action in priority areas. I wish to add my tribute to the many that have already been paid to him for his efforts since taking office. Definitions of what we mean by investment can vary a great deal. Broadly, however, the ingredients of any investment programme for agriculture will be much the same. They will probably include capital for the erection of buildings; for fertilization and other forms of land improvement; for the development of livestock and crop varieties; for research and development; for education and training of farmers; for providing extension services; and for control and eradication of diseases of animals and plants. Almost every single aspect of agricultural development calls for investment in one form or another.

Because investment is such a vital lubricant in the process of development it is entirely understandable, that all Governments, in developed as well as in developing countries, share a common concern to ensure that adequate capital is available for injection into agriculture.

Of course, not all Governments will have the same priorities. For the more developed countries, the ambition is likely to be to create the climate of confidence and stability in which farmers will be able to sustain a buoyant level of investment that will ensure the progressive development and adaptation of the farming industry. For less developed countries, the starting point will be entirely different. Their problem may well be to provide motivation to stimulate their human resources towards development and to select priorities from the limited options open to them.

It is usually the case that agriculture is in the process of development simultaneously with most other sectors of the economy. For this reason, it is usual to find many demands competing for the limited funds available. I think it is true to say that few Ministers for Agriculture are ever satisfied with what is made available for investment in agriculture. In the developing countries, Agriculture Ministers have the full backing of the World Food Conference in seeking absolute priority for what they need and it is to be hoped that this priority is being readily accorded by their Governments. Most of us, on the other hand, are usually faced with difficult decisions as to who gets what and how much.

When we are faced with the problem of distributing scarce resources, we must seek to direct funds to where they will be used to the best advantage. This leads to consideration of many different aspects of the development process. There is little to be gained from concentrating investment in physical areas such as land, buildings and machinery if the farmer himself is not equipped to use these productively. The first thing necessary, clearly, is that the farmer should be free from the threat of hunger. If he labours under the shadow of hunger, then his capacity to help himself is destroyed. Secondly the farmer must have the knowledge, the education and training that will enable him to use the physical things that can be put at his disposal. Investment directed towards providing the necessary education and training must, therefore, usually get first priority. It may be difficult even for those who have been given the necessary training to make the initial effort to help themselves. Other conditions must be met. The farmer must be offered the secure prospect of a sustained level of income for his effort. He will usually look to his Government also for assurances of political, economic and monetary stability in the years ahead. Many of us will have seen, in recent times, the damaging effect which severe inflation can have on attitudes towards investment. A prospect of reasonable stability in prices and markets will add greatly to the confidence of producers and will ease the flow of capital from credit agencies and other institutions.

Problems of land structure are, I know, a constant concern of FAO and I am pleased to note that in cooperation with several other world bodies, it is planning a major World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 1979. That Conference will offer a forum for discussion on all aspects of land tenure and related problems. It should provide very valuable guidance on ways and means of giving the underprivileged access to productive resources and enabling them to use those resources to advantage. It is good that FAO should continue to seek to influence policies in important areas of this kind.

It is important to take account of the interplay of factors that influence the farmers' decision to invest and his ability to use his investment wisely. Credit is a case in point. I noted that the importance of proper credit facilities in providing a flow of capital, especially for smaller farmers, was quite properly recognized fully in the second of the guidelines for food and agricultural production endorsed by the 18th Session of Conference in 1975.

In the case of small and less developed farms, provision of credit must normally be integrated with many other services. Apart from the first essential of being sure of an adequate return, the farmer must have access also to the productive technology emerging from research and development institutions. He should be able too to call on a virile extension service that can be called on to translate technology into practice and which will give him the management ability to ensure his capacity to repay. After all, the ability to manage his investment well, is the best collateral any farmer can present to any lending agency. And so, all elements of the investment process react one upon the other - the farmer's own input in land and management, the funds from lending agencies and the help which his Government; can give in providing the finance for research, education, training and the operation of farm extension services.

In the case of developing countries of course, individual consideration will arise. Special measures have to be taken to ensure that the investment of precious resources in agriculture and particularly in the field of manpower should be channelled in the most effective way. In this connection, my Government endorses the intensive work being done in many developing countries in the field of the cooperative development. This work embraces policy guidance, the setting up of cooperative development centres, assistance with regional training and advisory services and cooperative education and training. I have already made reference to smaller farms. When we talk about investment in agriculture, it is essentially those small farmers and the agricultural labourers who have virtually no resources that we want to reach. One of the best ways of giving these the hope of sharing adequately in the investment in agriculture which is so necessary, is cooperation - for credit, for housing, for development of crafts and other employment opportunities and even for education. I must stress the vital need to involve the subsistence farmer and the landless man in the production of the additional food we require. If these weaker groups are not involved, then additional production may give rise to almost as many problems as it would solve. Without resources, these people could not buy any of the extra food produced and would remain dependent on outside help indefinitely.

I am a firm believer in the value of cooperative action for smaller farmers - especially as a means of making the best use of scarce investment resources. Cooperation at this level can range from a simple exchange of labour or the pooling of machinery to complete integration of farming activity. A simple sharing of machinery and buildings can bring modern equipment within reach of the smallest producer when it would otherwise be denied to him.

A more rational use of machinery is also possible where services are provided by farm contractors. Contracting services have expanded in many countries including my own in recent decades. These services are again most valuable where the farm structure is one of small family size farms. In these conditions contractors perform a most valuable function. They put modern techniques within reach of all farmers and in the process save many farmers from dissipating resources in uneconomic investments in equipment.

Looking at cooperation; in a wider context - let me say that my Government readily acknowledges the serious responsibility of the developed countries to help those developing countries in the provision of funds and other inputs for development of agriculture but care must be taken not to undermine the responsibility which the Governments of developing countries have accepted to provide, out of their own resources, as much of the essential financial and institutional help as they can to enable farmers to produce more.

I was interested to read the recommendation of the World Food Council at its third meeting in Manila in June of this year in regard to Food Aid. It recommended that Food Aid policies should be applied in a manner consistent with the development objectives of the recipient country. It went on to say

that existing and potential donors of Food Aid should give special consideration to increasing the amount of Food Aid provided multilaterally. It expected also that donors would endeavour to provide food aid, wherever possible, through cash resources in the form of triangular arrangements between themselves, developing food exporting countries and recipient countries. My country strongly supports this recommendation and has done so at the meeting of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. I would also like to pick out the Council's reference to potential donors of food aid and to say that I share the hope expressed by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes last month that new donors to the World Food Programme will come forward in the near future and help to share the burden being carried by the existing donors. This would make realistic and practicable the achievement of the substantial new target of 950 million dollars which has been recommended by the Committee and which has been considered by this Conference.

Mr. Chairman, I must come back to the subject of investment. I should like to refer briefly to the problem of post-harvest losses. Like many other countries, Ireland has just experienced a bountiful grain harvest and I am therefore conscious just now of the importance of having the facilities for proper treatment and storage of grain. Many speakers have already referred to the perennial problem of the large quantities of food that are lost in many developing countries between field and consumer. It has been said that if all waste and spoilage could, by some miracle, be eliminated, present food production would be adequate. This is a sobering thought. It would surely be tragic if the efforts which have gone into improving production and increasing yields were to be dissipated by continuing losses on the present scale. It is perhaps no harm to remind ourselves that this is an area where investment in the control of diseases and pests and provision of better storage would pay handsome dividends. The programme which FAO is now proposing for tackling this problem is most commendable and deserves to succeed.

I have read with particular interest the report prepared for this Conference on progress towards achieving the agreed objectives and policies of the international agricultural adjustment. Solid progress has been made in a number of the areas covered by the guidelines formulated by Conference in 1975. The progress is more marked in some areas than in others. But even where significant advances have been made, so much remains to be done that there will be no suggestion of being satisfied with the results achieved. To be satisfied would imply complacency. We know only too well that the vastness of the task which confronts FAO will never allow for any measure of complacency until all those people in the world who are facing hunger and malnutrition can be offered something more tangible than sympathy and understanding.

In acknowledging the progress that has been achieved, I think it right to give recognition to the valuable contributions which have been made by the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment. The establishment now of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will add new impetus for development. Investment is but one of the essential ingredients needed for the development of food and agricultural production but it is a key one. It is essential not only to make sure of sufficient provision of the farmers needs for fertilizers, feed and equipment but also to develop those industries which process farm products, and which in turn are capable of offering valuable employment in rural areas.

We must look on investments as an integral feature of the development of agriculture. The linkage with education, training, advisory work, research, marketing and pricing is as important as the investment decision itself. I believe that we can make these links even more secure and that this is the direction we should seek to travel in the future. In this way, we can offer developing countries the right package of assistance measures to help meet their particular needs. It only remains for me, Mr. Chairman, to offer my country's and my own good wishes for a successful Conference and to assure you of my Government's earnest support for the efforts of FAO in relation to the food and agricultural problems of the world.

S. M. AL-RAGABANI (United Arab Emirates) (interpretation from Arabic): In the name of God the merciful it is a pleasure for me to congratulate you upon your election as Chairman of this Conference. I should also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairman of this Conference. I am convinced that you will stint no efforts for the success of this Conference which we all consider being one of the main advantages of agricultural history of the contemporary world. We are participating in the Conference because we believe in the important constructive role which the Organization has played since its creation in the development and improvement of agricultural production and food production throughout the world. However, we continue to hope that our Organization will achieve more important work and more considerable efforts in the framework of international cooperation with a view to ensuring greater food security for the peoples of the world, and particularly for those developing countries who are suffering from great food deficits. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General of FAO for the efforts which he has deployed hitherto in the field of coordination and crystalization of the strategy of food security and agricultural development.

In the light of the directives of His Highness Sheik Zahid Iban Sultan an Hian The State of the United Arab Emirates has with a view to adopting food security adopted ambitious projects for food and fisheries in order to insert our agriculture in the process of development at the same time as the development of the other sectors of the colony. And this despite the scarcity of water and lack of skilled labour. The difficulties faced are numerous as compared to agricultural development. Nevertheless the surface of land cultivated has gone from 4 000 hectares in 1968 to a figure of almost 60 000 hectares in 1977, if you include forestry projects. The essential crops are those of basic commodities, whereas the cereal crops are being experimented at this stage.

In 1977 the production of vegetable crops - 52 000 dates, 53 000 citrus and a rather higher figure of fisheries. This part along with fodder, the volumes of the investments of the different governments and different projects of agriculture and animal health achieved a figure of \$ 30 million distributed over projects of mechanization, the installation of irrigation pumps, motorization of fisheries mechanisms, acquiring of machines and tractors with a view to achieving the goals of the integrated development plan and to strengthen our self-sufficiency in the field of agriculture, animal and fisheries products.

Since the creation of the State of the United Arab Emirates in 1972 and up to 1977 the global investments in the agriculture and fishery products have achieved \$-72 million. Other institutes for financing have been set up such as the Development of the Bank of the United Arab Emirates which offers facilities in the form of credit to farmers and fishermen for important projects. Other private important enterprises were created in the sectors of agriculture, cattle grazing and livestock and fisheries.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of water in agriculture. Water being the essential, for the sort of agricultural development and the very basis of the different agricultural plans and economic plans. Our State draws particular attention to it in view of the scarcity of water and the difficulty which arises therefrom.

Beginning in 1978 two big projects will be under way. A project for a census of aquatic resources and exploitable lands, and a project of dams to be built on the rivers to reserve rainwater.

On the basis of the international principle that all countries aspiring to peace have adopted the United Arab Republic under the aegis of his Highness Sheik Zahid Iban Sultan an Hiam has stinted no effort when faced with the difficulties of brother countries to develop their natural resources. Thus our State participates in all funds and institutions which are for assistance to these countries for the achievement of their development projects.

Also we have created the Abu Dhabi plan of economic development, for this very same reason.

Our State, having faith in the need for regional cooperation among the countries of our area, participates in the various regional projects and has many meetings, the aim of which is to coordinate all plans and programmes for development. We also participate in the activities of the other international regional organizations, whether they belong to the United Nations or not.

The FAO has begun the preparation of the World Conference on Agrarian Relform and Rural Development which is to meet in July, 1978. We place great hopes in that Conference which will not doubt play a vital part in the exchange of viewpoints and which will be one of the most important conferences, since it will be referring to the very roots of the problem - land being the source and the basis of everything. We hope the Conference will be a stimulus for the aims and policies and work programme of the developing countries by affording priority to the projects aimed at ensuring food security, particularly in least-developed countries.

IFAD, which is about to become fact, also constitutes one of the financing sources for food production, their strengthening and their enhancement. In order to strengthen policies, institutions working within the framework with priority for national strategies should be borne in mind.

The new policy adopted by your great Organization has created country offices which will certainly strengthen direct contacts between the Member States and the organizations. Whilst supporting the system of country representatives, we nevertheless prefer the possibility of linking them up to the regional offices, bearing in mind the concern of decentralizing and increasing the efficiency of those • which have great experience in regional matters for the different regions.

The State of the United Arab Emirates still expects greater cooperation between FAO and the developing countries, because the latter have the greatest need for the expert knowledge of your Organization. That is why we would like an increase of funds for technical assistance programmes.

Before I come to the end of my statement I should like to congratulate the States which have just joined our Organization and who will, I hope, play an active role in our international community. We also hope the Organization will furnish them with all the assistance they need.

I thank and congratulate all those who participated in the preparation of this international Conference, which I hope will meet with full success in the adoption of resolutions and recommendations which we all wish for in the agricultural field. May God help us to achieve our aspirations towards increased production and greater prosperity for the good of all mankind, and may His mercy be upon all of you.

S. COULIBALY (Mali): C'est pour moi, Monsieur le Président, un agréable devoir de vous adresser les vives félicitations de ma délégation à la suite de votre élection à la présidence de notre Conférence. En adressant également mes félicitations aux Vice-Présidents qui sont vos collaborateurs, je voudrais vous assurer de notre soutien dans l'accomplissement de vos délicates fonctions, étant assuré que vous dirigerez nos délibérations avec compétence et dévouement.

L'intérêt que mon gouvernement porte à la réalisation des objectifs de la FAO est à la dimension de la place primordiale que l'agriculture et les activités connexes occupent dans l'économie de mon pays.

En effet, la République du Mali est un pays sahélien n'ayant aucun accès direct à la mer et où aucune richesse du sous-sol n'est encore en exploitation sous forme d'échanges commerciaux au plan international.

C'est dire que toutes les activités qui concourent à la constitution du revenu national brut sont dans mon pays directement liées aux résultats de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche fluviale.

S'étendant sur un territoire de 1. 200. 000 km<sup>2</sup>, désertique au Nord et à l'Est, et arrosé à l'ouest et au centre par deux grands fleuves, le Niger et le Sénégal et leurs affluents, le Mali, qui possède de grandes superficies de terre propices à l'agriculture et à l'élevage, est un des pays en voie de développement où les activités de notre Organisation trouvent la plénitude de leur motivation.

Aussi, tirant les enseignements de la période de domination coloniale et des premières années de l'exercice de la souveraineté nationale, notre gouvernement, durement éprouvé par la longue sécheresse de 1970 à 1973, a mis en place le plan de développement quinquennal 1974-1978 axé essentiellement sur le développement rural intégré. C'est dire que l'orientation nouvelle de la BIRD sous l'impulsion de son dynamique Président, M. MacNamara, en faveur des investissements dans le secteur agricole des pays du Tiers Monde rejoint les préoccupations fondamentales de mon gouvernement.

Une certaine conspiration et de faux préjugés avaient en effet longtemps masqué les réalités de l'agriculture, notamment le développement des cultures vivrières dans les pays en voie de développement. Nous nous réjouissons donc de constater que des voix ayant une grande audience internationale s'élèvent aujourd'hui pour affirmer avec autorité et conviction que le retard de l'agriculture dans nos pays, et singulièrement celui des cultures céréalières, est dû essentiellement à l'insuffisance des capitaux.

Pour notre part, nous restons profondément convaincus que beaucoup de pays en voie de développement qui connaissent aujourd'hui de graves déficits céréaliers pourraient atteindre rapidement le stade de l'autosuffisance alimentaire au niveau national et régional si la communauté des pays nantis accordait une grande priorité aux investissements dans le secteur agricole en soutenant, en particulier, les projets de productions céréalières dans les pays concernés.

L'expérience que nous avons entreprise dans notre pays, bien qu'encore récente, nous renforce dans notre conviction.

En effet, près de 20 opérations de développement rural intégré financées conjointement sur ressources internes et externes ont été progressivement implantées dans mon pays à partir de 1972. Les opérations de développement rural sont des structures destinées à accélérer le développement intégré d'une région donnée et assurer la promotion économique et sociale des populations rurales. Elles sont conçues pour une production principale donnée dans une zone écologique déterminée tout en maintenant un équilibre satisfaisant entre cultures industrielles et cultures vivrières. Elles comportent des composantes couvrant l'encadrement de toutes, les activités de production des populations rurales fondées sur la propriété privée des exploitations et des biens de production. Les activités des ODR couvrent en effet les aménagements hydroagricoles, la vulgarisation des variétés sélectionnées, la formation des paysans, l'alphabétisation des adultes, la santé humaine et animale, le crédit agricole, l'approvisionnement en matériel agricole, en engrais, en insecticide, l'entretien des pistes agricoles, le stockage des produits, etc. Comme on peut le constater, nous avons opté pour une stratégie de développement intégré dont les populations rurales sont les principaux bénéficiaires. Cette stratégie tient compte en effet des modestes ressources de l'Etat, et surtout du niveau d'éducation des paysans, de leurs moyens limités et de leurs profondes aspirations plus équitables que la stratégie de croissance systématique qui masque souvent de graves inégalités et des formes avancées d'exploitation de certaines couches sociales, notre système de développement rural intégré a rencontré l'adhésion des populations paysannes.

En effet, grâce à cette approche, la production de coton commercialisé, par exemple, qui était à la fois marginale et stationnaire<sup>a</sup> atteint 85. 000 T au cours de la campagne agricole 1974/1975, 103. 000 T pour la campagne 1975/1976 et 119. 000 T pour la campagne 1976/1977. Au cours de la même période - notamment au cours des campagnes agricoles 1975/1976 et 1976/1977 où la pluviométrie a été bien répartie, bien qu'inférieure à la normale, la production céréalière a couvert la totalité des besoins nationaux de consommation et dégage même un léger excédent.

C'est pour moi l'occasion d'adresser du haut de cette tribune nos remerciements aux pays amis, aux institutions bancaires internationales et aux organismes de coopération qui nous ont apporté et continuent à nous apporter leur précieux concours pour le financement de nos opérations de développement rural.

Ce concours, Monsieur le Président, nous est encore plus que jamais nécessaire pour garantir à notre agriculture des assises plus sûres au moyen de l'irrigation.

En effet, l'agriculture, et singulièrement la production céréalière, restera précaire dans les pays du Sahel tant qu'elle sera essentiellement tributaire de la pluviométrie, et cela quelque soit l'ardeur des paysans et les structures mises en place par les gouvernements. La campagne agricole, en cours qui a vu les pluies s'arrêter brutalement et prématurément dans les pays du Sahel membres du CILSS nous rappelle malheureusement à cette triste réalité. En effet, si dans mon pays malgré une pluviométrie légèrement inférieure à la normale mais bien répartie dans le temps et dans l'espace, les récoltes ont été satisfaisantes au cours des deux dernières campagnes agricoles grâce aux structures d'encadrement mises en place, cette année par contre, l'établissement tardif de la saison des pluies et son arrêt prématuré en septembre plongent à nouveau des millions de paysans sahéliens dans l'angoisse, la misère et peut-être la faim.

Je dis peut-être la faim parce que le Comité inter-états de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel vient de faire à nouveau appel à la solidarité internationale comme ce fut le cas au cours de la dernière sécheresse des années 1970 à 1973. Le déficit céréalier dans les huit Etats membres du CILSS a été provisoirement évalué à près de 500. 000 T. Certes, compte tenu de l'élan de solidarité que la communauté internationale a manifesté en faveur du Sahel au cours de la dernière sécheresse, on peut légitimement espérer que cette fois encore l'aide alimentaire ne fera pas défaut aux populations sinistrées.

Malheureusement, Monsieur le Président, l'aide alimentaire, si généreuse soit-elle, permet certes d'assurer provisoirement la survie des populations, mais elle ne résout pas les vrais problèmes du Sahel, elle les laisse presque intacts. La solution correcte du problème alimentaire des populations et des animaux du Sahel qui conditionne le développement réel des pays du Sahel réside dans la sécurisation de l'agriculture par l'irrigation.

C'est pour moi l'occasion, après l'Ambassadeur André Young, de paraphraser à mon tour le vieux dicton chinois en disant:

"Donner du poisson à un homme qui a faim est bien, mais lui donner un filet et lui apprendre à pêcher est encore mieux. "

Dans la plupart des castles populations du Sahel savent déjà pêcher et elles ont également le fleuve; ce qui leur manque, par contre, c'est le filet - c'est à dire, les capitaux pour réaliser les aménagements hydroagricoles, de quoi construire les barrages et creuser les canaux d'irrigation. En effet, des études récentes effectuées par les Nations Unies, la FAO, le CILSS et le Club du Sahel démontrent éloquentement que les pays du Sahel disposent de suffisamment d'eau en surface et sous terre et de terres arables pour produire de quoi nourrir plusieurs fois leurs populations actuelles. L'exemple de mon propre pays est là pour le prouver. En effet, il a suffi de deux années de pluviométrie à peu près normale pour augmenter la production de coton de 15 pour cent par an et pour réaliser l'autosuffisance alimentaire en céréales. C'est dire, Monsieur le Président, que si la Communauté des nantis accordait la priorité souhaitée aux investissements dans le secteur de la production vivrière dans les pays en voie de développement comme le préconise le Président de la Banque mondiale, les pays du Sahel non seulement réaliseraient rapidement l'autosuffisance alimentaire au niveau national et régional, mais pourraient également apporter leurs contributions si modestes, soient-elles à la constitution des stocks de sécurité internationale. C'est pour moi l'occasion de sensibiliser notre conférence sur le programme de développement du Sahel, adopté à Ottawa en juin 1977.

Ce programme est un ensemble cohérent dont la réalisation permettra non seulement d'assurer la survie des populations par des actions d'urgence, mais de réhabiliter le Sahel et de faire en sorte que l'Homme sahélien puisse aspirer à autre chose de plus humain, et de plus élevé que sa subsistance quotidienne. Tous les Etats et organismes de coopération économique, scientifique et technique qui désirent se joindre à cette grande oeuvre humaine, qui constitue la réhabilitation des pays sahéliens seront les bienvenus au sein du Club du Sahel.

Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Ministres, en parlant ainsi je suis profondément conscient que chaque peuple est le principal responsable du développement de son propre pays. Mais lorsque l'on considère que chaque jour plus d'un milliard de dollars sont consacrés à fabriquer et à stocker des armes qui ne peuvent en aucun cas être utilisées qu'avec la profonde conviction et la ferme détermination de détruire l'humanité et ses valeurs, on peut légitimement au nom de l'humanisme tout court aspirer qu'une faible partie de ces sommes colossales soit investie pour mettre à l'abri de la faim, de la soif, de la maladie et de la misère des hommes qui peuvent apporter une contribution de qualité à la civilisation universelle.

En raison des progrès de la science, de la technique, des moyens de communication et du développement des échanges commerciaux qui engendrent une plus grande interdépendance des économies nationales, les pays industrialisés et nantis devraient comprendre qu'ils s'aident eux-mêmes en aidant les pays du Tiers Monde à se développer et à développer en particulier leur agriculture.

A cet égard, et en dépit des dures réalités du moment, la nouvelle orientation de la BIRD en faveur des investissements dans le secteur agricole des pays du Tiers Monde, orientation qui pourra inspirer sûrement les autres institutions bancaires internationales, la création du FIDA, le sentiment de compréhension et de complémentarité qui se tisse chaque jour entre les états au sein des organismes de coopération politique, économique et sociale ouvrent des perspectives encourageantes dans le sens d'une prise en considération des problèmes du Tiers Monde.

Sous l'impulsion de son dynamique Directeur général, notre ami Edouard Saouma, la FAO doit gagner la grande bataille consistant à élever le niveau de nutrition et les conditions de vie de tous les peuples. Pour la réalisation de ces nobles objectifs, je souhaite ardemment que tous les Etats Membres et tous les hommes de bonne volonté accordent leur soutien à notre Organisation. Les propositions contenues dans les documents qui nous sont soumis par le Directeur général constituent à notre avis une synthèse à la fois réaliste et dynamique des recommandations, suggestions et souhaits formulés par les délégations au cours de nos conférences précédentes. Nous recommandons cependant au Directeur général de redoubler d'efforts et de vigilance pour rester le plus longtemps possible attentif aux préoccupations de ceux qui ont le plus besoin de l'assistance de l'Organisation.

A cet égard, la nomination de représentants auprès des pays les plus démunis me paraît constituer une bonne courroie de transmission pour maintenir le Directeur général dans la mouvance de la dynamique qu'il veut donner aux actions de l'Organisation.

Dans le même ordre d'idée, nous pensons que la suggestion faite à notre Conférence en vue de la création d'un corps international de volontaires pour le développement de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation pourrait faire l'objet d'une étude approfondie. Notre avis est que toutes les initiatives qui visent à promouvoir le développement et la coopération dans le domaine alimentaire devraient être considérées avec intérêt.

Enfin, et pour terminer, je désire au nom de ma délégation souhaiter la bienvenue aux distingués représentants des nouveaux Etats admis au sein de notre Organisation. Par la même occasion j'exprime le vœu de voir participer à notre prochaine conférence les représentants authentiques du peuple Zimbabwe et l'espoir aussi de voir siéger un jour parmi nous les dignes et authentiques représentants de nos frères opprimés en Afrique du Sud.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

The meeting rose at 18. 25 hours

La séance est levée à 18. 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 25 horas





## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/11

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
11ª SESION PLENARIA

(17 November 1977)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 21. 20 hours  
S. Essimengane, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La onzième seance plénière est ouverte à 21 h 20 sous la présidence  
de S. Essimengane, Vice-Président de la Conference

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 21. 20 horas, bajo la presidencia  
de S. Essimengane, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

B. SUSSMILCH (European Economic Community) (interpretation from German); If I may I would like to begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on behalf of the European Economic Community for having been elected Chairman of the FAO General Conference. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairman, the FAO Secretariat and the Director-General to whom I would like to express our gratitude for the excellent organization of the Conference. I would like to tell you that it was Mr. Gundelach who was going to present this statement. I am afraid he was not able to be present this evening and he makes his apologies.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the significance of the subject, namely the investment in agriculture, has been emphasized during the last two years in numerous discussions in international organizations, particularly within the FAO itself, and has been underlined by, for example, the creation of the IFAD and by the measures undertaken and the success achieved by the International Fertilizer Programme. Moreover, national and regional agricultural policies have concerned themselves intensively with the task of meeting the demands of the present time.

We, in the Community, believe that, in dealing with investment in the agricultural sector, we are dealing with one of the most important aspects of national and international agricultural policy, since the achievements and effects of such investment have an impact on almost every area of modern agricultural development. [Continues in English].

As far as the developed countries are concerned the main aim of investment in agriculture is achieving higher productivity by means of improving or rationalizing existing methods of cultivation and livestock breeding and by the application of advanced techniques, for example agricultural mechanization. Higher productivity will enable farmers to achieve financial returns equivalent to those enjoyed by persons in other walks of life. This will lead in turn both to a general improvement in the economy and to a more stable world supply situation. These are, of course, goals towards which the FAO is constantly directing its efforts.

The Community and other Member States have taken these acknowledged facts into account in various ways:

Firstly, the Community and Member States have participated in all international organizations in a positive and constructive manner. This applies not only to their participation within this FAO and, in particular, within the IFAD, WFC, but also to their contribution in UNCTAD, in the Conference on International Economic Cooperation and in the Euro-Arab Dialogue.

Secondly, the Community has stepped up its efforts for improvement in the agricultural structures within the nine Member States and thirdly through its efforts the agricultural structures in the fifty-two associated Member States were considerably strengthened by the conclusion of the Lome Treaty.

As far as the Community commitments towards the agricultural sector in developing countries are concerned there can be no doubt about the importance which the Community attaches to the role which rural development - and in particular local agricultural and food production - must play in any plans to provide the basic necessities of life for the suffering and undernourished people in developing countries.

An analysis of our efforts during the first half of this decade shows that about one third, say over \$ 460 million of the Community's total financial aid commitments was devoted to schemes for the development of agricultural and food production. Most of these schemes were carried out under the European Development Fund but important contributions were also made to the UN Emergency Programme and to emergency aid for the drought-stricken countries such as the Sahel. If we add to this, contributions made by Member States of the Community over the same period, we arrive at a total in excess of about \$ 2, 000 million.

The second half of the decade promises an even higher level of commitments since over the past two years important decisions have been taken to step up and broaden the scope of Community operations in the agriculture and food sector. Our programming showed that a significant proportion - some 35 percent -of the funds available under the Lome Convention will cover a wide variety of activities within this sector. Alongside projects to extend and improve tropical food production for export purposes, there

are others, more numerous, which aim at developing production essentially for the domestic market. These projects involve the development of food crops through hydro-agricultural schemes, or of plantations, or the supply of agricultural inputs. Several projects are aimed at the integrated development of rural areas. Other projects however are aimed at reducing imports by providing facilities for local processing of produce.

In addition to the Lome Convention our aid to non-associated developing countries in Asia and South America and our agreements with the Maghreb and Mashrek countries and Israel, and with nongovernmental organizations, will also help local agricultural and food production. The same consideration applies to the Community contribution of about \$ 2. 5 million in 1976 for international research conducted under the auspices of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

It is also worth mentioning that the Community's food aid can also encourage local food production since the revenue obtained from the sale on the local market of food given as aid - which amounted to some \$ 55 million in 1975 and even more in 1976 - is used by the government of the recipient country to finance development projects which usually are of direct benefit to local food production.

The Member States' bilateral and multilateral contributions come on top of this. Just to take one example their contribution towards the constitution of the starting capital of the IFAD alone amount to around \$ 200 million. The Community is also very much involved in the effort being made on an international basis towards improving agricultural and food production in developing countries. This is demonstrated not only by our presence here today, but also by the active part we have taken in the various institutions set up as a result of the World Food Conference. A particular effort was made by the Community to play a creative role in the discussions in the north/south dialogue on agriculture and on food aid, one of the areas where it was possible to reach a reasonably satisfactory conclusion.

As regards efforts for agricultural investment within the nine Member States of the Community, various steps have been taken.

The principal effects of which have been:

- to improve farm productivity and assure security of supply;
- replacement of the labour factor by capital (in the period 1970-1975, the active farming population in the Nine fell by about 19 percent);
- integration and, consequently, growing dependence of the agricultural sector on macro-economic development; creation of jobs in other economic sectors; contribution to the balance of payments;
- improvement in the production structure of certain products; and
- limitation of the growing economic risks for farmers.

A further important decision of Community policy concerning farming investment was given expression in a Directive concerning the modernization of farms.

This 1972 Directive is intended to give selective encouragement to investment in farms on condition that the farms aided can, after utilizing the investment, produce an appropriate return in order to ensure their viability.

Expenditure in the field of the Community's structural policy steadily increased in the period 1973-1976, and during these years amounted to more than \$ 1 000 million. In addition, Member States have their own national programmes.

But for real progress to be made in this important field it is of course necessary that the developing countries themselves give a very high priority in their national plans to improving local agricultural and food production. The Community has therefore been particularly pleased to note both in respect of the actions which it is putting into effect in developing countries and in respect of progress made in international fora, that an increasing emphasis is being placed by the authorities of developing countries on this vital sector. We have therefore a common approach and a common purpose. Only jointly, results will be achieved.

L. RUNESA (Burundi): Au moment où l'occasion m'est donnée de m'adresser à cette grande assemblée, il m'est particulièrement agréable de féliciter S. E. le Ministre de l'agriculture de l'Indonésie, pour son élection au poste de Président de la dix-neuvième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Votre nomination à ce poste constitue pour nous, Monsieur le Président, le gage de la réussite des travaux que vous avez effectués au sein de cette Organisation et dans votre pays. Nous sommes convaincus que sous votre présidence, notre assemblée prendra des mesures qui seront décisives pour l'avenir de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Le Gouvernement de la République du Burundi apprécie particulièrement le dynamisme et le dévouement avec lesquels le Directeur général de notre Organisation se consacre aux idéaux de la FAO. Nous voudrions encore une fois l'en féliciter et l'encourager dans la poursuite de sa mission, combien difficile. L'action de restructuration de l'administration et de décentralisation assureront un meilleur rendement de la FAO.

L'admission de nouveaux pays membres au sein de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture constitue un événement dont mon Gouvernement se réjouit à juste titre. Nous saluons l'entrée à la FAO des frères de l'Angola, de la République démocratique de Corée, des Comores, de Djibouti, du Mozambique, de Namibie, de Sao Tomé-et-Principe et des Seychelles. Leur admission dans notre Organisation élargira ses horizons et son champ d'action.

Le Burundi est un pays qui a beaucoup d'obstacles à vaincre pour assurer à sa population un niveau de vie acceptable et une alimentation quantitativement et qualitativement suffisante. Situé à plus de 2 000 kilomètres de la mer, le Burundi est un pays enclavé, avec une des plus fortes démographies de l'Afrique (150 habitants/km<sup>2</sup>) et un taux de croissance démographique des plus élevés du monde. La population burundaise est à 90 pour cent rurale, et l'agriculture représente 60 pour cent du Produit national brut. C'est vous dire, Monsieur le Président, l'importance qu'attache mon gouvernement à une organisation internationale comme la FAO, qui vise à promouvoir le développement rural. L'aide extérieure, si déterminante dans la réalisation du secteur rural de notre pays, ne peut être cependant qu'un complément aux efforts menés par notre gouvernement. La politique de la Deuxième République du Burundi, comme l'a souvent souligné notre Président, S. E. Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, accorde la priorité des priorités au bien-être des populations rurales et au développement de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de l'habitat rural.

Le Gouvernement du Burundi a entrepris une gigantesque action de récupération des terres arables, afin de les mettre à la disposition des paysans nécessiteux. L'action déclenchée il y a à peine quelques mois nous laisse espérer des résultats satisfaisants; plusieurs milliers d'hectares ont déjà été récupérés. Toujours dans le souci d'encourager le développement harmonieux de nos populations, notre gouvernement vient de prendre une série de mesures visant à éradiquer les vieilles structures féodalo-bourgeoises qui constituaient un frein certain à l'essor et au développement agricole de notre pays. Notre conviction la plus profonde est que "la terre appartient à celui qui la travaille".

L'encadrement et une meilleure organisation de nos masses paysannes sont les conditions d'une quelconque réussite en matière de développement agricole. C'est dans cette optique que notre gouvernement vient de lancer une vaste campagne de regroupement en villages. Comme peut-être peu de vous le savent, le Burundi est un pays sans villages en Afrique. Les premiers villages modèles comprenant, outre les habitations familiales, des écoles, des dispensaires et autres infrastructures sociales, seront réalisés avec la participation de la population.

Les cultures vivrières, longtemps négligées par l'administration coloniale et par les premiers gouvernements au profit des cultures d'exportation, devront désormais occuper une place importante dans notre agriculture. A cette fin, notre gouvernement vient de créer la Société burundaise d'entrepôt et de commercialisation des produits vivriers, afin d'éviter les pertes et aussi pour mieux en assurer la distribution. Les collectivités rurales doivent produire plus et tirer meilleur parti de leurs récoltes. Nous croyons que l'organisation des petits producteurs en coopératives de production et commercialisation est la voie la plus sûre pour atteindre cet objectif.

Nous avons conscience que les tâches qui nous attendent sont immenses, mais le Gouvernement du Burundi est fermement résolu à passer à l'action, car les solutions à nos problèmes viendront d'abord de l'effort national.

Il me serait difficile, voire même impossible, de présenter tout le programme gouvernemental en matière d'agriculture, d'élevage et de développement rural, mais la lutte antiérosive, l'augmentation des surfaces arables par l'irrigation et le drainage font partie de nos soucis les plus impérieux. L'année 1978 sera déclarée dans notre pays "l'année de l'arbre", durant laquelle toutes les composantes de la société burundaise devront participer à l'effort national du reboisement.

Monsieur le Président, nous savons que la route est longue et dure, nous venons de commencer une action de longue haleine, mais notre détermination à réussir est aussi ferme.

Convaincu que la voie du progrès et du développement de notre pays passe par l'agriculture, notre gouvernement a consacré pour l'année en cours 40 pour cent de son budget pour le développement du milieu rural et prévoit d'y consacrer 50 pour cent de son budget pour la période du troisième plan quinquennal 1978-1982.

Dans le domaine de la coopération tant bilatérale qu'internationale, nous accorderons toujours la priorité au secteur rural.

Nous vous félicitons de l'aide que la FAO apporte et continuera d'apporter à notre pays dans divers domaines:

- le développement de la pêche artisanale
- l'enseignement agricole
- la production laitière
- l'utilisation des engrais minéraux, etc.

Cependant, cette aide devrait être renforcée, afin de mieux répondre à nos besoins. Notre pays souhaite un soutien actif, aussi bien financier que technique, dans son action de protection des sols, de reboisement, d'organisation des villages, en vue d'augmenter la production agricole. Nous accordons une attention particulière à l'enseignement agricole. En effet, le potentiel humain est la première condition pour réaliser le progrès et nous sommes convaincus que l'homme est le facteur le plus important pour tout développement. Nous croyons que le manque d'hommes, techniquement et moralement préparés pour servir le peuple, constitue la plus grande entrave au développement des pays en quête de progrès. Les pays développés n'apprendront réellement aux pays en voie de développement à pêcher qu'en contribuant efficacement à la formation de techniciens à tous les niveaux.

La FAO devrait pour sa part réserver à l'enseignement agricole l'attention qu'il mérite, en nous aidant à créer des centres de formation pour nos pays qui en ont le plus besoin. Je me félicite des résultats déjà obtenus par notre pays dans ce domaine avec l'aide de la FAO qui, depuis bientôt dix ans, accorde à notre gouvernement une aide importante en matière d'enseignement agricole et nous n'en manquons pas d'apprécier à sa juste valeur l'importance de cette aide.

Pour conclure, je voudrais féliciter encore une fois Monsieur le Directeur général pour sa politique de restructuration et de décentralisation pour une meilleure rentabilité. Mon pays encourage l'idée de tenir en 1979 une Conférence sur la Réforme agraire et nous n'épargnerons aucun effort pour contribuer à sa réussite. La terre étant le capital le plus important et irremplaçable, il faut qu'elle soit rationnellement exploitée et que chacun ait une part suffisante qui lui assure le bien-être matériel.

N. A. ODARTEY - WELLINGTON (Ghana): We have assembled once again in Rome after two years of uncertainties and difficulties in the food and agricultural situation in the developing world, to renew our associations with each other and our determination, above all, to work in concert within the framework of this Organization for the realization of a new international economic order which will provide better life for all our peoples. Like the other speakers before me, I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Conference. My delegation is confident that you will guide this Conference to a successful conclusion.

My delegation, Mr. Chairman, wishes to take this opportunity to welcome all the newly admitted member-states to the FAO. Undoubtedly, membership of the FAO will give these states the unique opportunity to attack their national food problems with guidance from a competent Organisation. In this regard, I wish to refer to the admission of Namibia and to assert that the admission of that state, temporarily and illegally ruled by the apartheid South African Government, is a victory for Africa. My delegation welcomes them all.

Ghana has no choice but to intensify our efforts in the production of food and raw-materials add, generally, in the development of our agriculture. About 60% of Ghana's working force is engaged in agriculture and about 70% of our foreign exchange earnings are derived from agricultural exports.

Since 1972, we have adopted the twin programmes of 'Operation Feed Yourself' and "Operation Feed Your Industries" as the cornerstone of our National Policy of "Self Reliance". By "Self Reliance" we do not imply that it is our objective to be self-sufficient in all our requirements, nor does it mean that we are inward looking. Through these and other programmes, we propose to mobilise all available resources, human and material, for accelerated development of the country. The main supporters of Ghana's economy are the rural dwellers. The development of our rural areas, accordingly, features prominently in the implementation of our national "Self Reliance" Policy.

In the pursuit of Ghana's agricultural policy, we are influenced by six objectives. These are:

- (a) To increase food production;
- (b) To produce raw-materials for agro-based industries;
- (c) To produce low-cost high quality fish and other animal proteins;
- (d) To provide irrigation facilities in order to reduce our dependence on rain;
- (e) To provide and sustain greater employment opportunities in the field of agriculture and the industries based on it; and
- (f) To lay the foundation for sustained agricultural development.

Without going into details, Mr. Chairman, permit me to give a brief sketch of the state of food and agriculture in my country. The use of agricultural machinery has been contributing significantly to the increase of production of major food and other agricultural commodities. The production of cereals, particularly maize and rice, has been stepped up. The production of raw materials for agro-based industries has also shown significant improvement. Many industrial firms are not only supporting farmers to produce the raw-materials they use, but they have also been establishing farms for the production of their own raw-materials.

The role that small scale farmers are playing in the production of raw-materials merits attention. It is estimated that these farmers produce about 24% of the requirements of the factories, as compared to relatively nothing a decade ago. Work in this area is being facilitated by the services which a Statutory Development Board is providing in a package deal. This package includes provision of seeds, fertilizer, insecticides and guaranteed markets.

As a further step in the diversification of the production pattern, greater emphasis is being given to the production of livestock. The programme covers the production of poultry and pig in the short term; sheep and goats in the medium term; in the long term the production of cattle for both beef and dairy products. A system has been evolved to assist livestock farmers to improve their level of productivity. The project involves the preparation of the land and the development of pastures; the provision of stock pens and watering points at no cost to farmers.

Fish production cannot be ignored in any realistic programme aimed at improving the nutrition quality of Ghanaian diet. A good deal of resources have been invested in fish production. The programmes being pursued are directed toward efficient operations of both marine and inland fishery resources.

I have tried to give the bare facts of our agricultural situation. I have not touched upon cocoa, the life-blood of Ghana's economy. This is not to say that cocoa is of lesser importance. On the contrary, the importance we attach to that industry has resulted, during this biennium, in the creation of a special Ministry of Cocoa Affairs.

The programmes of "Operation Feed Yourself" and "Operation Feed Your Industries" have been of immense benefit to our people. But for these programmes, the effect of insufficient rains during the past three years would have been disastrous. Because of the afore-mentioned drought, the production of millet and sorghum, the predominant food items of the Savannah-belt of Ghana was considerably low. This fact has given rise to unwarranted allegations in slanted reports of foreign journals and magazines of wide-spread famine in Ghana. The misrepresentation of this situation is considered as simply an attempt of misguided elements to destroy the image of the country. We are not ashamed to recognise difficulties. On the other hand, we shall not let such false allegations pass, undismissed.

To overcome difficulties resulting from dependence on rain-fed agriculture, Ghana has entered a new phase of development which places greater emphasis on provision of irrigation facilities. In this regard an Irrigation Development Authority has recently been established to see to the construction of dams and harnessing of surface rivers for intensive cultivation, and for the development of livestock and fish culture. Under an integrated rural development programme, it is planned to improve the level

of farm incomes of families in the Northern Savannah-belt, representing about 10% of total population of Ghana. The provision of farm services to the small farmers who produce about 75% of the country's food needs is a salient feature of the integrated programme. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express Ghana's appreciation for the financial assistance which the Programme is receiving from the World Bank and the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Ghana attaches great importance to its membership of the FAO. My delegation would like to take the liberty to express its appreciation for the dynamic, practical and dedicated leadership of the Director-General. The Director-General's inspired leadership is finding positive expression in the continuance of the FAO's substantial contributions to the agricultural development of Ghana. Of particular importance is the Organization's new Programme of Technical Co-operation. The Programme which represents a promising departure for FAO, is designed to help member countries in their development efforts. Although the Programme is relatively young, it has already begun to make a significant contribution to some of Ghana's storage and irrigation projects. And it is hoped that soon its impact will be extended to our agro-industries. The Programme has my delegation's full support.

The role of the Technical Co-operation Programme can be a catalytic one. It aims to fill the vacuum that is created by the absence of more substantial investment and technical know-how in project identification.

My delegation fully appreciates the need to develop the rural economies of developing countries and believes that the recommendations of the proposed World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will be interpreted in immediate concrete programmes for the improvement of the lives of rural communities.

The 9th FAO Regional Conference for Africa requested the Organisation to draw up a Regional Food Plan which would, on its implementation, enable the African countries to be self-sufficient in food production within a period of ten years. Despite many years of planned economic development, the basic problems of food deficits, prevalence of poverty, malnutrition and under-nourishment, and lack of employment opportunities persist in Africa. My delegation is aware that the Director-General has taken initial steps to implement the Freetown Resolution in this regard. It is, however, considered appropriate, to urge this Conference to encourage the Director-General to accord the preparation of the African Food Plan his topmost priority and- to focus the efforts of the Organisation on the solution of food problems in Africa where the majority of least developed and most seriously affected countries are located.

In recognition of the role FAO is playing in the Agricultural Revolution of Ghana, I am happy to inform the Conference that the Head of State and Chairman of the Supreme Military Council, the Government of Ghana, has extended a personal invitation to the Director-General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, to visit Ghana in February 1978. The great concern which the Organisation continues to show, and ought to show, for the well-being of the developing world through its programmes of national food security, agro-and forest-based industrial development, the reduction of food losses, identification of projects and mobilisation of agricultural investment resources - to name a few - brings FAO much closer to my country. It is, therefore, the ardent hope of His Excellency, the Head of State, General I. K. Acheampong, that the Director-General will accept and find time to honour the invitation.

I would like to conclude by saying that Ghana views the work of this Organisation not only as the priming force behind the social and economic development programmes in our various countries, but also as an effective instrument for a major break-through in our concerted effort to achieve the New International Economic Order, to which all of us are religiously committed. And may God help us to realize this hope.

E. S. MASISI (Botswana): Mr. Chairman, I congratulate you on your election to this office at this Conference.

I am pleased to again address this important forum as my Government's representative, and I sincerely welcome the new members to FAO. I want to take this opportunity to thank FAO for its fine arrangements for this Conference and for the help this Organization has provided to Botswana in developing its agriculture. This is also an opportune moment to congratulate the Director-General on his perseverance and skillful work in pursuing the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and for his initiation of the Technical Co-operation Programme. Further by posting an FAO country representative- in Botswana there has been improved dialogue between my Government and this Organization. I have read with great interest his address at the Inauguration of the Academic Year of National Academy of Agriculture at Bologna and fully agree with his thoughts on the need for a new International Economic Order. Mr. Director-General, your presence in your office has brought some new forward-looking innovations into this Organization.

Since we last met here my country celebrated its 10th anniversary of independence and launched its 4th National Five Year Development Plan. These were both significant events but only establish that time is passing but what is of real importance is delineating those events which will move Botswana's agriculture forward on a sounder path of development.

To those who are aware of Botswana's agriculture and its climate and ecology it is no news that the most important source of agricultural production is livestock. As presently constituted 80 percent of the total agriculture production is from the livestock sector but despite the significance of livestock not all people share in this industry. Many rural people are dependent on crop production for subsistence and cash income and many have very few cattle or smallstock. My Government through its Ministry of Agriculture has a 3-pronged approach to developing its agriculture through continued efforts to improve the livestock industry, increased efforts in the production of staple foodcrops and greater emphasis on diversification. Self-sufficiency in food production is the primary goal but emphasis on the expansion of exports of those products produced in surplus will continue.

In the statement on arrangements for this Conference it was suggested that the Council invites Ministers and heads of delegations to give particular attention to investment in agriculture and implications at the national and international levels. My Government has increased its planned expenditure on capital development from 5 percent in the last plan period to 10 per cent this plan period. It has also increased its annual recurrent expenditure from 9 to 12 percent since the last plan period. More would have been allocated but this was considered the maximum this sector of the economy could effectively absorb. These are direct investments in the agricultural sector but many other investments are of direct benefit to farmers such as expenditures on roads, schools and other social services in rural areas.

As would be expected a large share of the investment in agricultural capital is directed to the livestock industry. My Government is spending a sizeable sum of money on improved disease control facilities for the livestock industry which includes expanding and improving its system of cordon fences which are necessary in controlling the movement of livestock in case of an outbreak of the dreaded foot and mouth disease. Through this system of fences beef exports can continue if only one section of the country is infected. Livestock producers are dependent on the continued export of fresh beef to the European Economic Community and elsewhere where this disease is of concern to consumers. In order to reduce the probability of the spread of foot and mouth disease from our neighbouring country to the north and east, Rhodesia, we have decided to construct a fence along the border. This has required a large investment in capital and will require a large recurrent expenditure but we must protect our most vital agricultural industry.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, my country shares a long virtually undefended and undefendable frontier with Rhodesia in the north and the east. The entire area adjacent to this frontier inside Rhodesia has become a veritable battlefield. It is a "no go" area where neither normal veterinary nor civilian activity can easily take place because of the raging armed confrontation which is going on there between the forces of liberation and the Rhodesian rebel forces. Consequently, my Government has been forced to create an army to provide security for Botswana who live along the frontier and whose villages have been subjected to several vicious attacks by the Rhodesian rebel forces. To provide security for these innocent villagers we had to divert a great deal of development funds to the strengthening of our defence force. But it is not only our own people for whom the provision of security is our most demanding responsibility. It is also our responsibility to provide security for thousands of refugees who cross into our country in their flight from the tyranny of the minority regime in Rhodesia. We consider it our international responsibility and obligation to ensure that these innocent victims of political persecution not only find freedom in our country but we must also ensure that they are protected from hot pursuit to which they have been subjected over the years and has resulted in various acts of aggression against the territorial integrity of our country.

Many of the countries whose representatives are present here have been very appreciative of our geopolitical situation in that troubled part of the world which is our Southern Africa and have always been ready to assist us. To all these countries on behalf of my Government I express my most sincere gratitude. Your concern for the threatened welfare of our people is highly appreciated indeed.

In spite of the unfriendly political situations which surround us we have continued to plan for improved livestock production and services to our cattle producers. During the next year my Government will construct a new veterinary laboratory to improve disease diagnosis and control, more services will be provided to livestock producers in communal areas and marketing facilities will be improved. The slaughter capacity of the export abattoir which is 1 200 head per day will be increased by 50 percent so that more capacity will be available in case of drought or other increased demand.



The most significant change in the livestock industry will be the implementation of the Tribal Grazing Land Policy which makes provision for the development of modern ranches in commercial areas as well as in communal areas. This policy allows fenced ranches in tribal areas and will provide for ranchers' access to improved ranch management through a training institute and an improved extension service. Legislation will be enacted to cater for the needs of holders of small numbers of cattle by allowing them to group together for the development of ranches. New legislation is on the books to preserve the pasture-lands from fire which is one of the most devastating causes of loss of grazing during the dry season because at present fires annually cause loss of grazing to support up to 25 percent of the nation's cattle during the dry season.

Many farmers who do not own cattle are producers of smallstock, no greater investments will be made in training for these farmers so they can improve stock management while extension services to these producers will be strengthened. My Government will increase its efforts to aid farmers in reducing the loss of smallstock from diseases and will improve the markets for those animals to enhance the welfare of smallstock producers.

I have directed most of my remarks to my Government's effort in improving the country's livestock industry but a recent survey indicates that about half of the rural households own no cattle. These are generally the poor people who depend on arable agriculture and who obtain their draught power from the livestock owning community. Even though 90 percent of the draught power is provided by oxen only 38 percent of the farmers use exclusively their own oxen for power. This causes delays in ploughing, planting and weeding with the resultant lowered yields. With the development of minimum tillage implements which require less draught power the welfare of farmers should be increased in two ways through lower requirements for draught power and that adoption of the system should increase yields from 3 to 5 times per hectare.

A new crop division has been set up in the Ministry of Agriculture which will expand extension efforts to inform farmers of research and variety selection results that will provide higher yields and greater farm income. Sorghum is still the main staple crop in Botswana, but this crop comes under continued attack from birds, and losses to farmers are immense. Despite research efforts "to reduce losses from birds the damage is still great and I would like to challenge this Organization to direct greater efforts in research on a regional basis to reduce the bird damage to crops which are of vital importance to people in the farming and urban communities of all countries in the region.

The Agricultural Marketing Board has made great forward strides in providing improved markets for farmers' products at greatly improved prices. However, these improvements in prices have not kept pace with the increasing costs of farm inputs such as agricultural implements, spare parts, fertilizers, fuels and insecticides; most farm cost rises stem from the sharp increase in oil prices in the past four years. Transportation costs have escalated and labour costs have risen to the point where farmers find it difficult to cope with these increases. This is an especially acute problem in a landlocked country like Botswana which has to bring its supplies long distances to its points of entry into the country and then must move them long distances over a largely unimproved road system to the farm. The effects of world-wide inflationary pressures fanned by the activities of international cartels and monopolies have all had devastating effects on farmers' efforts to maintain a reasonable level of living. I would like to repeat here, Mr. Chairman, that the efforts of the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board have been largely cancelled by economic factors which are external to my country's economy but are generated by the economic activities of both industrialized and oil producing countries. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the FAO to seriously consider the geopolitical position of Botswana and to ask for more positive assistance and help in overcoming some of the difficulties this creates. At this point I would like to express my sincere thanks for the help the FAO is providing to my country in providing competent management during the trying period of establishing a viable marketing board.

The third area which is receiving great emphasis in Botswana is diversification. Efforts made in this area will reduce my country's dependence on imports of crops which can be produced domestically and will reduce the amount of foreign exchange required for food imports. Plans are underway to reach self-sufficiency in horticultural and poultry production. This will require a large investment in training for our farmers and in facilities to handle perishable products. In spite of the many handicaps we will have to encounter we feel confident we shall be up to the challenge and reach self-sufficiency in the early part of the coming decade.

Dairy production in a country of low and erratic rainfall is difficult. This has been largely a neglected area in the past, but through new systems of dairy ranching and fodder preservation that are being introduced the imports of dairy products will be reduced in the near future. The probability of full self-sufficiency in dairy production in the near future is remote, but my Government will put adequate resources into dairy development to minimize the nation's dependence on imported dairy products.

Forestry is usually an area which receives limited development efforts in a low rainfall country such as Botswana. However, there are varieties of trees which will grow and produce fire wood, building material and posts for fencing. My Government is directing some of its investment resources toward developing greater forest production for these purposes. Plans are also underway to use tree-production to aid in reducing soil erosion: this will be coupled with a system of soil conservation.

Mr. Chairman, investments in developing manpower to fill the demand of agriculture are paramount in Botswana. Through large recent investments in secondary schools larger numbers of candidates will be produced to pursue training at college and university levels. Plans are now underway to more than double the output of certificate and diploma holders to duly localise the extension service. Increasing numbers of students are being sent abroad for specialized degree training and greater efforts are placed on training personnel in our own university. My Government is aware of the long slow process of training staff to localize all the posts which are presently filled by expatriates as well as new ones which occur in a rapidly growing economy, but large investments are directed in this area and progress is being made. I again want to take this opportunity on behalf of my Government and delegation to thank all those who have helped Botswana through this period with manpower aid and with opportunities for the training of our young men and women.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion I want to state that we recognize the responsibility of the Government to its people and despite constraints of manpower, shortage of funds and difficulty in implementing planned projects, great strides have been made since independence. We look forward to a future in which more of the Botswana people in the rural areas will derive greater rewards for their efforts and when investments in development will benefit all the people in the country.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me time to address this audience to meet with representatives of so many countries who have similar problems and concerns in agricultural development.

F. NZAMURAMBAHO (Rwanda): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais joindre ma voix à celles des autres distingués orateurs qui m'ont précédé, pour vous adresser à vous personnellement et à vos co-élus, mes sincères félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de nos travaux.

Je suis particulièrement heureux d'exprimer ici la très grande satisfaction de la délégation rwandaise à l'occasion de l'admission, au sein de notre Organisation, des pays frères qui sont: la République populaire d'Angola, les Comores, la République populaire démocratique de Corée, Djibouti, la République populaire de Mozambique, Namibie, Sao Tomé-et-Principe et les Seychelles.

Que les honorables délégués de ces nouveaux membres de la FAO à part entière trouvent ici l'expression des sincères félicitations de leurs frères rwandais.

Le monde entier, surtout celui des malnourris, qui représentent plus d'un milliard d'âmes, prête une oreille attentive et suit avec un intérêt chargé d'espoir le déroulement de nos débats au cours desquels, certes, des mesures importantes concernant notre organisation et ses agences subsidiaires seront prises; c'est la raison pour laquelle je fonde tant d'espoir sur votre sagesse et votre longue expérience pour un aboutissement heureux et efficace de nos travaux.

Le but principal de notre Organisation est la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition, mais il n'en demeure pas moins vrai que cette guerre pacifique ne peut aboutir dans un contexte mondial où l'égoïsme et la cupidité continuent à mettre en danger perpétuel la paix collective, alors que chacun de nous clame la liberté, l'unité et la solidarité universelle, trois éléments indispensables à un équilibre durable.

La FAO a un rôle important à jouer pour résoudre les problèmes de l'alimentation et du développement rural en général.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation soutient sans réserve la nouvelle orientation de notre Directeur général, M. E. Saouma, tendant à faire profiter au petit paysan et au monde rural, des fonds et autres moyens mis à la disposition des pays bénéficiaires.

Pour remplir efficacement sa mission, la FAO devrait jouer un rôle de coordinateur et de conseiller auprès des gouvernements dans les secteurs qui rentrent dans son domaine d'activité tel que défini dans l'Acte constitutif.

Le programme d'activité préparé par la direction générale a rencontré l'agrément de la plupart des délégations, parce que réaliste, il ne reste qu'à trouver les fonds nécessaires pour son exécution et ceci est du devoir des pays membres et de toute la communauté internationale.

Ma délégation appuie donc le budget présenté par le Directeur général et, d'une façon particulière, en ce qui concerne la préparation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural qui se tiendra en 1979.

Monsieur le Président, le problème de la prévention des pertes après récolte a été assez abondamment débattu pour que je m'y attarde davantage. La conclusion qui se dégage, c'est que tous les points de vue convergent sur la nécessité d'entreprendre l'action immédiatement, et donc de trouver les fonds nécessaires.

Le FIDA maintenant, cette nouvelle institution des Nations Unies, est une approche positive. Beaucoup de pays ont déjà ratifié son Acte constitutif. Notre Conférence devrait approuver la Convention liant la FAO et le FIDA pour que celui-ci devienne opérationnel sans plus attendre.

Ma délégation voudrait aussi saisir cette occasion pour exprimer son appui total à toute mesure tendant à rendre notre Organisation plus fonctionnelle, plus au service des pays, entre autres: l'établissement d'une représentation permanente dans les pays, l'instauration d'un équilibre régional et linguistique parmi le personnel du Siège et du terrain. Mais il ne faudra pas que ces mesures accroissent les frais généraux au détriment des programmes de terrain.

Monsieur le Président, dans les pays en voie de développement, l'agriculture représente une part très importante dans le PIB, atteignant parfois les 90 pour cent.

En conséquence, pour assurer leur développement économique et social ces pays ont besoin d'augmenter la production agricole tant vivrière que d'exportation. Malheureusement, les prix de ces derniers subissent d'importantes fluctuations vers la baisse provoquant de ce fait une situation de cercle vicieux; les ressources pour le financement de l'agriculture s'en trouvent ainsi constamment insuffisantes.

Beaucoup de pays ont élaboré des plans de développement dans lesquels les taux de croissance sont prévus pour contrebalancer les effets de la progression démographique, mais force nous est de constater qu'on est loin d'atteindre la satisfaction des besoins alimentaires de la population, surtout dans les plus démunis.

Ce n'est pas afficher du pessimisme que de constater que la situation alimentaire mondiale n'a guère évolué favorablement ces dernières années, même si quelques pays ont enregistré des récoltes élevées.

Dans les pays les moins avancés, situés en majorité sur le continent africain, la production alimentaire n'a connu qu'une faible augmentation d'environ 1, 4 pour cent par an au cours des cinq dernières années, taux dérisoire eu égard à celui de l'accroissement de la population.

Les aléas climatiques s'ajoutant à des structures inadéquates mal articulées et à un manque aigu d'investissements dans l'agriculture, ont aggravé la malnutrition dans beaucoup de régions du globe.

Concernant le Rwanda, la situation alimentaire actuelle est telle que la production agricole ne couvre que 75 pour cent environ des besoins de base. Elle s'est aggravée l'an dernier suite à une sécheresse inhabituelle et prolongée qui a entraîné une baisse d'environ 46 pour cent de la production escomptée.

Conscient de cette situation, le Gouvernement de mon pays s'est fixé pour tâche prioritaire, l'accroissement de la production agricole par l'association étroite des cultures et de l'élevage au sein des exploitations paysannes. Pour nous Rwandais l'intensification agricole est moins une simple méthode de travail qu'une exigence de survie.

A cet effet les objectifs de notre Plan de développement 1977-81 visent un taux de croissance annuel de:

5, 6% pour la production vivrière

12% pour la production industrielle

14% pour la production animale

et une augmentation du revenu de la masse paysanne d'environ 2, 2 pour cent par an.

En plus, pour l'action rurale, notre Plan de développement prévoit:

- l'augmentation des disponibilités alimentaires par l'accroissement de la production vivrière et

l'amélioration des conditions de stockage et de commercialisation.

- La promotion d'une meilleure utilisation des ressources humaines par la recherche d'une meilleure rentabilité du travail des ruraux. En effet, bien que la population rwandaise soit essentiellement rurale et l'agriculture sa principale occupation, il s'est avéré que très souvent les paysans travaillaient beaucoup pour peu de résultats.

- L'amélioration des conditions de vie par l'augmentation des revenus, la création des agro-industries créatrices d'emplois nouveaux dans les campagnes.

Ces missions exprimées en termes globaux exigent que le pays dispose d'importants moyens tant financiers que techniques qu'il ne sera pas aisé de réunir. En effet l'exécution de notre Plan exigera environ 550 millions de dollars USA, dont 72, 4 pour cent sont attendus de la Coopération internationale.

Plus que dans d'autres pays peut-être, l'agriculture au Rwanda doit non seulement satisfaire les besoins alimentaires de la population, mais aussi contribuer à l'amélioration progressive du niveau de vie de toute la nation. C'est dire que le Gouvernement rwandais ne ménage aucun effort pour soutenir l'agriculture malgré la faiblesse de ses ressources financières intérieures.

Certes, nous comptons d'abord sur nos propres efforts mais le Rwanda ne peut atteindre rapidement ses objectifs sans aide extérieure. C'est la raison pour laquelle mon pays compte beaucoup sur la solidarité internationale et la collaboration amicale de tous pour réaliser les buts qu'il s'est fixés dans le Plan de développement de l'agriculture.

En complément du Plan visant l'augmentation de la production, un programme de stockage de récoltes sera réalisé tant au niveau communal que régional et national pour garantir des disponibilités de denrées alimentaires en cas de pénurie brusque causée par des conditions météorologiques, et pour stabiliser les prix dont la montée brutale se manifeste en période de disette, passant du simple au double au profit des commerçants et autres intermédiaires.

L'intensification de l'agriculture par l'utilisation des méthodes culturales modernes, la vulgarisation de l'usage de fertilisants minéraux et organiques, l'introduction du matériel génétique à hauts rendements, s'avère une nécessité vitale pour mon pays dont la densité humaine atteint maintenant 161 habitants au km<sup>2</sup>.

Malgré les efforts consentis par de nombreux pays, la faim et la malnutrition continuent à affecter une grande partie de la population mondiale, avons-nous souligné. Je me permets d'en rappeler quelques-unes des causes communes, car j'estime nécessaire que l'on puisse se rendre pleinement compte de la cohorte de contraintes que doivent affronter la plupart des pays en voie de développement avec leurs faibles moyens financiers.

Sans prétendre explorer l'ensemble des causes, je citerai :

- aléas météorologiques devenus chroniques et que la technique de l'homme ne peut que péniblement alléger;
- pertes de récoltes dues aux maladies et aux prédateurs divers;
- préférence accordée aux cultures d'exportations;
- inflation et impasses budgétaires nationales;
- absence de système de crédit agricole;
- insuffisance de recettes d'exportation des denrées agricoles;
- absence d'organisation de circuits commerciaux;
- insuffisance de cadres de vulgarisation agricole suffisamment formés et expérimentés;

et, enfin, manque d'infrastructures routières dans la campagne pour faciliter la mobilité des produits.

Seuls les efforts conjugués au niveau de groupements régionaux et sous-régionaux pourront en atténuer l'impact.

Je voudrais aborder brièvement le problème du flux d'investissements dans le secteur rural et je serai très bref pour ne pas abuser de votre patience.

Si le secteur agricole, au sens large du terme, jouit d'une priorité dans presque tous les plans de développement des pays en voie de développement, ce n'est pas un simple hasard, c'est parce que la survie de la plupart d'entre eux en dépend. L'industrialisation elle-même, que beaucoup considèrent comme un but ultime de développement, est tributaire de l'état de l'évolution de l'agriculture, non seulement comme fournisseur de matières premières, mais aussi en tant que client des produits industriels: machines agricoles, engrais, pesticides, etc.

Si tant d'importance est accordée au secteur agricole, on peut se demander pourquoi alors la part des budgets nationaux réservée à la promotion de la production rurale est quelquefois aussi faible. La réponse en est simple. Ces pays se trouvent dans un cruel embarras lors de l'affectation de leurs maigres budgets dont l'unique ressource est basée sur les recettes d'exportation des cultures industrielles et/ou des produits industriels semi-finis exposés aux fluctuations quelquefois brutales du commerce international.

Il faut que la Conférence de la FAO considère avec sollicitude la gravité des jeux de l'économie mondiale qui influencent de façon négative nos possibilités d'investissement, singulièrement dans le secteur agricole destiné à accroître les disponibilités alimentaires.

Le Nouvel ordre économique international, que tous les hommes de bonne volonté appellent de leurs vœux, tarde à être mis en application. L'expérience de conjonctures semblables dans le passé pas très éloigné de nous, m'autorise à augurer une efficacité toute relative de cette nouvelle politique internationale pour le tiers monde, particulièrement en ce qui concerne les relations existant entre pays détenteurs de richesses et les pauvres, si ceux-ci ne sont pas étroitement associés aux mécanismes du commerce international.

Maintes assemblées internationales, sous l'égide des Nations Unies ou de ses agences spécialisées comme le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, les Conférences régionales de la FAO, le Conseil de la FAO, n'ont cessé de soulever le problème de la juste rémunération des matières premières, de stigmatiser l'inégalité persistante entre riches et pauvres, la domination des pays industrialisés à l'égard du tiers monde; des tentatives ont été proposées qui consistent en l'amélioration des termes de l'échange, l'élimination des barrières tarifaires et non tarifaires, la stabilisation des cours des matières premières, et j'en passe, mais on n'est pas encore venu à bout des problèmes. J'espère de tout cœur que ce Nouvel ordre économique international tant attendu apportera une solution satisfaisante et durable.

Un pays qui ne peut assurer le financement de son développement a recours à l'assistance de ses voisins, de ses amis. Le mien, le Rwanda, a jusqu'ici bénéficié d'aide substantielle bilatérale et multilatérale. J'aurais voulu énumérer tous nos donateurs, mais je me retiens, pour ne pas en oublier! En tout état de cause, je tiens à adresser à chacun d'eux l'expression de sincère gratitude du Gouvernement de la République rwandaise et de son peuple.

Tout à l'heure j'ai indiqué quelques chiffres de taux de croissance que mon Gouvernement s'est imposés durant le prochain quinquennat. Pour les réaliser nous comptons encore sur les libéralités des pays amis pour exécuter nos projets inventoriés.

Au cours d'une table ronde tenue à Kigali, où beaucoup d'organismes internationaux étaient représentés, nous avons exposé nos problèmes surtout en vue d'aboutir à une coordination des aides qui nous sont destinées. Au moment où je parle, une Table ronde se tient à Kigali, la capitale rwandaise, mais elle groupe les organismes non gouvernementaux qui oeuvrent déjà dans le pays ou qui comptent nous apporter leur soutien financier et technique dans notre effort de développement. Beaucoup de ces organisations non gouvernementales interviennent principalement dans le secteur du développement rural intégré.

En quelques mots j'ai souligné l'importance et la nécessité de l'aide extérieure comme source du flux d'investissements dans l'agriculture des pays démunis; je ne voudrais pas clore ce chapitre sans vous livrer quelques réflexions sur la façon dont mon Gouvernement souhaite d'être assisté.

Quelles que soient l'aide, son importance en volume et sa nature, mon pays attache beaucoup d'importance à ce que quelques principes soient respectés.

Tout d'abord les aides doivent respecter les priorités nationales parce que ce sont les dirigeants des pays qui sont responsables de la destinée de leur peuple et qui doivent ériger une stratégie de développement appropriée pour amener des transformations rapides et permanentes capables d'assurer un self-development de leur peuple. Un téléguidage de l'extérieur ne peut aboutir qu'à des échecs.

Pour être efficaces, les aides doivent respecter les délais fixés dans les programmes nationaux, ce qui n'est pas toujours le cas, car bien souvent les aides sont retardées par des lenteurs administratives et académiques entraînant parfois l'obsolescence des dossiers; on les recommence, mais c'est toujours du temps perdu au détriment de la réalisation des projets dont les coûts varient finalement dans de très fortes proportions.

En ce qui concerne l'allocation des aides financières, les données statistiques disponibles laissent voir que dans la région d'Afrique, par exemple, ce sont les produits d'exportation qui jusqu'ici ont bénéficié d'une plus grande portion, loin d'incriminer totalement les donateurs d'aide mais pareilles interventions ne contribuent pas directement à augmenter les disponibilités alimentaires. Nous pensons quant à nous qu'un équilibre entre produits d'exportation et produits vivriers doit être recherché autant que possible.

Nous estimons que le plus gros de l'aide devrait servir à enrayer le spectre de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Les pays identifiés comme les plus pauvres parmi les pays en voie de développement devraient bénéficier d'une priorité et recevoir une aide plus accrue. Dans l'état actuel des choses, ce sont les pays à revenu per capita élevé qui bénéficient aussi de l'aide la plus substantielle.

Pour terminer, je voudrais émettre le voeu que la fin de nos travaux soit marquée par des mesures concrètes de redressement de la situation alimentaire mondiale dont la précarité persiste en dépit des efforts consentis par les uns et les autres.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons reçu la demande de parole d'un observateur d'un mouvement de libération, le SWAPO. Je voudrais donner la parole à M. Ben Amadhila, Secrétaire pour les Affaires économiques.

B. AMADHILA (Observer for South-West African People's Organization): Allow me, on behalf of SWAPO, and the People of Namibia, to express our sincere appreciation for having been invited to this very important meeting: the 19th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. It is indeed a great honour to us and we would, therefore, like to thank everybody who made it possible for us to be here, and to put our point of view, in particular, the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Allow me also to express our heart-felt appreciation for the very important decision taken by FAO during this Session, to admit eight new Members to this family of world nations. As Namibians, we are particularly proud that our country is one of the eight new Members of FAO, making FAO the very first UN Agency to respond favourably to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 31/149, paragraph 3, part of which reads as follows:

"Requests all Specialized Agencies and other Organizations and Conferences within the United Nations system to consider granting full Membership to the United Nations Council for Namibia, so that it may participate in that capacity as the administering authority for Namibia in the work of these Agencies, Organizations and Conferences".

We hope, therefore, that all Agencies of the United Nations family will follow this very bold example of granting full Membership to the Council of Namibia as the administering authority for Namibia. We also hope that every action will be taken to frustrate all attempts by racist South Africa to represent Namibia in any way.

We hail your decision to admit Namibia as a full Member, thereby fully recognizing the legal status of Namibia as well as the right of the Namibian people to self-determination and independence.

Namibia is a very big country (317, 000 square miles), and is potentially rich enough to make it economically viable. The spokesman of the Government of the United States of America this Monday, said, to explain why he voted against full membership for Namibia, that his country was involved in serious discussions to bring about a solution to the Namibia problem; I cannot understand how this could prevent us from becoming a member of FAO, and I wish to thank this Organization for having taken this stand in the face of opposition.

But your kindness in accepting us must not be seen as a final solution to our problems: we, the Nation of Namibia, must prepare ourselves for the period after liberation.

We hope that FAO will meet us halfway in these preparations for developing our manpower resources in the fields of agriculture and fisheries, in order to provide, without disruption, the basic foodstuffs and animal protein to the Namibian people.

To cite only one example, there is a great need for research on the fishery and lobster industries of Namibia (which incidentally at the moment have been subject to over-fishing by the South African Government). Firstly, true, independent Namibian statistics in these two fields are imperative.

Given the fact that fisheries is a very important source of protein in Namibia (705, 000 metric tons in 1973), we would like to draw your attention to the fact that this industry is based in Walvis Bay which, in spite of all legality and in opposition to the expressed will of the whole world through the United Nations, the racist South African Government claims. This industry is completely dominated by white South African capital, and fishermen, down to the level of boat-owners and managers. This industry is very vulnerable. We would like FAO to assist us in taking possession, and ensuring the continuation of one of our major natural resources. There is, therefore, the need to prepare both short-term and long-term contingency plans to develop the industry, and to train the necessary: indigenous manpower.

Through the racist policies of the South African government, our people have been denied the chance to acquire the skills needed to immediately manage such industries. We must and will; for this, we ask the help of the international community. Above all, we must rely on ourselves. The best help of all, however, is help given at the time it is needed most.

Even as a Liberation Movement, "we are not only consumers, but potential producers as well. Where the situation has allowed us, we have tried our best to be self-sufficient in food supplies.

In a brotherly gesture from the Zambian Government, who provided a piece of land to SWAPO (approximately 440 kilometres west of Lusaka in the Kaoma District), it has been possible, since 1975, for SWAPO to create a Namibian Health and Education Centre, which is to care for Namibians while in exile, and to prepare them for the future role they will play in an independent Namibia. There are 2 000 people in the Centre, of which 1 150 are children, all engaged in projects of self-reliance in food production. The Centre's activities can be divided into three parts: to teach them ways and means of producing their own food; the second part is to train nurses to look after, Namibians; and the third part to give vocational training for Namibians. There is a great need in this Centre for agricultural equipment, seeds, and fertilizers to improve its food production. It has been possible, with assistance from the Governments of Sweden, Norway, Holland and many others (whom we thank gratefully) to procure some of the necessary equipment. There is still indeed, a great need to supplement our efforts in terms of food supplies with additional food contributions from Governments and from non-Governmental organizations, and, in this respect, we hail the recent understanding reached between SWAPO and the World Food Programme, to supply food to the 2 000 occupants of the Namibian Health and Education Centre (including the 1 150 children), in which 373 tons of food will be given - enough for 2 000 people for one year. We see this as a very important development for the World Food Programme, after many years of delay, and would like to congratulate those who have made it possible to reach this breakthrough.

At this very moment, our people in Angola are expecting the first aid from another similar project of the World Food Programme, Ten thousand people will be fed for six months under the Programme.

We are in a war situation which has been forced upon us by the Apartheid regime of Vorster. It is a painful reality of the Namibian situation today. In most cases, we have to give military escort to Namibians fleeing from racist oppression into neighbouring states. We have to give military protection to villagers inside Namibia in order to help them in raising their crops. Mr. Chairman, we realize that the UN Agencies feel they must know what happens to their aid. But people are dying, more will die. We feel it is unfair to insist on small details in such situations. A formula must be found by which the Agencies go ahead at all speed with their aid. We will help them in every way we can - in exchange, we ask for greater flexibility on their part. This is a most important point.

Thousands of our people have been forced into neighbouring countries. This has caused a strain, not only on a Movement like SWAPO, which represents them, but also on the host Governments which give them refuge.

Therefore, it is our sincere hope that all efforts should be made to strengthen the neighbouring countries' economies, in order for them to be able to help Namibians entering their territories. We cannot fully enough express our deep gratitude to our neighbours, the Republic of Zambia, the People's Republic of Angola, and the Republic of Botswana, and to the Organization of African Unity for the support they have given us in our struggle.

We were recently visited by an FAO Mission in Zambia, which discussed with us our needs. We request you to follow this mission with practical action.

The events of the last three years have taught us, and the world, that the liberation movements of yesterday are the governments of today. They are your partners in the fight against hunger, poverty and disease. Tomorrow, we shall take our rightful place among the nations of the world in this fight.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of SWAPO and the people of Namibia, allow me to express my thanks to the Director-General of FAO, and to the Members of the Organization for which he works, for their support given to our just cause today and in the future.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de lever la séance, je voudrais dire que nous avons été saisis par la délégation de la République arabe du Yémen, dont la déclaration n'a pas été dite tout à l'heure, d'une demande que soit insérée au procès-verbal ladite déclaration.

A. ALWAJIH (La République arabe du Yémen) (interprétation de l'arabe): Pour commencer, je voudrais féliciter le Président de la Conférence pour la confiance qui lui a été témoignée. Je félicite également les nouveaux Etats Membres de leur adhésion à notre Organisation. Il s'agit de la République démocratique de Corée, de l'Angola, du Mozambique, des Iles Comores, des Sychelles, de Sao Tomé-et Príncipe. J'espère que tous les Etats Membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies deviendront également membres de cette organisation spécialisée, accroissant ainsi son efficacité face aux grands problèmes que constitue la sécurité alimentaire.

Cette conférence se tient alors que le problème de la sécurité alimentaire continue d'être un des grands défis que doivent relever les peuples du monde au cours du dernier quart de ce siècle et notre délégation qui participe à cette importante session de la Conférence générale, espère que celle-ci aura pour résultat une participation positive en vue d'aider nos peuples à coopérer pour résoudre le problème de la sécurité alimentaire et progresser dans la voie du développement agricole.

Je crois que vous savez tous que la République arabe du Yémen figure parmi les pays les moins développés. Ceci est la conséquence de l'isolement du Yémen durant plusieurs siècles, isolement qui l'a mis à l'écart de tous les progrès enregistrés dans le monde. Et si la révolution de septembre a constitué un tournant historique dans l'édification du Yémen moderne, la guerre civile et les troubles politiques qui l'ont suivie ont eu des conséquences négatives sur l'élan du développement de notre jeune République, qui n'a connu la stabilité que depuis peu d'années. Cependant, le fardeau dont nous avons hérité est lourd, les nécessités du développement immense et nos moyens limités. A cette occasion, et du haut de cette tribune, je voudrais exprimer notre plus profonde gratitude pour l'aide accordée à notre pays par les organisations internationales et au niveau bilatéral par les pays frères et amis.

Le Yémen prépare actuellement un colloque international qui doit discuter de notre premier plan quinquennal, premier du genre dans notre pays, et dans la préparation duquel nous avons déjà franchi des étapes importantes aussi bien au niveau de la méthode de planification, qu'au niveau du contenu du plan. Je ne m'étendrai pas sur ce plan, qui fera l'objet d'une analyse détaillée au cours du colloque international qui se tiendra à Sana'a à la fin de ce mois. Malgré les progrès sensibles annonceurs de larges perspectives de développement réalisés par le Yémen au cours de ces quelques dernières années, le chemin à parcourir reste long et pénible. Dans le cadre du premier plan quinquennal, un intérêt particulier est accordé à l'agriculture, qui participe pour 50 pour cent du PIB, qui emploie 73 pour cent de la population active et qui produit 80 à 90 pour cent des exportations du pays, et qui est étroitement liée aux autres secteurs économiques tels que le commerce, le transport et l'industrie. C'est pourquoi le développement agricole constitue la colonne vertébrale du développement économique et social du pays.

Notre objectif en matière de taux de croissance est de 8, 2 pour cent par an pour le PIB et de 5, 5 pour cent en moyenne par an pour le secteur agricole, en tenant compte de tous les facteurs négatifs et positifs qui déterminent la marche du développement agricole dans notre pays.

Le total des investissements prévus pour le secteur agricole dans le cadre du plan quinquennal est de 2, 6 milliards de Riais yéménites, dont 1, 8 pour cent de fonds gouvernementaux et mixtes, de sorte que le secteur agricole vient au troisième rang en termes d'investissements après les secteurs du transport, de l'industrie et de l'électricité. Le financement étranger en crédits et aides confirmés ou attendus représente 70 pour cent des investissements globaux. Dans le secteur agricole, des projets dont le financement s'élève à près de 0, 7 milliards de riais doivent être financés de l'étranger. Le plan de développement agricole comprend environ 60 projets d'investissements dans les domaines suivants:

- Irrigation et bonification des terres et, en premier lieu, reconstruction du barrage historique de Maaub, financées par les Emirats arabes unis frères:



- le développement du cheptel et des services vétérinaires
- le développement rural intégré;
- le développement des ressources halieutiques;
- le développement de la production végétale.

L'Etat a adopté la politique du devenir rural intégré comme moyen efficace et fructueux pour réduire le sous-développement dans les zones rurales et pour arrêter l'hémorragie de l'exode rural. Actuellement, trois projets sont en cours de réalisation dans l'Oued Ibid à Tihamq et sur les hauteurs méridionales, et à Ridaq. Ces projets sont financés par la Banque mondiale, les fonds de développement du Koweït et d'Abu Dhabi et les Pays-Bas, et des efforts sont fournis pour achever les études préparatoires des principales villes de la Tihamq et des autres zones rurales du Yémen qui doivent être présentes aux différents organes de financement.

Notre plan met l'accent dans le secteur agraire sur l'expansion des projets d'organisation en vue de l'extension des superficies irriguées et de la rationalisation de l'utilisation des ressources en eau et ce. pour faire face au phénomène de la sécheresse qui frappe durement l'économie yéménite en général, surtout que 90 pour cent des terres agricoles dépendent toujours de pluies capricieuses.

L'on oeuvre également à l'extension de l'utilisation des facteurs de développement agricole tels les engrais, les semences améliorées, les pesticides, la mécanisation, dans les limites de la rentabilité et l'introduction de nouvelles espèces dont l'expérience a prouvé la rentabilité.

La direction politique du pays accorde un intérêt particulier au mouvement coopératif et l'Etat fournit un soutien toujours plus grand au mouvement coopératif agricole par l'intermédiaire d'un certain nombre de mesures, pour que celui-ci remplisse sa tâche de la meilleure façon. Une attention particulière est portée à la richesse animale et halieutique, secteur faible puisque ne participant. encore que pour 27 pour cent au produit interne agricole.

La marche du devenir agricole a connu d'importantes entraves dont les principales sont:

- 1) le manque de cadres techniques,
- 2) l'exode de la main-d'oeuvre rurale,
- 3) l'insuffisance d'investissements,
- 3) l'absence d'un réseau routier moderne reliant les zones rurales et Yémen.

Le plan s'efforce de réduire ces obstacles; cependant, nous espérons une aide plus importante des organisations et des pays amis et ce, pour résoudre les problèmes rapidement et pour atteindre en un temps raisonnable l'objectif d'autosuffisance.

Nous avons observé avec intérêt les efforts multipliés ces deux dernières années pour la création du FIDA, et tout en saluant ces efforts nous espérons voir se réaliser le plus tôt possible les activités tangibles de ce fonds. Nous espérons que les demandes de crédit présentées au Fonds seront traitées d'une façon positive qui tienne compte de la nature spécifique des projets agricoles, car des procédures longues et complexes seraient néfastes pour trois projets de développement en terme de coûts accrus, de rendements amoindris, et de délais dans la réalisation des objectifs et des profits attendus de ces projets.

Nous espérons que les pays les moins développés recevront une plus grande assistance qui leur permettra d'atteindre rapidement l'autosuffisance et de réaliser le devenir auquel leurs peuples aspirent. La visite effective par M. le Directeur général E. SAOUMA a été une excellente occasion d'échange d'idées et d'information approfondie de la marche des projets exécutés en faveur de la FAO et, à cette occasion, nous saluons les efforts sincères formés par le Directeur général en vue de renforcer le travail du Programme de coopération technique financé complètement par les ressources du budget ordinaire de l'Organisation.

Dans le contexte des projets exécutés par l'Organisation et financés par le PNUD, je ne puis qu'évoquer avec amertume les recommandations de la dernière session de novembre 1975 et de la Conférence générale en matière de liquidités, qui n'ont pas reçu l'attention attendue, puisque nous avons été surpris par des réductions importantes dépassant 70 pour cent des crédits décidés en faveur du Yémen dans le cadre du programme de 1977, ce qui a eu les conséquences les plus néfastes sur les espoirs fondés par les pays les moins développés dans le PNUD, et nous espérons que votre Conférence ne manquera pas d'accorder une attention particulière à cette question.

Avant de conclure, je voudrais rendre hommage au Programme alimentaire mondial pour les services rendus à mon pays, et surtout pour l'aide d'urgence qu'il nous a fournie à cause de la sécheresse qui a sévi sur presque tout le territoire l'année dernière.

Pour finir, je voudrais saluer et remercier le Comité préparatoire de la Conférence pour l'excellent travail fourni, et j'attire l'attention sur le fait que, dans l'avenir, il sera nécessaire de choisir attentivement la date de la Conférence de sorte qu'elle convienne à tous car voici que cette année, la grande fête du monde musulman l'Aïd El Kébir tombe en cours de Conférence, et ceci nous surprend d'autant plus que les recommandations des Conférences précédentes avaient affirmé la nécessité de tenir compte de ces fêtes quand on choisit la date de la Conférence.

Je souhaite à la Conférence plein succès dans la réalisation de ses objectifs et je vous remercie pour votre attention 1/.

The meeting rose at 23. 00 hours

La séance est levée à 23 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 23. 00 horas

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING  
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
12ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

(18 November 1977)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9. 30 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30

sous la présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 9. 30 horas

bajo la presidencia de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de Ta Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Agriculture of the Maldives will not be able to make his speech in the debate, and has asked for it to be included in the verbatim record and agreed to by the Conference.

I. SHIHAB (Maldives): It is a great honour for me to address this important conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. At the outset I would like, on behalf of the Maldives Government and in my own name, to express our great appreciation and gratitude to the Director-General and to you for inviting us to attend this Conference.

I consider it a great pride for me to have the opportunity to participate in this Conference attended by the Ministers of Agriculture who are *aware* of the problems of Agriculture in all parts of the World and of the urgency of finding a solution for them and for promoting agriculture within the framework of international understanding.

It might be necessary, on this occasion, to give you a brief idea of the situation in my country.

The Maldivian islands are situated in the Indian Ocean, to the South of Sri Lanka. It consists of several small islands with few inhabitants. However, we can proudly state that the Maldivian Islands enjoy full independence, that we are now proceeding with wide steps towards prosperity and progress and that we deeply cherish our nationalism and independence.

Due to the fact that some of our islands are very small in area they can be considered poor in so far as the inhabitants rely on fishing which is the main occupation in our country.

Though consisting of small sparsely populated islands, the geographical location of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean has a certain significance at present, consequently our country became a centre of world attention.

In so far as agriculture is concerned, coconut palm trees are predominant and have a special importance for the inhabitants of the Maldivian Islands who use them for many purposes, including nutrition, boatbuilding, the construction of houses and several uses in their daily life. In addition, some other wood trees grow in the Maldives, though to a minor extent. Other plants include the cassava, colocasia tuber, potato, banana, papaya and mango and citrus trees. Some vegetables are also grown.

The inhabitants of the Maldives do not consider agriculture their main activity and the only type of agricultural activity is the rain-fed agriculture. And we have no other way due to the lack of agricultural inputs.

The Maldivian Islands import all commodities including food-stuffs from abroad. The well-known Maldivian dish constitutes the most important commodity exported by the Maldives. On this occasion, it pleases me to say that the Maldives enjoy peace and stability, in all sectors of life.

Since His Royal Highness, our present president, took office, our country is proceeding towards progress and prosperity. We have now our own shipping line and our own airport which will soon be ready for serving the biggest and most sophisticated planes with the generous help of our friends to whom our great gratitude is due.

Tourist activities in the Maldives have progressed greatly. Should you see the beautiful coral coasts of our islands, you will, no doubt, wish to see them several times.

Several attempts have been made in the past by FAO for sending agricultural experts for improving coconut in our country. However, these attempts were neither successful nor encouraging. We have high hopes that the FAO, its Director-General and its administration will give greater attention to the problems of food and nutrition in the Maldives. On our part, we are fully ready to assist you in all your endeavours in spite of the fact that we are a small country.

Before concluding my statement, I would like to remind you that world stability and security will never be ensured without securing food and other necessary inputs. I am sure this is not new for you.

Mr, Chairman, Your Excellency the Director-General, Distinshed Delegates, I wish to thank you once more. I wish also to thank the Government and people of Italy where this Conference is being held, I hope our endeavours will he crowned by success and that the world we are living in will be a happier place for everybody.  
1/

S. KOMALABHUTI (Thailand): The Thai Delegation wishes to extend to you Mr, Chairman, and to the Deputy Chairman, their warmest congratulations on your elections to these offices. My Delegation also welcome the new members of FAO: -Angola, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Principe, and the Republic of Seychelles.

Mr, Chairman, Thailand was honoured to be elected last year to the World Food Council as a food exporting country. We participated in both the Second and the Third Ministerial Meeting of the World Food Council, accordingly. My Delegation wishes to express once again our full support for the decisions emanating from both WFC meetings aimed primarily at increasing world food production to help alleviate the problems of food shortages, ensuring world food security, and improving human nutrition throughout the world.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the pledging target of one billion dollars has been achieved for the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. We wish to place on record our appreciation to the Executive Director of the World Food Council for his invaluable efforts in bringing the Fund into being. We have a strong belief that IFAD operations will be in the right direction providing benefit for all nations in the developing world.

With regard to food aid policies and programmes, Thailand wishes to express our concern that care must be taken to avoid disincentive effects, not only on production in recipient countries, but also on food-exporting developing countries. We fully endorse the principle of the triangular transaction in any programme of food aid and urge that such a principle be applied to the maximum extent possible by the donor countries and agencies.

There is in fact a general consensus that the question of world food security is of vital and continuing importance to all countries and that there is now a good opportunity to build reserves so as to ensure against a repetition of the food crisis experienced in 1972-74. Many developing countries, as well as my country, are not, however, in a position to take advantage of good crops in building national food reserves due to lack of resources including the expansion of storage and transport facilities.

We are also concerned that tariff and non-tariff measures restricting access to markets in developed countries are increasingly acting as disincentives to agricultural development in the developing world.

The world is becoming inextricably interdependent. No country, big or small, can stand alone and remain prosperous. If international co-operation is required to make the world a more orderly and better place to live for all mankind, the principle of equitable sharing of burden and benefit must be more extensively realized.

My Delegation wishes to present a summary of Thailand's agricultural policy and development highlights of the past two years. The Fourth National Social and Economic Development Plan begins this year and extends for a period of five years until 1981, Thailand's goal is to increase total agricultural production by 5 percent per year while at the same time limiting the growth of rice and cassava to 3 percent. The three main points of the policy for agriculture are: firstly, the diversification of agriculture with a view to improving land utilization and bringing about maximum productivity from our labour force and land throughout the year, secondly, the addition of new and increased production of economic crops such as cotton, silk, fruit, vegetables, oil seeds, livestock and poultry with a view to reducing further the risks caused by vagaries of climate and the unpredictable fluctuation of world prices which affect the income of our farmers thirdly, to improve the relative income of our farmers and other rural residents.

Despite diversification it is clear now that Thailand will take over the number one position this year as the largest rice exporter in the world. As of the end of October 1977 Thailand had exported 2. 5 million metric tons of rice; the final figure is expected to reach 2. 8 million metric tons.

Major programmes under the Fourth National Economic and Social Plan are briefly described as follows:

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim record on request.

Land reform: at present there is still a small but unacceptable number of farmers who suffer from the problem of land tenure by having lost their land to creditors. Some of our tenant farmers have had to pay unduly high rental rates. Land reform is being implemented simultaneously with development of cooperatives as a means to provide additional security for our farmers receiving land. The land included in the reform programme for the next four years includes personal holdings donated by His Majesty the King as well as government and private land. The total area involves 1 264 000 hectares. It is expected that no less than 400 000 families will benefit from the Land Reform programme. To date about 160 000 hectares has been settled.

Agricultural Cooperatives have also been given high priority in our programme. The government has set up a national committee for the promotion of agricultural cooperatives. The objectives are to remove obstacles and solve existing problems on a step-by-step basis using a policy of continuous implementation. To achieve the objectives, an integrated plan has been designed for inclusion of cooperatives in all projects involving agricultural institutions. Guidelines have been promulgated for cooperative institutions to take over all projects connected with land reform, consolidation, land settlement as well as other development activities with a view to increasing the income of cooperatives' farmer members. Moreover, the government has also provided assistance for farmers to form cooperatives as a basis for rural development. So far in 1977 eighty-four new cooperatives in 56 districts have been organized, bringing the total number of cooperatives in Thailand to 635 with approximately 535 000 member families. The aim of the government also is to promote new membership in existing cooperatives as well as to provide necessary farming equipment and commodities for farmers at reasonable prices. The government Bank for Agriculture and Cooperatives and commercial banks are providing more production loans to farmers than in the past.

Regarding irrigation, emphasis is currently being placed on small projects which can be completed in a year or two. The government is investing a large proportion of our national budget in this way to help raise the productivity of small farmers. One hundred and forty-five small irrigation projects have been completed during the past year. There are 1 700 additional projects underway or on the drawing board.

Land consolidation has been catching up with the expansion of the irrigated area. The Central Land Consolidation Office began operations in the Upper Chao Phya Basin in 1975 on an area of 20 000 hectares by improving and constructing on-farm water distribution systems, feeder roads, levelling land, agricultural extension services and marketing. The Land Consolidation Project for the Upper Chao Phya is funded by loans without interest from the International Development Association. We are now expanding this project on an area of 70 000 hectares. Also, the Asian Development Bank provided the Royal Thai Government with US\$ 5 million from their Special Fund to implement another land consolidation project within the North eastern irrigated area in Khon Kaen province. The overall target set by the Government for land consolidation is 20 000 hectares per year.

An accomplishment in fisheries has been the transfer of technology resulting from research to the grass roots level by the aquaculture project. In the field of fresh-water fisheries, fingerlings have been distributed to villagers after natural swamps and ponds have been prepared. April 13, the traditional Thai New Year, has been named National Fisheries Day. It is expected that 13 000 fish farmers and villagers throughout the Kingdom through the cooperation of agricultural institutions will release as many as 250 million fingerlings per annum.

Thailand is currently expanding marine fisheries production, handling, storage and marketing through a large loan from the ADB for boat engines and cold storage equipment. This project will result in much increased availability of marine fish as a source of protein in rural Thailand.

During the past monsoon season, a re-forestation project to rehabilitate over-exploited forests for the first time was launched by the government over and above the regular programme of the Forestry Department. a total of 16 000 hectares of plantation will be added to the National Forests each year under this programme,

Mindful of the acute and chronic shortage of cash among our farming population group, despite growing efforts of commercial and government financial institutions, the government initiated the Farmers' Welfare Fund in 1974. The Fund, consisting of the export duties on exported rice and sugar, is used to subsidize farm inputs, to advance specific government programmes expected to be of benefit to farmers and as emergency relief in areas of dire need.

My delegation wishes to refer to the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1978/79, prepared by the Director-General. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General and his staff for this commendable document. Thailand has watched with great interest and satisfaction the activities of the Director-General since he assumed office two years ago. It is most gratifying to see new programmes and changes made to fit new requirements of the present. May I emphasize the support Thailand gives particularly to the Technical Cooperation Programme from which my country has greatly benefited. We wish also to support the programmes for small farmers which are so ideally suited to the resources and needs of developing countries.

May I also use this occasion to express to the Director-General the appreciation of my Government for the prompt response extended by FAO to the call made by the five Member Countries of the Association of South-east Asian Nations or ASEAN at their Summit Meeting in Bali, Indonesia in 1975 for assistance in coping with the problem of too rapid population growth rates mainly in the rural areas.

Since then, the ASEAN countries, with support from FAO and UNFPA, have developed five intercountry projects. These are in the field of community incentives, migration, information-education-communication, modular training and research utilization.

The final project documents are now being completed and, likely, will be submitted as a package to the joint UNDP/ASEAN meeting which is scheduled for 13 December 1977. Thailand is honoured to speak for all ASEAN countries about this achievement.

Significantly, these projects were developed by ASEAN experts in collaboration with one another, with FAO providing assistance. This is a sophisticated example of FAO encouraging the technical-cooperation-between-developing countries or TCDC approach. Such an approach is more valid because it allows the full play of local initiative and taps indigenous resources.

Also, Mr. Chairman, we support the appointment of an FAO Country Representative to Thailand. Thailand is fortunate to host the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Far East. But the role played by an FAO Country Representative is unique and complementary to that of the Regional Office. Thailand looks to the day when an FAO Country Representative will be working with us in cooperation with the staff of the Regional Office.

In his brilliant opening address, the Chairman of our Conference, the distinguished Minister of Agriculture from Indonesia, correctly stressed the need for us to adopt a policy of deliberately providing an equal opportunity for the weak.

We have enough evidence now that, under current equal opportunity approaches used by developing agencies, only the better-off farmers benefit. The poorest are to a large extent cut off from development. This certainly aborts effective mobilization of the rural sector.

We need to build into all activities of FAO a corrective bias to favour the rural poor. Our traditional programmes have, at best, assisted those who could help themselves. This is no longer enough. If we are to mobilize the rural poor, the new policies should reach out, further and deeper, to the helpless and the apparently "unreachable".

Some elements required in such an approach are already fore-shadowed in the earlier policies laid down by the Director-General: stress on grass roots training, priority for action-oriented field activities, excising of paternalism, etc. But we must design new mechanisms to draw in the popular participation. These would include support for organizational efforts of small farmers and fishermen, people's involvement in planning; building up of peasants' capacity to receive and utilize services and technology, within the context of specific area development.

The Thai Delegation could not possibly end our Country Statement without mentioning the international assistance provided to us for the care of Indo-Chinese displaced persons since the spring of 1975. Temporary shelters, food, clothing and medical supplies have poured into Thailand from the World Food Programme, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Inter-Governmental Committee on European Migration as well as from the International Committee of the Red Cross and others. My delegation does hope that Thailand's request for increased assistance from the World Food Programme will be given positive consideration so as to help relieve a tremendous burden Thailand has been bearing, with firm belief in humanitarian value. Thailand appreciates and will always remember the prompt benevolent assistance and continued support.

N. DJOUDI (Observateur pour l'organisation de l'Unité Africaine): La participation, que nous voulons concrète et effocace, de l'OUA à vos travaux intervient dans une conjoncture particulièrement difficile pour le continent africain.

A peine sortie d'une grave période de sécheresse, affaiblie par les contraintes d'un ordre international en mutation mais où l'apreté des riches n'a d'égale que leur volonté de maintenir leurs privilèges, l'Afrique aborde une période de son histoire où ne lui sera épargné ni une autre ère de sécheresse, ni une production et une productivité alimentaire bien en deçà de ses besoins réels.

Aussi est-ce avec sérieux, mais avec espoir aussi, que nous nous proposons, dans le bref temps qui nous est imparti, d'aborder, de manière nécessairement succincte, quelques-uns des problèmes que nous souhaitons voir résolus au niveau de cette Conférence.

Je voudrais d'abord exprimer ma profonde satisfaction et adresser mes plus vives félicitations aux huit nouveaux Etats Membres de la FAO, dont 6 se trouvent déjà être membres de l'OUA et des Nations Unies. Je suis convaincu que leur présence ici non seulement renforcera les rangs du Tiers Monde mais que, certainement, ils apporteront une contribution de qualité pour faire de la FAO une organisation sans cesse plus dynamique et sans cesse plus adaptée à la solution des problèmes que rencontre notre humanité en matière d'alimentation.

C'est là l'occasion pour moi d'exprimer ma conviction que des pays qui, comme l'Angola ou le Mozambique, ayant accédé à l'indépendance au prix d'incroyables souffrances d'une guerre coloniale souffrent encore d'agressions constantes, d'occupations illégales provoquant mort, misère et faim, que ces pays méritent toute votre compréhension, votre sollicitude et certainement une attention particulière de la FAO.

Je suis également convaincu que ces jeunes Etats qui ont hérité d'une structure coloniale anachronique, tels Djibouti et les Comores, et qui, comme c'est le cas des Comores, voient une partie de leur territoire maintenu arbitrairement sous domination coloniale française, au mépris des principes de la Charte des Nations Unies et en violation des principes les plus élémentaires du droit international, verront la FAO déployer des efforts soutenus et conséquents pour les aider à surmonter la grave situation dans laquelle l'ancienne puissance coloniale les a laissés.

Enfin, je tiens, au nom de l'OUA, à exprimer mes remerciements et ma gratitude à tous les pays qui, démontrant leur haut degré de responsabilité et leur sens aigu de la justice en ce cas précis, ont voté à la quasi-unanimité pour l'admission à la FAO, en tant que membre de plein droit, du Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie.

Ce faisant vous avez fait oeuvre de pionniers au sein de la famille des Nations Unies et donné un contenu concret à l'affirmation par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies de l'indépendance "de jure" de la Namibie quand bien même ce pays reste encore et "de facto" occupé, illégalement par le régime raciste de Pretoria. Vous avez également ainsi confirmé dans les faits l'arrêt rendu par la Cour Internationale de Justice de la Haye qui veut qu'en substance le Conseil pour la Namibie soit l'autorité administrante jusqu'au jour tant attendu où la SWAPO victorieuse prendra en mains les destinées de la nation et du peuple namibien.

J'aurais souhaité pouvoir répondre aux vœux de votre Assemblée en centrant mon intervention sur un sujet sectoriel précis, à savoir "l'investissement dans le secteur agricole". Toutefois, les interventions spécifiques des délégations africaines m'obligent, afin d'éviter d'unitiles redondances, à traiter de problèmes généraux qui affectent l'Afrique de manière globale en tant que continent soudé par des préoccupations communes, par une unité et une solidarité tangible, transcendant les particularismes et les spécificités nationales.

La conjoncture économique en Afrique à l'heure actuelle, notamment en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation, est un grave sujet de préoccupation pour les Etats Membres de l'OUA, individuellement et collectivement.

Des années de sécheresse aux effets sans précédent dans l'histoire de notre continent, tant sur l'histoire de notre continent, tant sur l'homme que sur le cheptel, la persistance, voire l'aggravation de l'action des rongeurs et des déprédateurs de toute sorte, l'action brutale et répétée de calamités naturelles tels les cyclones et les inondations, ont considérablement affaibli le potentiel économique et humain de l'Afrique et mené ses gouvernants à faire face à des problèmes qui, s'ils trouvent leur solution à long terme dans notre propre capacité à les surmonter, n'en exigent pas moins, dans l'immédiat, un effort soutenu et une assistance substantielle de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale et de ses institutions, telle la FAO.



A cet égard, la situation dans le Sahel est d'une gravité exceptionnelle. Après de nombreuses années de sécheresse, l'apparition des premières pluies a fait naître l'espoir intense de voir les zones arides refleurir.

Hélas, force nous est de constater que ces pluies tardives et mal réparties ont aggravé le déficit pluviométrique existant.

Les chiffres, dans leur froide rigueur, sont la claire démonstration de ce qui pourrait demain être une autre tragédie: 30 millions d'êtres humains sont menacés dans leur existence si la communauté internationale n'intervenait pour leur fournir une aide alimentaire estimée provisoirement à 500 000 tonnes. Sur ce volume d'aide, 150 000 tonnes de céréales devront être trouvées d'ici janvier 1978 au plus tard.

Qu'il nous suffise de comparer ce chiffre et de rappeler que, pour les, seuls Etats-Unis d'Amérique, les pertes alimentaires annuelles suffiraient à nourrir 50 millions d'êtres humains. Il y a certainement là matière à réflexion.

Sans vouloir, en aucune manière, minimiser la gravité du sort de tous les pays du Sahel, il est de mon devoir de souligner le cas particulièrement angoissant des Iles du Cap-Vert. La République du Cap-Vert, née d'une lutte armée de libération nationale où elle a sacrifié les meilleurs de ses fils, se voit confrontée à une crise agricole et alimentaire sans aucune mesure avec ses faibles moyens. S'il faut saluer l'effort gigantesque d'organisation et de self-reliance, parallèle d'ailleurs à celui de la République soeur de la Guinée-Bissau, il nous faut reconnaître que les sacrifices, et le militantisme de son peuple et de ses dirigeants se heurtent à une situation de fait qui exige un effort solidaire de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale. Au demeurant, les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de l'Afrique ont pris des mesures d'urgence, avec les moyens aussi faibles soient-ils dont nous disposons, pour aider ce pays frère.

Aussi est-il de mon devoir d'en appeler, d'en appeler avec toute la solennité voulue, à la communauté internationale pour intensifier son assistance à cette jeune république, et à la FAO pour accroître encore l'effort qu'elle a consenti pour ce pays.

La partie Nord de l'Afrique n'a pas non plus été épargnée. L'année 1977 s'est traduite pour elle par une pluviométrie faible et inadéquate et en conséquence par la perte de la quasi-totalité de sa récolte de blé.

Au moment où je m'adresse à vous, l'absence des pluies d'automne, dans cette partie de l'Afrique, augure peut-être d'une autre année sans céréales.

M. Le Président, pour le Sahel, pour l'Afrique du Nord, pour la bande Soudano-Sahélienne et pour d'autres régions d'Afrique encore, l'analyse des derniers relevés par satellites laisse présager le début d'une autre longue période de sécheresse pour l'Afrique.

Notre espoir insensé, notre vœu le plus cher, est que, quelle que soit l'extrême sophistication des observations par satellite, que cette infime marge d'erreur, toujours présente dans la technologie moderne, devienne l'erreur absolue, et que nous soient épargnés les affres de la sécheresse et de ses compagnons de toujours: la faim, la malnutrition, la mort et son corollaire inévitable, la déstabilisation des nations.

Certes, de nombreux orateurs ont souligné le fait que ces deux dernières années ont été exceptionnellement bonnes et que la situation alimentaire mondiale s'en est trouvée nettement améliorée. Il n'en demeure pas moins que l'Afrique, et singulièrement le Sahel, constituent l'exception.

S'ajoutant à la sécheresse, le phénomène de désertification constitue une menace supplémentaire pour le continent africain. Il y a à cet égard lieu de souligner que, sur décision de l'Assemblée nationale des Nations Unies, une Conférence des Nations Unies sur la désertification s'est récemment tenue à Nairobi au Kenya. Le plan d'action qui a été élaboré donne des responsabilités particulières à la FAO qui, par un usage judicieux de fonds existants, notamment le FIDA, pourrait jouer un rôle de premier plan tant sur le plan de la récupération des terres propres à l'élevage et à l'agriculture qu'au plan de l'édification des barrages verts au Nord et au Sud du Sahara, sur garantie de l'arrêt de l'avance du désert.

Cette situation qui prévaut en Afrique peut être l'occasion pour les pays riches de faire la preuve de leur bonne volonté et pour la FAO de faire la démonstration de son efficacité.

Je voudrais à ce stade saluer la décision de la Suède qui s'est engagée à faire un don annuel de 40 000 tonnes au titre de la réserve alimentaire internationale et qui, par ailleurs, a annulé la dette contractée auprès d'elle par un certain nombre de pays du Tiers Monde. Ces décisions de la Suède pourraient être un exemple édifiant pour les pays nantis dans leur ensemble si leurs actes devaient correspondre à leurs paroles.

Monsieur le Président, si j'ai salué l'admission de nouveaux états et par delà mes sentiments de profonde satisfaction, c'est pour mieux souligner la place de plus en plus importante que prend l'Afrique au sein de votre Organisation, il ne peut y avoir de véritable ordre économique international nouveau si nous n'introduisons au sein de toutes les instances internationales, la règle de l'équité et de la démocratie sans lesquelles toute entreprise humaine ne peut être régie que par la règle des rapports de force entre les forts qui dictent leur loi et les faibles qui la subissent.

L'Afrique constitue aujourd'hui le tiers des membres de votre Organisation et pourtant elle demeure largement sous-représentée. Nous pensons que la simple justice exige que l'Afrique soit équitablement représentée par une augmentation substantielle des sièges qu'elle occupe au sein de votre Organisation. C'est là une exigence du principe de l'universalité et une conception meilleure du jeu de la démocratie entre nations qui se veulent toutes égales.

Cela implique aussi qu'une représentation plus adéquate de l'Afrique au niveau des rouages de l'institution serait le moyen le plus sûr de mieux nous connaître et de donner à notre continent la chance d'apporter sa contribution de qualité à l'oeuvre commune qui est la nôtre.

A cet égard, je voudrais et je me dois de rendre hommage à M. Edouard SAOUMA, Directeur général de la FAO, dont les initiatives audacieuses laissent présager que la FAO deviendra un instrument plus dynamique que par le passé.

Nous sommes convaincus qu'en tant qu'homme du Tiers Monde, il saura répondre aux vœux de l'Afrique de voir un plus grand nombre de ses fils oeuvrer comme cadres de cette Organisation.

Au nombre des initiatives heureuses préconisées par le Directeur général, je voudrais apporter mon plein appui à ses réflexions sur la coopération en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation entre les pays en développement.

Il me plaît de rappeler que la cinquième Conférence au sommet des pays non alignés a exprimé sa volonté de voir la coopération technique déjà existante entre pays non alignés s'étendre et se renforcer. En matière d'alimentation elle en a défini les buts et les lignes d'action. Notre souhait est que cette Conférence accorde son plein appui au Directeur général pour que l'expérience et la compétence de la FAO deviennent le complément indispensable à une plus grande coopération entre les pays non alignés et la FAO.

L'enfer, dit-on, est pavé de bonnes intentions. Au fil des Conférences internationales nous avons entendu des déclarations d'intention, des promesses et des serments, mille fois réitérés, qui nous ont un instant fait miroiter l'espoir d'un monde où la coopération universelle, la compréhension du riche pour son frère affamé, en un mot la fraternité humaine, transcendant les intérêts égoïstes, reculeraient sans cesse les frontières de la misère et de l'inégalité entre les hommes et les nations.

A l'heure du bilan, force nous est de constater que l'établissement d'un nouvel ordre économique international continue à être remis en cause par les appétits et les exigences basement mercantiles des uns pendant que la situation économique des pays en développement ne cesse de se détériorer.

Qu'en est-il du souhait de voir se conclure un accord international valable sur les céréales, qui pourrait mettre les pays en développement à l'abri des mouvements de spéculations d'autant plus odieux qu'ils mènent à une richesse accrue, au prix de la faim et de la misère de l'homme?

Combien faibles sont les progrès accomplis dans la mise en application des décisions et des recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur l'alimentation!

La permanence des phénomènes négatifs du passé, l'aggravation de la condition alimentaire de plus de la moitié du genre humain, l'effroyable mortalité infantile et la malnutrition dans le Tiers Monde, à côté d'un autre monde repu et parfois indifférent augmente les risques d'une nouvelle crise alimentaire mondiale.

La réduction de la production alimentaire dans les pays nantis aux fins de maintien des prix, les pressions multiples et multiformes sur les prix des produits en provenance du Tiers Monde, le refus de réviser les structures du commerce mondial, autant sur les denrées alimentaires que sur les engrais,

tout cela exige une prise de conscience des réalités et de leur projection sur l'avenir. Tout cela aussi requiert de votre Assemblée un effort commun où les concessions nécessaires doivent être faites pour parvenir à une authentique sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Il est de bon ton aujourd'hui de parler de droits humanitaires et les mass media ne se privent pas d'en parler quotidiennement sur une base soigneusement sélective. Le droit humanitaire ne passe-t-il pas d'abord par le droit pour tout homme d'être à l'abri de la faim et de la malnutrition?

En tout état de cause, le droit humanitaire ne pourrait et ne saurait être le droit du riche à l'indifférence à l'égard des souffrances de son prochain.

Je ne saurais conclure sans exprimer ma conviction que, face aux grands problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition, la FAO reste le cadre le plus authentiquement valable pour l'élaboration de solutions à long terme et durables pour peu que ceux pour lesquels la nature s'est montrée particulièrement généreuse fassent preuve de leur volonté de coopérer avec les moins nantis d'entre nous.

C'est à ce prix, et à ce prix seulement, que nous pourrions voir s'ouvrir pour tous les hommes sans exclusive aucune, cette ère de prospérité, de justice et de solidarité humaine sans laquelle nous ne saurions valablement accomplir notre destin.

C. L. BOLDEN (Barbados): Chairman, Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all, on behalf of the Government of Barbados, I should like to join the former speakers in congratulating you on your well deserved election to the Chairmanship of this Conference.

Secondly, I should like to take the opportunity of welcoming all those nations who have recently become members of the Food and Agriculture Organization. May I express the hope that their membership of this Organization will result in great benefits accruing to the people of their countries, as well as to this Organization.

May I also express the wish that at the end of this 19th meeting of the FAO, the foundation would have been laid for solving some of the most fundamental problems confronting member nations of this Organization. The energy crisis of 1973 had severe effects on the balance-of-payments position of many countries. It increased the cost of producing and of importing food. The lesser developed countries of the world which find it necessary to import most of their food, fertilizer and oil requirements have been faced with the heaviest burdens of this crisis. In recent times, therefore, food - the basic human need - has been one of the greatest political concerns of most Governments at the national and the international levels. We know that FAO has adopted strategies to tackle the world food problem. For instance, the World Food Council in 1975 made a call for global action to ensure food security. In addition, the International Fund for Agricultural Development has been instituted to provide capital for poverty-oriented countries requiring assistance in agricultural development. Improved weather conditions in many major food producing areas have resulted in the recent records of food production increases in both developed and developing countries and the granaries of developed countries are full.

Nevertheless, a great challenge still lies ahead for some members of the FAO since present food production trends have not kept pace with population growth, especially in the under-developed countries. The 2.5 percent per annum growth rate in food production is far below the 4 percent minimum conceived by the World Food Conference. There is therefore no room for complacency because of the moderate increases in food reserves. It is estimated that one-eighth of the world population is still malnourished. To deprive a man of a basic necessity such as food, is to deprive him of his very existence.

The challenge therefore still remains as how to reduce the current food deficits and malnourishment in many under-developed countries.

There are a number of measures and strategies additional to those already established by the FAO which can be adopted to solve the world food crisis. Policies oriented towards increasing the direct aid to developing countries, both in the short-term and medium-term, particularly in project areas where there has been some success, should be vigorously pursued. Increasing capital investments in agriculture should be integrated with a strengthened research capability and improved harvesting techniques.

For the 1975 to 1980 period, it is estimated that \$10 billion in capital will be required. In the area of capital investments, it is noted that some progress is being made along these lines through the subscriptions to the International Fund for Agricultural Development. It is not too early to enquire what financing mechanisms are being considered for further replenishment of this fund after the initial capital funds are disbursed.

All the efforts to increase food production through capital inputs alone will be wasted if some consideration is not given to the development of export markets and favourable trade concessions to developing countries. May I add also, that it is my view that without the existence of export market potential for many of the crops produced in the developing world, any economic development derived, while achieving food self-sufficiency, will be limited and non self-sustaining. In fact, I doubt whether the economy of many developing countries will, in the long run, show any real growth in the absence of commodity arrangements and increased export markets for their agricultural produce.

I believe the considered aim of every developing nation is to achieve self-sufficiency. This is the step which seems to logically precede production for external markets. This goal cannot be attained without organizational, technical, and social transformation.

Even though technical and financial aid might be available through an international organization, such as FAO, or from friendly developed countries, for sustained growth to become a reality, the initiative must come from the developing nation itself. For instance, the transplant of technology from one nation to another without the appropriate adjustments to accommodate the local situation must result in the wastage of investments. This is a precaution that must be taken by the donor as well as the recipient of technical aid.

For the most part, developing nations are lacking in technology and expertise, resources which are vital to the successful transformation of an economy. The Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79, as outlined in the Conference document C 77/3, seems to make adequate provision for the various problems of food production confronting the under-developed nations. We must, however, try desperately to ensure that there is not too great a discrepancy between the expected and the actual result of these programmes.

Enough time will be spent at this Conference elaborating on the World Food situation and the possible measures that could be adopted to divert a crisis in the future and there is no need for me to further elaborate.

For your benefit therefore, Mr. Chairman, and that of distinguished delegates, I will now divert some attention to the economy of Barbados.

Like most developing countries, Barbados is dependent to a large extent on imports of capital goods, raw materials and foodstuffs. In 1975, expenditure on import of goods and services was 68.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product and increased to 73.0 percent in 1976. Food constitutes the largest category of imports. The average rate of inflation, as measured by the index of retail prices between 1974 and 1976 was around 21 percent.

Agriculture plays an important role in the economy. For the period 1969 to 1973, its contribution represented 15 percent of Gross Domestic Product. This activity is both a major source of employment and of foreign exchange. At the end of 1976, approximately 9 percent of the working population was engaged in agriculture.

Despite a persistent attempt to diversify the agricultural sector beginning about ten years ago, sugar remains the predominant agricultural economic activity. Tourism and manufacturing, in that order of priority, complete the main economic activities.

In recent years, tourism has tended to dominate sugar in its contribution to economic activity. Several factors contributed to this, in particular the declining sugar cane yields, the reduced average acreage planted and poor rainfall. However, since 1975, we have had increases in the output of all agricultural products and we expect that this increase will continue into the 1980's. My Government is now devising policies backed by legislation which will encourage the further expansion of the agricultural sector. We are in need of capital to expand our fisheries programme and we consider that the exploitation of the fish resources of our region is one of the most important aspects of the development of our agricultural resources.

Despite these modest increases, however, gross revenue from sugar in 1976 and 1977 has not exceeded the \$114.9 million Barbados dollars, which was earned in 1975. The reduction in gross revenue resulted from the lower price per ton of raw sugar exported. Unfortunately, the present world market price is now below the cost of production of sugar in my country.

We see the need therefore to intensify our efforts to diversify agricultural production, in order to create flexibility in the agricultural sector in which sugar production is the primary enterprise.

The achievement of this objective should lessen our dependence on foreign supplies of food and reduce a growing balance of payments deficit. In 1973, the balance of payments deficit was \$31.3 million Barbados dollars - \$20 million more than in 1972. To some extent, the oil crisis had exerted pressure on the cost of production and has influenced domestic prices. In addition, a diversified agricultural sector will also reduce the reliance on International Sugar Agreements to ensure a viable economy.

A number of problems have been encountered in the process of attempting agricultural diversification - these include pre-harvest crop losses through pests and diseases. In spite of the present need to recognize the importance of post-harvest losses of crops, we must not fail to recognize that the pre-harvest losses are often considerably greater, particularly among small producers who are financially and technically incapable of taking the appropriate control measures. The non-sugar agricultural produce is plagued with inadequate marketing systems and facilities. The inadequacy of our post-harvest facilities implies that we cannot accommodate glut situations, usually experienced during the months December to June. We hope therefore to benefit from the new programme on "The Prevention of Food Losses", which is now being discussed at this meeting.

My delegation recognizes that it is pointless to increase food production at the national level or farm level productivity, if this is not accompanied by higher farm incomes and improved standards of living for the rural producers. We are therefore devising appropriate measures to ensure an equitable distribution of income which is derived through increased farm output.

The major aim of the Government for the development of a modern agricultural structure is to achieve a more intensive diversification of production based on improved technology and increased mechanisation. In addition to well-trained technical and administrative staff, other support services and resources are required. Services such as readily available credit, research facilities, market intelligence and information systems, and expanded marketing facilities. The resources required include cheaper sources of farm inputs, such as fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, improved seeds and plants, efficient irrigation systems, effective water and soil conservation measures and the improvement of on-shore facilities for fishing boats.

To achieve our objectives, finance from external sources will be necessary to complement local sources which are at present very limited and we look forward to the early functioning of IFAD. We would hope that the criteria for lending from this Fund will not faithfully follow all the restrictive conditions of some of our more established lending institutions and we will continue to look for assistance from such established institutions as the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. We are grateful for the assistance we have received from friendly countries and we have no doubt that we can look forward to greater assistance from these countries in the future.

The following, Mr. Chairman, is a synopsis of the specific areas to which the Government of Barbados is giving priority in the quest for technical and financial assistance -

- (i) increased agricultural diversification in the production of non-sugar crops;
- (ii) reorganization of the marketing system in so far as non-sugar agricultural crops are concerned to achieve a more even distribution of vegetables and fruit throughout the year, and to reduce wastage and post-harvest losses resulting from glut situations;
- (iii) closely related to the above is the development of agro-industries to facilitate expansion in food production;
- (iv) improved credit facilities to accommodate the purchase of fertilizers, improved seeds, mechanical equipment, fishing boats and fishing equipment;
- (v) the development of a comprehensive livestock programme, making provision for the importation of exotic breeds to upgrade present stock;
- (vi) the improvement of onshore fishing facilities.

In conclusion, it must be re-stated that whatever aid is given to developing nations, such as ours, that unless accompanied by favourable trade concessions and a liberalization of trade agreements in the developed countries, the expansion of agricultural production will be aborted.

An appeal on behalf of the Government of Barbados and other Third World Countries is now being made through this medium of the Food and Agriculture Organization to give some consideration to these practical problems related not only to food production, but also to increase food production as a means of inducing economic growth.

In pursuance of the Director-General's effort to decentralize the activities of FAO, the Government of Barbados has made an application for the siting of an FAO Country Office in Barbados, I trust that an agreement will be speedily concluded. It is hoped that the modifications made in the 1978-79 Programme of Work and Budget will expedite technical assistance requests, as was conceived at the 1975 FAO Conference and I note that the revised programme is in keeping with the objectives of the Director-General.

I thank you very much for the very patient hearing you have given me and trust that the deliberations of this 19th FAO Conference will result in conspicuous success.

DATUK ALI Hj. AHMAD (Malaysia): On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, allow me first of all to congratulate you most warmly, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the high office of Chairman of this Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference. With your vast experience and profound knowledge in food and agricultural matters, I am confident that you will be able to steer the Conference towards achieving concrete and fruitful results.

To the Director-General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, I would like to offer our congratulations for his commendable efforts in streamlining the administrative set-up of the Organization and in revitalising the entire machinery to one that is action-oriented. This is most welcome and is indeed a remarkable achievement considering the short period that he has been in office.

I would also like on behalf of my delegation to offer our heartiest congratulations to the eight new members of the Organization namely Angola, Comoros, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles. I have no doubt that their participation in the affairs of this Organization will further enrich and strengthen the Organization.

Before touching briefly on our attempts at improving our food and agricultural situation, I would like, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, to make general remarks on some of the issues contained in the various documents prepared for the benefit of this Conference.

Malaysia supports the decentralization proposal of the Director-General and hopes to see closer and more frequent contacts with the Regional Office at Bangkok. Malaysia also supports the pruning down of the number of seminars, meetings and documentation. In our efforts to increase world food and agricultural production, action-oriented programmes capable of producing quick results are imperative. To developing countries, this is vital because improvement in food and agriculture is inextricably linked with eradication of poverty among our farmers and with our earnest endeavours to give them a better quality of life.

Malaysia also supports the priority given to programmes for reducing post-harvest losses. It is indeed heartening that a subject area which at one time was comparatively neglected is being given serious attention. Again, Malaysia's support of these programmes is not merely because they would cut down losses and thereby increase food supply but also because they would lead to increased income to the farmers.

However, I note that lower priority is being given to food losses before and during harvest which are equally important. It is hoped that these areas could be looked into just as seriously and urgently.

Malaysia subscribes to the view that the responsibility for ensuring food and agricultural production lies principally with the national government. To this extent, agricultural development takes first place in the order of strategies contained in our Third Malaysia Plan. Under the Plan, agricultural production is targetted to grow by 7.3 percent per annum compared to 5.6 percent per annum during the Second Malaysia Plan period, and agriculture's share in new employment is targetted at 26.5 percent. The allocation for agriculture, which is the biggest for any development sector, amounts to \$4.7 billion or 25 percent of the total Third Malaysia Plan development budget, an absolute increase of 95.8 percent over the allocation of the Second Malaysia Plan.

In our pursuit to produce more food there is the need for intensive research. However, in our efforts to spearhead agricultural research, Malaysia, like many other developing countries, is facing a shortage of trained agricultural research personnel. In order to overcome this gap, the Government has actively pursued a post-graduate training programme, but the creation of a corps of trained agricultural research personnel fully equipped to undertake research in such diversified fields as innovative farm technology suitable to local agriculture, plant and soil research, etc. must necessarily take time. In the inter-regnum, Malaysia requires assistance from developed countries in the FAO fraternity to undertake ongoing research programmes. In this regard, I invite member countries to make available agricultural research personnel to Malaysia to tide over our present difficulties.

While we address ourselves to the problem of increasing food and agricultural production, let us not forget the problem of spiralling increases in the costs of agricultural production. The rising costs of inputs such as oil, fertilizers, insecticides, seeds of high yielding varieties and machinery have tended to nullify whatever margins of profits accruing to our farmers. They also adversely affect other low income groups by aggravating the inflationary trend. Therefore, I urge the FAO to give serious consideration to this pressing problem with the hope that our farmers would reap the full rewards of their labour. If the trend of increasing costs of agricultural production is not checked in time, our farmers and other low income groups of our population will continue to suffer despite modernization, mechanization and increases in productivity.

In the context of increasing our food and agricultural production, we need to ensure that our national economy is healthy. As a producer of raw materials like rubber, palm oil, cocoa and pepper, etc. Malaysia is very concerned about the instability of the prices of these materials in the world market. Fluctuations in the prices of these materials adversely affect our efforts to improve the standard of living of our people. The need for a price stabilization programme is very much felt by developing countries like Malaysia. We would like to work towards the establishment of international commodity agreement in which buffer-stocking should play the major role wherever possible. Malaysia supports the UNCTAD integrated programme for commodities which broadly encompasses most of our needs for remedial actions in the commodity sector. In this regard Malaysia and many other countries have also called for the improvement of earning stabilization measures as additional and supplementary to price stabilization arrangements. We would also like to stress the fundamental role of common fund in the overall efforts to implement the UNCTAD integrated programme for commodities, and hope that the current rounds of negotiations on the issue will be successfully concluded.

Before concluding my statement, I would like to place on record my Government's appreciation of the service rendered by FAO at all levels. My Government and I have no doubt that under the dynamic leadership of the Director-General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, Malaysia could look forward to more successful cooperative endeavours.

D. M. CREMONA (Malta): I would like first of all to convey to you all greetings from the Government of the Republic of Malta whom I have the honour to represent at this Assembly. I also wish to join previous speakers in congratulating both you Mr. Chairman, and the Vice-Chairman on your election to this high office. My sincere congratulations go also to the newly admitted Member Nations. As a representative of a developing country, I am particularly pleased, Mr. Chairman, that this Assembly will be working under your able leadership. I am sure that coming from another developing country you have a deep knowledge and understanding of the emerging Third World, whose problems and needs this Assembly cannot afford to overlook.

Although I am a new-comer to FAO Meetings, I am fully acquainted with its noble aims and fruitful activities. This is obvious as not only does the Socialist Government of the Republic of Malta attach great importance to FAO's role in the world but is also a strong believer in the Organization and its future.

We are pleased to note a change for the better in the handling of FAO matters and a more realistic approach in the execution of its task. We note with particular interest the tireless efforts of the energetic Director-General to see that FAO serves its purpose well for the benefit of humanity. On behalf of my colleagues I would like to congratulate him for his achievements and pray that he may continue to lead this Organization for many years to come and thus be able to put fully into practice the innovations he has just started to implement.

We fully realize the difficulties facing the Director General when he assumed office two years ago and in this context we cannot but admire the surprisingly short time it took him to draw up and submit the revised Programme which the Council then approved and which gave a completely new look to the Organization.

My delegation is pleased to note that the new version of the Two-Year General Programme on which FAO's Programme of Work for 1978/79 is based, incorporates many ideas which Malta had expressed and propagated during past years.

In view of the importance of this matter, allow me, Mr. Chairman, to make a few comments of a general nature on the main document before this Session, i. e. The Director-General's Programme of Work for the ensuing Biennium 1978/79. We are particularly grateful that FAO's future activities include the New Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), which enables the Organization to give direct help to its Member Countries. This essential innovation was since long overdue, not only because it was included

in the Organization's founding Charter, but also because, in fact, FAO gave direct assistance to individual countries in its early life. Later, unfortunately, this type of work was nearly completely abandoned. It became indeed an anomaly that unlike many sister agencies of the United Nations Organization, FAO had no provisions and no funds to assist its Member Nations. My delegation notes with pleasure the provisions and rules the Director General and the Council established for the granting of such help as well as with the relative changes proposed in the Financial Regulations. We only regret that the amount indicated in the Programme of Work for this chapter is very small and hope that regulations for the TCP, could be loosened. We also feel that the firm establishment of the TCP was also necessary to make FAO more independent from external financing sources. We noted with great satisfaction the understanding reached by our Director-General with the Administrator of the UNDP in this respect, since we are convinced that the two programmes are complementary, as it was, by the way, also stressed during the summer session of the Council.

As a member of the Group of 77 acting in harmony and solidarity with the fellow nations of this Group, Malta is a keen partisan of the New Economic Order. We cannot therefore but support the Director General's proposals contributing towards the implementation of the relative decision of the Sixth and the Seventh Special Sessions of the United Nations Organization as well as his intention to work in close harmony with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

We agree that the problems of developing countries should be accorded first priority in FAO's programmes. We do not, however - and for obvious reasons - support the idea that their geographical position and classification as well as their Gross National Product should be the hard-and-fast criteria determining the extent of financial and/or technical assistance they should be given.

This brings me to Malta's needs at this crucial step of its development. The Socialist Government's 1973-80 Development Plan, only too recently updated, sets as its basic objective the task of leading the Maltese Islands to a situation of full economic viability whereby the expenditure by British military forces stationed on the Island - on which Malta's economy was traditionally dependent - will be phased out completely by the end of March 1979 when the British military base on the Island will be closed down.

Notwithstanding the turbulence of external economic upheavals of 1974 and 1975 from which Malta could not and did not escape unscathed, the Island's political commitment remains solid and unshaken. By the set date - 31st March 1979 - Malta will discard completely its traditional fortress role and fashion a new way of life unlinked in any way to war, a role in which the Maltese people will earn their livelihood through honest endeavour and initiative in the fields of manufacturing, ship repairing, shipbuilding, agriculture, tourism, commerce and other services.

This new role will come about primarily through self-help, because this is the basic philosophy of the Maltese Labour Government. The people of Malta voted for this philosophy in June 1971 and renewed their mandate in September 1976.

The Maltese people are facing this new historic task with courage and determination. The country has embarked with enthusiasm along the path which it has unequivocally chosen, and which has been clearly mapped out in the Development Plan, towards a life of friendly collaboration and harmony with all other countries particularly those nearby, a life of hard work, of moral rejuvenation, of true freedom on this road of humane democratic socialism, the Maltese people will move forward in peace and prosperity.

In the task ahead of us as a people we take solace in the knowledge that there are Organizations such as FAO who can lend us a helping hand.

As Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture I am, of course, immediately responsible for the preparation and execution of plans aimed at the further development of the agricultural and fishing industries two very important sectors of our national economy. We are humble enough to realize and admit that during this crucial transitional period our own efforts will not suffice to solve all the complex problems that lie ahead of us at once. It is for this purpose that we are concluding a series of bilateral agreements with friendly nations on technical and economic cooperation and we feel, entitled to expect considerable help from such other international sources as the World Food Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the European Economic Community, the Council of Europe and last but not least, the United Nations Development Programme.

It is gratifying to note that as a first tangible result of the World Food Conference and the efforts of the World Food Council, the International Fund for Agricultural Development is about to come into being and that it will shortly start its operations. I do not hide our feeling that we expect generous help from this new Agency of the United Nations.



With regard to our requests for assistance, our policy aims at providing the means to increase employment opportunities, training facilities - especially at Management level - and know-how. We are in complete agreement with the statement of our Director-General that one of the pre-requisites for progress of development is investment. For this reason we welcome wholeheartedly his view that greater emphasis be made on assisting Member Nations in their efforts to tap potential sources of investment. It is within this concept that developing countries like ours should welcome, as we do, the launching of the Technical Cooperation Programme through which - I dare say - we hope to get a flexible, spontaneous response to our needs without any red tape.

Time at my disposal does not permit me to comment on each of the Director-General's proposals outlined in the Programme of Work. I would however like to take this opportunity to express my Government's sincere thanks for the assistance forthcoming from the FAO on our fishery as well as on animal health and nutrition problems. In the Committee on Agriculture we explained our ambitious project for land reclamation through the setting up of the "Izra u Rabbi" which means "Sow and Rear". We hope to have the opportunity to expound the project in more detail at the forthcoming World Conference on Land Reform and Rural Development in an effort to gain moral and material international support for its realization.

We are grateful for the assistance provided by the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme and strongly hope that it will continue in the future.

Malta is very interested in the FAO's training and research programmes. On several occasions my Government has offered the Island's hospitality to regional and world-wide gatherings on these subjects. In our efforts to promote regional cooperation we have made several offers extending our hospitality to permanent countries and/or sub-offices pertaining to FAO. This is in accordance with our policy to foster inter-country cooperation particularly in the Mediterranean zone. Regrettably enough, FAO has yet failed to avail itself of this opportunity. One U. N. Agency (the United Nations Environment Programme) has established subsidiary branch offices in Malta and we hope shortly to be able also to welcome on our shores the establishment of the United Nations Sea Bed Authority.

Mr. Chairman, we commend the progress and development our Organization registered during the last two years. We note with satisfaction that the number of meetings decreased, that the amount of working papers and documents diminished, that some progress has been achieved to decrease the staff at Headquarters and increase it in the field. But unfortunately I have to remark that there is one sector where these changes caused considerable disappointment to us. I refer to the reorganization of the Council on which Malta will be only too pleased and honoured to serve if given the opportunity.

When on the suggestion of the Malta Delegation at both the 16th and the 17th Sessions of the Conference it was agreed to re-examine the constitution, status and the role of the Council, it was hoped that such a review would lead to make of the Council a truly democratic organ. The proposal now before the Conference does not meet this expectation in that it limits the decision making in the Council to only about one third of the FAO Member Countries.

While my delegation welcomes any action designed to make the Council more representative, the present proposal certainly does not go far enough, particularly when it is realized that FAO was established to foster cooperation and collaboration among all its Member Nations. This objective cannot be realized by two-thirds of the members just meeting only once every two years. I wish therefore to reiterate Malta's former proposal, shared by a great number of other small Member Nations, to throw open the Council to all Member Nations, at least on a trial basis or, as a transitory minimum, to give full right to observers present at Council Sessions to intervene in the debates. I wish to recall, Mr Chairman that at the time when the composition of some of the Council's Commissions was modified for open membership, it was feared that these Commissions would be thus hampered. The efficient performance of these Commissions in recent years proves that this is not the case.

May I, Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, while wishing the FAO every success in its noble mission, assure you and my fellow delegates here, of my Government's continued wholehearted support to the Organization. This is in conformity with my Government's declared policy to work together with other peace-loving nations to ensure world peace and brotherly love.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having given me the opportunity to address this distinguished Assembly.

O. VASCONEZ (Ecuador): Al iniciar mi intervención deseo, en nombre de mi país, Ecuador, expresar a usted, señor Presidente, nuestra complacencia por la merecida designación para que presida esta importante Conferencia. Su reconocida experiencia y capacidad constituyen una garantía de que los objetivos de esta Conferencia serán alcanzados en los mejores términos.

Deseo también sumarme a los distinguidos Jefes de Delegación que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra para manifestar nuestra felicitación y cordial bienvenida a los países que se han incorporado recientemente a este organismo.

El Ecuador, país de paz y trabajo, sostiene que la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo, a la cual la FAO dedica sus mejores esfuerzos, no puede realizarse a cabalidad e inclusive no tiene sentido, mientras ingentes recursos humanos y económicos sigan dedicados a una carrera armamentista, cuyo previsible fin no es otro que la destrucción de la humanidad.

El Ecuador, por mi intermedio, pregunta a los representantes de los países miembros de la FAO que asisten a esta Conferencia: ¿Cómo podemos ejecutar vastos programas y proyectos de producción alimentaria mundial si cada día se gasta sobre los 900 millones de dólares en un desenfrenado armamentismo y las superpotencias se empeñan en preparar a gran parte de sus juventudes para que se conviertan en científicos y técnicos de la guerra nuclear? ¿Cuál es la razón para planificar el futuro si continuamos haciendo todo lo posible para no tenerlo? ¿Cómo podemos establecer un nuevo orden económico internacional sobre las dudas y temores, las imposiciones e injusticias, esto es, sobre el desequilibrio económico-social del cual surge y al cual conduce el armamentismo? Estas preguntas las hago a nombre de mi país, en razón de los principios de paz y concordia que sustenta y como un deber de conciencia para evitar que el mundo siga en el engaño de considerar natural y hasta encomiable construir para la humanidad y preparar, al mismo tiempo, el camino de su destrucción.

Dicho ésto, que ubica con exactitud a mi país en el concierto internacional, me permito señalar a la atención de los señores representantes los siguientes asuntos de carácter básico que forman parte de la tesis que he venido a sustentar:

El Ecuador es un pequeño y hermoso país que ciertamente ha entrado en una etapa inicial de desarrollo, pero que hoy más que nunca, necesita apoyo técnico-económico, especialmente de los organismos mundiales, entre los cuales ocupa lugar preferente la FAO, para superar problemas como el del hambre y la desnutrición, la marginación del campesinado, mediante programas de reforma agraria y de desarrollo rural integrados; de colonización de la región amazónica, precisamente donde se encuentran sus grandes recursos agropecuarios, forestales y del subsuelo; y, los relacionados con las pérdidas de las cosechas, analfabetismo, vivienda, etc. En definitiva, para consolidar posiciones, impedir errores, retrocesos o caídas y poder continuar desarrollando sus importantes recursos en forma planificada y responsable.

Como las relaciones internacionales no sólo se desenvuelven directamente, sino también a través de grupos regionales y subregionales, me permito mencionar lo siguiente:

El Grupo Andino constituido por Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru y Venezuela, es un gran esfuerzo de integración en América Latina, no sólo por los lazos históricos y socioeconómicos de los países que lo conforman sino porque su vinculación responde a la doctrina bolivariana que está en el corazón de nuestros pueblos como algo consubstancial y eterno. Por lo mismo, el Ecuador que deposita sus mejores esperanzas en el Grupo Andino, solicita, que la FAO preste especial atención a los programas de integración agropecuaria de este grupo de países.

Esta asistencia es necesaria y muy importante ya que es el sector agropecuario el que paradójicamente no se ha integrado como es debido pese a ser el principal en todos los países del Grupo.

Para facilitar la asistencia que solicito, aspiro a que se establezca una oficina regional de la FAO en Quito, para que se atienda exclusivamente al Grupo Andino, permitiendo el adelanto de sus programas de integración agropecuaria y de colonización amazónica.

Enunciada de esta manera la posición del Ecuador para el cumplimiento de las finalidades de la FAO, me permito relevar algunos aspectos de desarrollo agropecuario de mi país:

El sector agropecuario juega un papel preponderante en el desenvolvimiento social y económico del Ecuador, no sólo por tener vinculado a sus actividades un porcentaje mayoritario de la población, sino también por su contribución a la generación de ingresos reflejada a través de su participación en el producto interno, en el comercio exterior y en la provisión de la mayor parte de los alimentos; así como de las materias primas para los procesos agro-industriales.

El Gobierno Nacional de las Fuerzas Armadas, al asumir el poder estructuró el Plan Integral de Transformación y Desarrollo para el período 1973-77, como norma para racionalizar la estrategia política y las inversiones de los sectores de la economía nacional. En este instrumento, al sector agropecuario se le asignó una importante contribución a la solución de los problemas económicos y sociales que durante décadas han incidido desfavorablemente en el desarrollo de la sociedad ecuatoriana.

En este período, los esfuerzos realizados por los sectores público y privado, han permitido enfrentar con éxito una parte de los innumerables problemas que aquejan la actividad agropecuaria. La asignación de mayores recursos económicos para el sector reflejados en una participación del 13 por ciento en el presupuesto estatal de 1976, en comparación con el 8 por ciento en 1973 y el incremento en el volumen de crédito agropecuario desde 63. 5 millones de dólares en 1970 hasta 208. 0 millones en 1977, al igual que el mejoramiento de su infraestructura física e institucional y el esfuerzo desplegado por los propios agricultores, han dado como resultado que, después de un largo período caracterizado por un lento crecimiento del producto agropecuario, se haya logrado elevar el 6. 8 por ciento su tasa promedio de crecimiento para el período 1972-1976, en contraste con un ritmo promedio del 11. 4 por ciento para el total de la economía.

Sin embargo, esta evolución todavía es insuficiente para el rol que este sector debe desempeñar como factor dinámico del desarrollo nacional. Problemas como la inadecuada distribución del ingreso, el desempleo y subempleo, la baja productividad, el uso inadecuado del espacio económico y el reto de mantener elástica la oferta de alimentos, permanecen latentes y obligan a redoblar esfuerzos en el futuro para su superación.

Si bien en los últimos años la incidencia del sector petrolero ha modificado la estructura de nuestras exportaciones, aún subsiste la influencia marcada de los productos del sector agropecuario en el crecimiento del comercio exterior, ya que su valor ha aumentado en forma continua y su composición ha experimentado una tendencia de cambio en favor de renglones no tradicionales.

Las importaciones para el sector han tenido en los últimos cinco años un crecimiento moderado, especialmente en lo referente a bienes de consumo no duraderos, en contraste con las materias primas y bienes de capital que experimentaron un mayor ritmo de crecimiento. Bajo estas circunstancias, nuestra balanza comercial agropecuaria demuestra una evolución positiva.

Otros hechos que se pueden destacar para presentar una visión de nuestra actividad agropecuaria en los últimos años, se refiere al incremento paulatino de la superficie utilizada para fines agropecuarios y simultáneamente el mejoramiento de la tecnología productiva como consecuencia del mayor empleo de semillas certificadas, agroquímicos y fertilizantes, lo que ha incidido favorablemente en los niveles de la productividad agropecuaria y en la recuperación del volumen de producción de algunos renglones de importancia para la alimentación.

La situación anterior, descrita a grandes rasgos, se ha logrado en gran parte gracias a la firme decisión de mi Gobierno de otorgar al sector agropecuario una mayor prioridad en términos de la solución de su problemática dentro del contexto nacional. En este sentido, la política para el sector ha estado enfocada principalmente al desarrollo de acciones en los siguientes campos:

Reforma Agraria cuya implementación durante los 13 últimos años ha sido motivo de una sistemática evaluación por parte de una comisión interinstitucional. Los resultados de dicha evaluación se hallan listos y después de pocos días serán conocidos por el Consejo Agrario Superior y el Consejo de Gabinete, para corregir errores en los cuales se haya incurrido y tomar decisiones básicas que permitan la adecuada ejecución de un programa tan importante como éste que tiende a acelerar la eliminación de la pobreza en la sociedad ecuatoriana, transformando las defectuosas formas de tenencia de la tierra, dinamizando la incorporación de los campesinos al proceso productivo y propiciando una mejor distribución de la riqueza a nivel nacional.

Colonización de la Región Amazónica declarada por mi Gobierno como programa de máxima prioridad con el objeto de incorporar a la economía nacional casi la mitad de su territorio, descongestionando las pobladas urbes de la Costa y Sierra y dando paso a la explotación de ingentes recursos naturales. A este respecto, me es grato anunciar que el Ecuador se apresta a la realización de un vasto programa de colonización dirigido, debidamente planificado y financiado, que significará el verdadero encauzamiento de su economía por los caminos del progreso. Para esto necesita la asistencia técnica y financiera de los organismos internacionales y la adecuada cooperación de los países desarrollados. Naturalmente con la colonización amazónica, el Ecuador se hallará en mejor posición para cumplir con sus compromisos internacionales, especialmente los relacionados con el incremento de la producción alimentaria para atender las necesidades futuras del mundo.

Regionalización del país, con el objeto de hacer uso adecuado del recurso suelo y poder definitivamente encauzar la producción en forma técnica para suplir la demanda interna y externa de alimentos. Este programa, en su primera etapa, se halla terminado en un 80 por ciento y constituirá el indispensable fundamento para el futuro desarrollo de la agricultura ecuatoriana.

Riego, para incorporar nuevas zonas a la producción agropecuaria, alcanzar el máximo aprovechamiento de las ya productivas y sobre todo para preservar y ordenar el recurso agua. En el Plan de Recursos Hidro-

lógicos y Obras de Infraestructura de Riego se han habilitado hasta el presente 68 000 hectáreas, beneficiando directamente a 20 000 familias y mejorando los rendimientos de los suelos. El Plan en su totalidad contempla la ejecución de aproximadamente 45 proyectos, a través de los cuales se habilitarían alrededor de 150 000 hectáreas.

La comercialización agropecuaria, para asegurar flujos adecuados y continuos de abastecimiento para consumidores y precios remunerativos para los productores, mediante la participación de las entidades públicas en la administración de servicios de almacenamiento y distribución de productos que son base de la alimentación, así como a través de la constitución y fortalecimiento de empresas mixtas en áreas de interés especial para el mercadeo de productos e insumos agropecuarios.

Para cumplir con este programa, mi Gobierno ha resuelto la construcción de silos y bodegas de almacenamiento en gran escala, así como redes de frigoríficos y mercados de mayoristas, reglamentando la intervención de los intermediarios y garantizando por todos los medios que los productores alcancen justa remuneración a sus esfuerzos. A este respecto, tengo el honor de anunciar la próxima expedición de un Código de Mercadeo Agropecuario que será único en su clase a nivel regional.

Aumento de la producción y productividad a través de la ejecución de proyectos integrados de desarrollo agropecuario, dirigidos preferentemente al pequeño y mediano productor y a formas asociativas de producción, con actividades diversificadas de asistencia técnica y servicios de apoyo a nivel de área de manera especial en las zonas de reforma agraria, de colonización, de riego y de aquellas caracterizadas por depresivas situaciones socioeconómicas, pero con condiciones favorables para la producción.

Con este objeto, el Gobierno durante el presente año decidió realizar una reorganización institucional del sector público agropecuario que persigue la descentralización de las actividades administrativas, financieras y de programación, buscando una mayor rentabilidad de la inversión pública y finalmente la reorientación de los servicios hacia el pequeño y mediano productor.

El fomento de la actividad pesquera en el país, que se ha convertido en uno de los rubros más importantes de la economía nacional con una inversión actual que sobrepasa los doscientos millones de dólares. El Estado ofrece las facilidades necesarias para la formación de empresas de economía mixta con la participación de capitales extranjeros. Gran parte del éxito alcanzado se debe al esfuerzo desplegado por la Subsecretaría de Pesca y que se manifiesta en las diversas obras realizadas, y sobre todo, en haber sobrepasado la meta establecida por el Plan Quinquenal al alcanzar una producción de 300 000 toneladas en 1976 superior a la de 216 400 toneladas establecidas para 1977, año final del indicado Plan.

Realizada esta breve exposición sobre la marcha del sector, antes de finalizar mi exposición, a nombre de mi país, cumplo con el deber de puntualizar lo siguiente:

El Ecuador ha reiterado su decisión firme por la plena vigencia del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, cuyos objetivos no son otros que los de corregir las grandes desigualdades existentes entre los países desarrollados y en vías de desarrollo, reparar las tremendas injusticias actuales, eliminar las disparidades crecientes en el concierto mundial, con el fin de asegurar a las generaciones presentes y del futuro, un mundo con mejores niveles de vida y en un ambiente de paz y justicia. Lamentamos que la falta de entendimiento en el primer quinquenio de la década, haya puesto al mundo ante peligrosas confrontaciones que pueden afectar a toda la población mundial si los países desarrollados no aplican las medidas previstas para alcanzar, en la presente década, los objetivos específicos de la estrategia.

Mi país mira con preocupación el desenvolvimiento de las negociaciones sobre el programa integrado de productos básicos efectuadas en el seno de la UNCTAD. La lentitud de las negociaciones de los productos que conforman el Programa Integrado demuestra la falta de decisión política de los países desarrollados, los cuales a pesar de sus declaraciones de buena voluntad, no han dado pasos significativos para solucionar, aunque sea en parte, la actual crisis del comercio internacional. El Ecuador aspira a que se concluya favorablemente la negociación del Fondo Común del Programa Integrado y se lleguen a consolidar los mecanismos que permitan poner en marcha el mencionado programa.

Mi país recaba el apoyo político de la Comunidad Internacional para que la negociación del Convenio Mundial del Banano pueda concluirse lo antes posible. Asimismo, solicita igual apoyo para que los países que aprobaron el convenio del Azúcar lo ratifiquen. Nos inquieta profundamente la corriente de opinión que propugna la reducción de recursos para los países que, como el nuestro, están iniciando el camino en el proceso de desarrollo, sin que ello signifique restar fuentes de apoyo a los más retrasados de la escala. El Ecuador, se opondrá con toda energía a cualquier acción de esta naturaleza, al tratar de restar recursos a la región Latinoamericana, bajo el pretexto de concentrarlos en los países más deprimidos o por razones relacionadas con la legítima defensa que hacen los países de sus recursos naturales.

El compromiso del aporte de los grandes países del uno por ciento de su producto nacional bruto para transferir recursos al mundo en desarrollo, sigue sin cumplirse, salvo dos o tres honrosas excepciones. Los países industrializados continúan sordos ante este clamor de justicia que tiene que lograr tal transferencia para garantizar un mundo de paz, dentro del nuevo orden económico internacional.

Así por ejemplo, en los últimos diez años el Comercio Internacional ha representado ingresos por un trillon de dólares. El 94 por ciento de esta cifra ha beneficiado a 23 países industrializados y tan sólo el 6 por ciento a los 110 países "en desarrollo", que tienen una población superior a los 2 500 millones de habitantes.

Los países "en desarrollo" exportan anualmente a los países industrializados 30 000 millones de dólares en materias primas, que se venden a los consumidores de esos países ricos en 200 000 millones de dólares. Estos datos nos revelan la tremenda injusticia y distribución anárquica de la riqueza.

Debe recordarse que América Latina ha empezado a trasladar a otros países, en especial a los de más reciente autonomía, los resultados de su experiencia de siglo y medio de vida independiente y de 32 años de acción perseverante del sistema.

Señor Presidente y Señores Delegados:

He venido expresamente a Roma con el objeto de expresar en primer lugar el agradecimiento a la FAO por haber prestado invalores servicios a mi país durante 25 años. En realidad me place manifestar que es difícil encontrar una actividad de importancia relacionada con el desarrollo agropecuario del Ecuador en la cual no haya participado directa o indirectamente la Organización Mundial.

En segundo lugar, he venido a dejar constancia de mi felicitación al Director General de la FAO por la posición realista y práctica generalmente adoptada en su programa de labores 1978-1979, con la cordial sugerencia de que se busque, no sólo atender directamente a los países, sino también, poner énfasis en los programas encaminados al cumplimiento de los objetivos mundiales de la FAO a través de las organizaciones regionales y subregionales de países, ya formados o en formación, por ser éstos los mejores canales para la expresión de esfuerzos unificados con miras a obtener resultados positivos en el menor tiempo posible.

Por último, con el objeto de relevar el aspecto enunciado anteriormente, considero que sería muy beneficiosa la presencia del señor Saouma en la III Reunión de Ministros de Agricultura del Grupo Andino, a realizarse en Bogotá del 5 al 9 de diciembre de este año, y su participación en el estudio de proyectos conjuntos, como el que presentará el Ecuador, relacionado con el establecimiento de un Centro de Información Computarizado en los campos de la investigación, producción, comercialización e industrialización agropecuaria, en tal forma que los Ministerios de Agricultura de la Subregión provean y reciban diariamente vía télex información estandarizada al respecto. Lo importante de la intervención de la FAO es que ella logre relacionar a este Centro con todos los países miembros de la Organización a través de AGRIS y del Sistema de Información y Alerta.

Señor Presidente y señores Delegados: Simón Bolívar, el libertador de nuestros países, hace aproximadamente 150 años dijo: "Yo deseo más que otro alguno ver formarse en América la más grande nación del mundo, menos por su extensión y riqueza, que por su libertad y gloria".

Los ecuatorianos con todo respecto repetimos ese concepto, pero en vez de referirnos a un continente, expresamos nuestra fe porque la humanidad forme un solo pueblo en el planeta Tierra como expresión de su fraternidad frente al Universo.

The meeting rose at 11. 20 hrs

La seance est levée à 11 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 11. 20 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/13

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
13ª SESION PLENARIA

(18 November 1977)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence, de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 14. 45 horas

bajo la presidencia de T. "Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

AZIZ-UL HUO (Bangladesh): On behalf of the delegation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the office of the Chairman of this important Conference. You have distinguished yourself as a practical administrator and as an academician with an admirable record of studies of agricultural sciences. This conference rightly expects a great deal from your leadership.

I take this opportunity to welcome the new members who have taken their seats in the family of the FAO at this session.

I cannot help but make a reference to Dr. B. R. Sen's candid analysis of things he has seen and his invitation to younger talents to resolve problems the elders failed to tackle adequately, I congratulate the two recipients of the B. R. Sen Award for their achievements for it is in the field the battle of FAO has to be won. It was a pleasure listening to the McDougall oration by His Excellency Mr. Andrew Young. He did not mince matters while saying the hunger and poverty do not recognize territorial barriers; he emphasized their presence anywhere threatens peace everywhere else the globe. He pleaded for the creation of an international corps of food volunteers.

I compliment Director-General Saouma for his very forceful presentation on the problems of production and distribution of the world's wealth of agriculture and the danger inherent in leaving these unsolved for long. His pragmatic approach to problems and his dynamic pursuit of remedial measures makes us feel that FAO is now geared to achieve a lot of what it believes to be worthy of achievement.

The Conference Secretariat did us a favour in asking us to focus attention to Investments in Agriculture in our respective country presentations. I shall now proceed to tell you something about my country, Bangladesh.

The new nation of Bangladesh is due to complete her first Five Year planned period of development in June 1978. This period has witnessed a variety of natural disasters and political upheavals. The last couple of years have, however, registered a lot of improvements in various fields including agriculture. Bangladesh has decided to let this current trend and programmes to continue for a two-year period of an Approach Plan and then launch five year plans with projection up to the end of the century. In the meantime work is now in progress on preparation of a national food and agriculture plan with assistance of FAO/UNDP/CGFPI.

Bangladesh, as you know, is a deltaic plain of about 55 000 square miles with a population of about 80 million and about 22 million acres of cultivable land. Agriculture is her main source of national income, employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. The country has fertile land and hard working farmers. But it is also frequently visited by natural disasters.

Although land capability and modern technology can increase productivity, the tradition-bound subsistence agriculture of Bangladesh has suffered from lack of adequate investments. The problem of food has been compounded by a rapid population growth and low productivity in agriculture. In recent years, the country has imported roughly 15 percent of its annual production of foodgrains. Given the investment the country's fertile soil, easily available water and abundant manpower can be harnessed to increase agricultural production and productivity. Intensive programmes of population control and increasing agricultural productivity are thus high in order of the country's list of priorities.

Substitution of cereals, pulses, oilseeds by local production are targets before the nation's planners. The key to a two-thirds increase in foodgrains production is expansion of the seed-based technology from 3.84 million acres in 1975-76 to 11.8 million acres by 1984-85. In terms of inputs, this implies a three-fold increase of fertilizer use and a two-fold increase of irrigation acreage. Intensive efforts to exploit the country's water resources to grow more non-rice crops and fish to bridge the nutrition gap will also have high priority.



Removal of the cereals gap and narrowing of the nutrition gaps may take care of the problem from the supply side. Creation of effective demand of the desired scale would necessitate generation of employment in adequate numbers. The key to employment generation will continue to be public works in support of land capability improvement and for movement of agricultural produce and labour. Programmes of increased production, employment generation and physical infrastructure have to proceed hand in hand.

#### Major Policy Issues

Bangladesh is a land of millions of small farmers. Adoption of land-augmenting technologies, seed-fertilizer-water based technology demand large cash outlays. In this process the small farmers, share-croppers tend to fail to join the mainstream of modernization. The process of growth and equity must be so intertwined as not to bypass the small farmers and share-croppers. The institutional aspects of development must be taken serious note of, small farmers must be assured of an attractive value for their labour, a profitable price for his produce. Tennurial security, access to inputs, protection against post-harvest losses, inadequacies in marketing have to be tackled simultaneously. Conscious of these needs the Government's policy is to:

Launch a massive water control programme with preference for labour intensive activities planned and implemented through local Government institutions.

Make available inputs including credit at the farm level through farmer's organizations.

Ensure entry of landless labourers, small farmers, women workers into the two-tier cooperatives system as active members so as to involve them in the mainstream of production and employment.

Provide special interest-rates and higher subsidy for small farmers.

Emphasize on small size irrigation equipments with electrification where possible.

In specific terms these objectives would call for:

Much higher investments in agriculture

Increasing of cropping intensity commensurate with soil reconnaissance and land capability studies.

Harnessing of under-used inland water bodies and the marine resources.

Selective efforts for livestock development to increase production of both draft animal power and protein food.

#### Investment Programme

The critical inputs required for raising productivity in crop production, particularly rice and wheat are seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, pesticides and credit.

Production, protection and distribution of high-yielding varieties of seeds will call for a chain of activities.

Fertilizer consumption is envisaged to rise from 454 thousand tons of 1975-76 (representing an average of 35 lbs per cultivable acre) to 1 345 thousand tons (120 lbs per acre) in 1984-85.

The total irrigated area would rise from 2. 71 million acres of 1975-76 to 4. 84 million acres in 1984-85. This will require 19 000 deep tubewells, 40 000 shallow tubewells and 45 000 low-lift pumps.

Measures to improve plant protection will demand organizational strengthening, increased emphasis on preventive measures, establishing of a sound reporting and response system.

The non-production inputs for agricultural development will include strengthening of agriculture research and training institutions and their outreach stations, demonstrations on farmer's own fields, popularization of local improved varieties of crops and, adaptive research with alternative possibilities.

Secondly improving the extension services, increased use of knowledgeable farmers as change agents will be seriously attempted.

Thirdly organizations from the farm level upwards will have to be adequately supported. Institutions like the village food production committees, regional training units and, district specialist teams will have to be adequately supported.

The physical infrastructure programmes envisages investments in the form of an Intensive Rural Works Programme in areas of high potential where institutional development, credit distribution, training programmes will be intensified.

The food-for-works programme supported by the World Food Programme is now geared for an investment of 3 000 000 tons of foodgrains generating 120 million man-days of employment per annum during the coming 7-year plan period.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme and the Intensive Area Development Programmes are expected to cover a major part of Bangladesh by 1985.

In this connexion, it is worth mentioning that countries of Asia and the Pacific region have recently decided to set up a Regional Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific at Comilla in Bangladesh. We are grateful for this and look forward to necessary cooperation and support from all concerned.

Bangladesh is on the threshold of launching a massive programme of raising agricultural productivity, reducing unemployment and fighting rural poverty. Each of these items named earlier has a price tag which add up to a big sum. I will not burden you with the figures. They are much higher than the present level of investments, both internal and external resources, but not far removed from these figures.

We are aware of our limitation of resources. We have a vast reservoir of manpower yet unexploited. Mobilization of the entire population for production is our aim. An annual growth rate of 4 percent in agriculture combined with steps to distribute the benefits of development are our goals.

We are conscious that agrarian and rural development programmes have to be largely designed and financed by each country itself. We have made a beginning. In our efforts we have received substantial support from the UN system, the FAO, the WFP and bilateral sources. We have, I believe, proved in the last couple of years that given the resources Bangladesh can use them for progressive programmes. We hope we shall continue to receive necessary support in our battle against poverty, hunger and malnutrition in building up a forward-looking outlook for a vast reservoir of human beings.

As recipients of aid we have a fund of experience. We feel that uncoordinated assistance without continuity, often fail to achieve permanent objectives. Lack of assurance of continuity generates a sense of receiving aid without serious thoughts about their use. Failure to press assistance as an instrument of measurable progress promotes dependence and frustrates the stated objectives of both donors and receivers.

Mr. Chairman, we have noted with deep appreciation the FAO's bold initiatives in humanity's march against hunger and malnutrition. We now look forward to practical and decisive steps in respect of improvement of seeds particularly of non-cereal crops, production and distribution of fertilizer, intensification of pest control, reduction of post-harvest losses, protection of interests of small farmers and women workers. These would, among other things, call for expansion of the Technical Cooperation Programme, operation of the IFAD followed by programmes of agrarian reforms and rural development.

In conclusion, I would stress that noble objectives, dynamic leadership and appropriate climate do not always combine. We seem to be fortunate at this conference of FAO to see signs of a rare coincidence. This must not be allowed to pass unused.

A. KACALA (Poland) (interpretation from Polish): Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I also would like to join the other speakers in congratulating you on your election to the post of the Chairman of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of our Organization.

I am convinced that under your chairmanship the work of our session will be carried out efficiently and will bring a success to the Organization.

I also would like to express our deep satisfaction on the occasion of the joining of our Organization by new countries and wish them fruitful cooperation with FAO and successful development of their agriculture.

Food providing for the world remains at present a most vital issue of the world community, just as it had been in October 1945 when the Food And Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was called into being. Purposes of the Organization, formulated in the preamble and in Article 1 of the Constitution, are as timely now as they were when resolved. In many world regions, primarily in some countries of Asia and Africa, a major part of the population is undernourished, and the little progress in food providing proves that sufficiently intensive efforts to solve the food problem are not undertaken.

Eradication of hunger and worldwide malnutrition is a long process consisting of many minor and major undertakings. Unfortunately, it seems that the ambitious programme, laid down during the World Food Conference, to do away with the most acute hunger effects up to 1985 will not be fully implemented. Let us not be misled by the generally favourable results in agriculture in the past few years. As it is rightly indicated in FAO evaluations, it was mainly favourable climatic conditions which accounted for these results, while total satisfactory indices cover up a difficult situation in many countries and of some regions which, for many years, have shown no virtual advance in per capita food production.

The fragile balance in the agricultural world market also gives reason for concern. Although world grain reserves have reached only a minimum level warranting world food security, they talk of "surplus disaster" in some exporting countries, and they carry into effect programmes for limiting grain production. Simultaneously, negotiations on concluding multilateral commodity agreements, which could lead to market stabilization, are proceeding extremely slowly. Under these circumstances, another bad harvest might bring about much more severe consequences than in the past years.

Programme changes, effected in the recent two years by the Director-General of FAO, which consist in practical intensification of investments in agriculture and in developing short-term programmes, as well as organizational changes, are, in principle, proper operational directions. The savings decisions undertaken also deserve appreciation. As a result of a whole set of undertakings the efficiency of the Organization has increased. The good reputation enjoyed among member countries by the Technical Cooperation Programme, which, after all, has no sizable amounts available, proves that success is often determined not by the extent of help granted but by operation speed.

The concentration by FAO of means available in the developing countries is also right. Nonetheless, the effected changes give rise to the following observations.

Firstly, the decentralization should not bring about excessive growth of FAO budget or overdevelopment of administrative apparatus.

Secondly, FAO should continue its activities in developed regions as well. Further limitation of operations might bring about the loss of a universal character of the Organization which should serve all of its member countries. Operations in developed regions can and should be oriented so as to bring benefit also to developing countries. This role could be performed, among others, by the international cooperation, initiated and developed in the European region in recent years, known as research networks, as well as by the exchange of technical information through the intermediary of FAO. Much attention was devoted at last year's European Regional FAO Conference to the developing cooperation in the European region and to its promising outlook, particularly after the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe had been signed. The Conference brought in many observations and initiatives which should be used in further works of the Organization.

Thirdly, FAO should develop particularly intensive activity in countries which are unable to solve their food problems by themselves. Meanwhile, as it appears from different reports, these countries are not taken into consideration to a sufficient degree in the distribution of means. Of course, the issue concerns primarily other organizations of the United Nations system but FAO also should devote more attention to this question.

As you know, in recent years the means allocated by the international community for agricultural development are considerably lower than those accepted as minimum in World Food Conference resolutions. In this connection, I would like to re-emphasize what has been said here many times before by representatives of Poland and of other countries, namely that the basic factor allowing the solution of major world problems is further advance in international détente. Only under the circumstances of proceeding détente can the growth of armament expenses be checked, and then limited. These expenses are tremendous, and it is known that they constitute a great burden both for the developed and for many developing countries, among these latter for those in which people suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

We hope that the Disarmament Conference to be held next year will become a turning point which will allow limitation of armament expenses, and allocation of the amounts saved for socio-economic development, the improvement of the world food situation included.

Although cooperation of the entire international community is one of the prerequisites for solving the world food problem, we still are at the beginning of the road. Gradual carrying into effect of the New International Economic Order, adopted at the VIth and VIIth Special Sessions, will, undoubtedly, allow a more effective cooperation. However, it should be borne in mind that the basic condition for accomplishment of the assumed aim is proper socio-economic policy of the countries which are in a difficult food situation, and a full mobilization of their domestic resources. A highly disturbing fact is the occurrence in many of these countries of a considerable differentiation of the population's living standard, much higher sometimes than in developed capitalistic countries. Meanwhile, the lesser the resources available per capita, the greater the importance of their fairly even division so that they suffice for all. Among social groups which are in the most critical situation are also small holders and agricultural workers. It is hard to count on a fast and steady growth of agricultural production if these population groups suffer from severe hardships, whereas only a stratum of a few fairly affluent farmers and landowners benefit from programmes of agricultural assistance.

We are concerned by the fact that so little space was devoted in the documents of this Conference to one of the crucial questions, that is, agrarian reforms. Though preparatory works are going on for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform, FAO has a long-standing experience and abundant records available in this field.

Investments in agriculture are a major condition for agricultural production growth, and therefore I would like to present, in short detail, Polish experiences in this field.

During the post-war period we were gradually going over from labour-consuming intensification of agriculture to the capital-intensive pattern. The latter was based, to an ever higher degree, on modern technique, and the process ran differently in state farms and differently in individual peasant farms. Since the very beginning, in state farms industrial production means replacement of lower manpower resources faster than those in individual farms. On the other hand, at present, in connection with the introducing of complex mechanization, conditions are provided for going over to a new stage of capital-absorbing intensification which consists of gradual employment reduction per area unit, and in going over from traditional to modern technology in agricultural production.

In peasant farming the process of capital-absorbing intensification has been taking place since the 70s with unchanged employment per area unit. Individual peasant farming is entering the second stage of capital-absorbing intensification only now, and, according to the assumptions of the long-range plan, the process will be carried on at an accelerated rate in the coming decade.

The basic factors which determined in Poland the development strategy of agriculture and thus the character of intensification processes, as well as trends and extent of investment in agriculture, were, on the one hand, the demographic situation and, on the other hand, the necessity for industrialization. The demographic situation imposed investment directions which aimed primarily at increase of agricultural production and, to a lesser degree, at employment reduction. The preferred investments were those influencing crop increases and, consequently, animal production growth. We launched an ambitious development programme of fertilizers and pesticides, as well as a large-scale programme, which, of course, required a development of industries producing machines, tools and materials needed for amelioration. Another investment direction was outlay for construction of new animal farm buildings and for modernization of the existing ones.

Beside investments directly influencing agricultural production growth, the electrification of rural areas was a direction of priority. This preference resulted both from production and cultural respects.

Although outlays for mechanization kept growing in proportion to the total amount of investment outlays, almost till the late 60s they were not the preferred direction of investment, particularly in individual peasant farming with considerable manpower resources per area unit available. Till 1970 the service form of peasant farm tractorization was developed mainly and implemented by agricultural circles, which are organizations associating individual farmers. It was only in the present decade that the number of tractors in individual farms started growing fast.

At present, the essential technical reconstruction of agriculture is both necessary and implementable in Poland. On the one hand, the level of the country's economic development, particularly the advanced industrial potential, allows considerable growth of investment outlays for agriculture, and, on the other hand, the demographic situation of the country provides conditions for shifting manpower from agriculture to non-agricultural sectors. Employment reduction will ensure increase of labour productivity, and will limit growth of production costs.

Conditions for essential technical changes in agriculture have been provided in Poland for a few years now and are expressed in higher investment outlays for development of industries' manufacturing production means for agricultural development. A second factory of tractors is under construction now and by 1980 the industry of agricultural machines will launch production of over 80 new and modernized types of agricultural machines. Our developed industry of agricultural machines does not and will not satisfy in full the agricultural demand for all kinds of tractors, machines and equipment. Therefore, a wide international cooperation in this field is needed, both in form of direct imports and exports and cooperation unions as well as exchange of records and licenses with other countries.

An example of particularly strong cooperation with COMECON countries is the setting up of the "Agromasz" system, which handles demand-planning common to all participating countries, elaboration of constructions, assigning producers of specialist machines for fruit and vegetable production, and determining delivery volume of those machines to single member countries.

It appears from the above observations first of all that the process of technical modernization of agriculture is a permanent process resulting both from biological and technological advance and from ever-growing concentration and increasing production scale, as well as from the introduction of a new generation of improved and more efficient machines and equipment in agricultural production. It also appears that investment policy must be elastic and adjusted to changing socio-economic conditions, with apt use, at the initial stages, of the existing development possibilities on the ground of traditional techniques.

In making a decision on technical reconstruction of agriculture, one should realize that it requires tremendous technical, financial and intellectual means, generally exceeding the possibilities of a medium-sized country, even being on a fairly high level of economic development. Therefore, under such circumstances, the aim should be a close cooperation within a region, ' or even an inter-regional cooperation, and a setting-up of an industry of agricultural production means which would satisfy the needs of all participating countries.

Even most carefully elaborated technical programmes for agricultural development generally fail to give the expected results if they leave out or insufficiently consider social questions. A socio-economic programme should constitute a whole, and social issues often exercise a strong influence on production.

In recent years in Poland momentous decisions have been made as far as social benefits for agriculture are concerned, which decisions concern several millions of farmers and their families. I would like to mention two major ones.

First, beginning with 1 January 1972, free medical care for all the agricultural population was carried into effect. Secondly, one month ago, there went into force a law on retirement pay and other allowances for farmers and their families, with state subsidy being the basis for the retirement fund.

Both these decisions are important steps aiming at doing away with differences between social benefits obtained by farmers and those obtained by workers in other economic sectors on the grounds of an employment contract.

I dealt at some length with several Polish experiences in investments and social benefits for I believe they can be useful for some of the developing countries in formulating their socio-economic development programmes. It results from the fact that Poland entered the industrialization zone fairly recently, which also influenced the character of agricultural intensification processes. These experiences may also be of interest in view of the differentiated agrarian structure; in Polish agriculture, beside peasant family farming, there exists a socialist sector consisting of state and cooperative farms.

These experiences also prove, by way of general conclusion, that it is very difficult to carry on one's own simultaneous reconstruction of agriculture and industrial development. It means that for simultaneous implementation of these aims a wide international cooperation in many fields is imperative and that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has a particularly vital role to perform in it.

F. C. COLOTAS (Cyprus): Mr. Chairman, allow me first to congratulate you on your election and then to welcome the new member countries.

The participation of Cyprus in the deliberations of the Food and Agriculture Organization's biennial conferences has always been a rewarding experience for my country. This year's conference acquires

additional importance since we meet in an atmosphere where, though immediate international food crises have temporarily been averted, yet the horrifying possibility of the reoccurrence still exists. Going through the agenda of the Conference and the papers prepared, I noted that topics for discussion include such vital ones as the World Food and Agriculture Situation, the Prevention of Food Losses, the International Agricultural Adjustment and the Developments in the Regime of the Sea and their Implications for Fisheries. It is my conviction that discussions on these issues will contribute decisively in the search of solutions. All those who have participated in the preparation of these papers, or in any other way have contributed to make this Conference possible, deserve our sincerest congratulations and high appreciation.

Although it is not my intention to present to the Conference a review of the World Food and Agriculture Situation, nevertheless, I feel strongly the need to highlight a number of issues of international dimensions, which must keep our concern open and our anxiety alive. Hunger and malnutrition are still facts of everyday life for hundreds of millions of people all over the world. Though world food production has recently been improved somewhat, still it falls short of the goal of 4 percent rate of annual growth set for the Second Development Decade. Reliable sources indicate that during the first half of this decade, per capita food production in developing countries showed only a slight improvement; in some regions it had actually declined by over 1 percent a year, whilst prospects for the medium and longer terms are still alarming. Overall world food production is still precarious and its uneven distribution on the international, regional, national and individual levels makes the situation fragile. Many food-importing developing countries are faced with continuously rising import bills and increasing deficits in their balance of payments. This makes it more difficult for them to secure further food supplies in ample quantities and at prompt times. A substantial increase in food production in most parts of the world is, therefore, a pressing need.

Fortunately, reliable studies and estimates indicate that the earth still provides a great potential for further expansion of food production in general, and that particularly good prospects exist through increasing land productivity and better exploitation of the potential of the world's oceans. This is in fact the tragic aspect of life: hunger and malnutrition prevail against a potential background of ample food supply for each one of us on earth and for the generations to come. Increasing food production, however, is only a part of the story. Not only must we increase food production and productivity, but this increase has to be equitably distributed on the international and national levels and the increased food supply must be well protected against losses. In fact, my delegation is quite pleased that the aspect of prevention of food losses is part of this Conference's agenda, since in our opinion not enough resources have been earmarked so far at national or international levels for the prevention of such losses.

The effort to realize the world's full agricultural potential, however, must be looked upon as an issue of international concern, calling for effective structural changes in the world economic system and also for increased international cooperation, financial and technical assistance. We have in fact agreed two years ago, at the Eighteenth Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, that the maximization of food production cannot be possible without increased technical and financial assistance from the most developed towards the least developed countries. Nor can it of course be possible-with the rapidly escalating costs in the basic agricultural inputs, viewed against a background of unstable export markets and trade barriers, for the obvious reason that the declining export earnings of developing countries, in relation to their increasing import bills, deprive them of incentives and resources so badly needed in their developmental effort.

It is, therefore, our view that the Food and Agriculture Organization by its very nature is at the front line in this struggle for more food, accessible to more and more people; this Organization through its efforts to establish a New International Economic Order, to adopt a strategy for the promotion of international agricultural adjustment and to establish an International Fund for Agricultural Development and to organize training courses, has become the focal point for the world agricultural development.

Please allow me now to say a few words on what we have been doing in Cyprus: with agriculture being the major sector in the economy of the country, great emphasis in investment has been given in the fields of irrigation and land development, in plant and animal protection, in the introduction and development, in plant and animal protection, in the introduction and development of improved varieties of crops and animals and in agricultural research. As a result of this concerted action, agricultural gross output increased, at current prices, during the period 1960-73 at an annual compound rate of 10.6 percent. Agricultural exports increased in the same period by 230 percent.

The share of food exports in the value of total domestic exports, increased from 32. 3 percent in 1960 to 57. 9 percent in 1973. Agricultural exports in general increased their share in total domestic exports in a parallel way. Between 1961 and 1971, value added in agriculture nearly doubled. With an annual average rate of population growth of 0. 8 percent for the period 1962-73 and an annual average unemployment rate of 1, 0 percent for the period 1967-73, coupled with increased food production, the level of nutrition and the availability of food among the population improved substantially. It has of course to be mentioned that in this progress the Food and Agriculture Organization as well as other international organizations and individual countries, has contributed significantly through various programmes.

It has been most lamentable that the progress achieved in the field of food production and nutrition in general in my country was cut short in the summer of 1974 by the Turkish invasion. As a result of that, besides the immense human losses and suffering, 40 percent of the area of the country was occupied and 200 000 Greek Cypriote, representing 40 percent of the total Greek Cypriot population, were forced to abandon their homes, farms, workshops, etc. and to seek refuge in the free areas. Out of these, about 100 000 people representing as many as 25 000 families were farmers who lost their farms, equipment and livestock and moved into refugee camps in the free areas, living initially upon relief aid. The continuing refugee problem together with the loss of more than half of the country's agricultural resources, output and exports emanating from the occupied areas, deprived the country of a major portion of its natural and financial resources, so badly needed in its developmental effort. It is highly appreciated and we are thankful to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and other international organizations, as well as to many individual countries, which extended a helpful hand with a view to alleviating the problems created. Since the refugee problem is still open in my country, the need for increased international aid to alleviate human suffering is still a pressing issue.

In this short statement I have tried to describe the Cyprus agricultural situation and, at the international level, to underline the central position that the Food and Agriculture Organization occupies and the leading role that it is called upon to perform in the international efforts towards increased production and widespread availability of food. In these efforts my country is prepared to contribute to its maximum possible potential and to this end we are extending all our support and cooperation to the Food and Agriculture Organization as well as to all countries involved. Since hunger, malnutrition poverty and unemployment are issues with worldwide dimensions and implications, determining the existence or not of peace, happiness and the well-being of the peoples on the earth, we pledge full support and contribution to the efforts towards their alleviation and eventual eradication. We are expressing our highest appreciation to the work and efforts that the Food and Agriculture Organization is exerting and wish to this Conference every success.

#### POINT OF ORDER

#### POINT D'ORDRE

#### PUNTO DE ORDEN

I. BIRSE (Turquie): Je regrette vraiment d'être amené à prendre la parole à la suite de certaines observations du Ministre chypriote visant mon pays. Nous sommes ici, M. le Président, pour discuter des questions de lutte contre la faim; la FAO doit être la dernière enceinte où l'on peut discuter de la question de Chypre. C'est une question hautement politique, délicate et complexe. Je ne me permettrai pas de prendre le temps précieux de cette auguste assemblée pour une polémique. Nous sommes convaincus que cette question trouvera une solution juste et durable grâce à des négociations des deux communautés menées avec bonne foi. Je voudrais seulement, M. le Président, que l'on prenne note que la délégation turque regrette infiniment que la FAO soit utilisée pour des buts de propagande. Le Ministre chypriote doit savoir qu'il a été démontré dans le passé que les efforts de ce genre ne contribuent guère à la solution du problème de Chypre.

E. VALDES OTERO (Uruguay): Señor Presidente, señores representantes de los Estados Miembros de FAO; señores.

La delegación de Uruguay, que tengo el honor de presidir, se complace en presentar al señor Presidente sus felicitaciones por la designación de que ha sido objeto, que fuera apoyada por nuestro país. Asimismo, reconoce en él al representante de un país que ha librado una importante lucha para asegurar un sistema democrático de vida.

También se complace en presentar sus felicitaciones a los funcionarios de FAO en la persona del señor Director General, por la organización de esta Conferencia, pero también porque en la sede de esta Institución se cultiva el espíritu de concordia entre los pueblos del mundo, lo que es un espectáculo reconfortante de integración entre las razas y nacionalidades aquí presentes.

El Uruguay es un antiguo miembro de la Organización. En consecuencia, no requiere presentación. Ha sido sede de Conferencias regionales, y en el año próximo va a ser Sede de la Conferencia Regional de FAO, de América Latina, pero es bueno que hagamos conocer cuál es la situación actual en nuestro país.

Desde el punto de vista institucional, el Uruguay fue uno de los primeros países que sufrió el flagelo del terrorismo internacional; lo venció en su territorio; aseguró la convivencia pacífica de sus habitantes; y, junto a otros países de la región, se ha constituido, hoy, en un área de esperanza para la humanidad en su conjunto. Es así que se ha transformado en centro muy importante de inversiones internacionales en la industria, en el agro, y aún en la propiedad inmobiliaria. Los capitales internacionales buscan el amparo de nuestras instituciones.

Nuestro país se apresta, asimismo, a emprender el desafío de actualizar su derecho público. La humanidad, en cincuenta años, evolucionó más que en veinte siglos anteriores, y sin embargo el derecho público ha permanecido de algún modo inmutable, y requiere hoy una urgente modernización. La finalidad de tal modernización es encontrar el justo punto de equilibrio entre los derechos individuales y los derechos de la comunidad en su conjunto, porque aquéllos! parecen sin éstos, pero éstos se desvanecen sin aquéllos.

Desde el punto de vista económico y social, nuestro país, Uruguay, se encuentra en una situación que podríamos definir como la de un país en vías de desarrollo, pero con indicadores propios de un país desarrollado. La economía tiene dependencia frente a los mercados internacionales en los que no ha podido ni puede influir, ya que las importaciones están gravadas por su dependencia frente a productos básicos de gran significación, como por ejemplo el petróleo y los fertilizantes. También están gravadas por su dependencia frente a importaciones de bienes de capital y de tecnología. Sus exportaciones, aún cuando se encuentran dentro de un proceso creciente de diversificación, constan fundamentalmente de productos agrícolas industrializados y de bienes manufacturados, desarrollados en forma creciente.

Sin embargo, frente a esta realidad, tenemos indicadores propios de un país desarrollado, como he dicho, con anterioridad. Los ingresos de la población, aunque el país espera tenerlos mayores en un futuro inmediato, son sumamente altos en términos comparativos. El grado de alfabetización del país es altísimo. El modo de empleo de la renta nacional es el propio de un país desarrollado, y además no existe, afortunadamente, en nuestro país, ni hambre ni malnutrición. Es uno de los países con un índice de consumo de proteínas de los más altos en el mundo.

En nuestro país en este momento se sigue una estrategia de crecimiento que creo es de interés exponer ante esta importante Asamblea.

En primer lugar, podemos decir que creemos en el propio esfuerzo, aunque acogemos la inversión internacional, dándole el amparo de nuestras instituciones y confirmando igualdad de trato entre el capital nacional y extranjero así como beneficios promocionales. También vigilamos muy estrechamente los indicadores que reflejan el crecimiento autosostenido de nuestro pueblo. Vigilamos el crecimiento del ingreso de los diversos agentes económicos; Vigilamos el empleo de los recursos nacionales en la inversión interna; vigilamos el incremento de la eficiencia en las empresas públicas y privadas; y vigilamos, también, la apertura pragmática de nuestra economía hacia los mercados internacionales.

Consideramos, en segundo lugar, que el sector agropecuario constituye la principal palanca del desarrollo nacional. El sector agropecuario del Uruguay tiene muy importantes ventajas comparativas que estamos dispuestos a hacer efectivas en el mercado internacional. Pensamos, eso sí, que hay que producir para el mercado internacional, habiendo dejado una etapa de ingenuidad, para estar transitando, en este momento, en pos de la madurez económica. Respetamos el derecho de las demás naciones a proteger sus propios intereses, pero nos sentimos capaces de proteger los nuestros. Yo diría que, afortunadamente, nos sentimos capaces de proteger nuestros propios intereses nacionales. En estos momentos, por ejemplo, los cuatro principales países exportadores de carne hemos llegado a un acuerdo sumamente importante a



los efectos de perfeccionar el mercado internacional de la carne. Este acuerdo, trascendente, y que en algún momento la historia recogerá, tuvo su origen en un acuerdo interministerial formalizado en la ciudad de Montevideo en el mes de junio de 1977, entre los Ministros de Agricultura de la Argentina y del Uruguay.

Estamos desarrollando en nuestro país la tecnología con crecientes transferencias desde el sector externo, pero también con importantes transferencias dentro de nuestro país hacia los pequeños productores, que son los más necesitados de tecnología. Por ejemplo, en materia de modernización de la explotación agropecuaria, en el Uruguay es hoy lugar común la práctica de la inseminación artificial. Existe un mejor aprovechamiento de las praderas naturales a través de una división creciente de los potreros. Existe en materia pecuaria un programa que tiene el apoyo del Banco Mundial, y que también ofrece a los productores, como alternativa, recursos nacionales propios.

Estamos caminando por el sendero de la tecnificación agrícola en un programa de cuatro años para el establecimiento de sistemas agrícolas y ganaderos en situación de cubrir un millón y medio de hectáreas, realizado también con recursos propios de nuestro país, al que le he asignado la mayor importancia, y que determinará, seguramente, un crecimiento de nuestra producción a niveles realmente espectaculares.

En nuestro país existe fácil acceso a la tierra. Así como no hay hambre de proteínas, tampoco existe hambre de tierra. Estamos desarrollando un programa de colonización, también con recursos nacionales, a fin de crear una infraestructura vial y de energía eléctrica; un nivel de vida para el productor y su familia, y además un incremento de la producción, a fin de transformar a los colonos, que son los más pequeños productores, en un ejemplo de desarrollo de la producción agropecuaria, que sirva de modelo a los productores en su conjunto.

Tenemos, además, importantes políticas nacionales diseñadas por nuestro país, las cuales se encuentran cumpliendo puntualmente los cronogramas establecidos, como ocurre con la política nacional de desarrollo pesquero, sector que en este momento tiene una capacidad de procesamiento del orden de 80 000 toneladas anuales, habiéndose previsto en el cronograma para 1980, 200 000 toneladas anuales; , y 400 000 para el quinquenio siguiente, de los años 1980-1985.

Todo esto que acabo de decir de nuestro país, dicho en tal forma constituye un lugar común en nuestro propio país, pero, sin embargo, en la sede de FAO consideramos bueno exponerlo porque entendemos que puede llegar a constituir un modelo de desarrollo en el sector rural que debe merecer la atención de este organismo internacional en su lucha contra el flagelo del hambre y la malnutrición, que afectan a importantes masas humanas; para luchar contra los bajos niveles de alfabetización, que impiden el acceso a las vías del desarrollo, y para luchar también contra el atraso en la producción, que ha dado lugar a graves crisis alimentarias, que todos conocemos, y que seguramente determinarán en el futuro, lamentablemente, otras crisis semejantes.

Presentada la situación actual de nuestro país a vuestra consideración, creemos oportuno manifestar lo que Uruguay espera de FAO. En primer lugar, espera que se dé ejecución a lo que se insinúa en documentos de FAO. En este sentido tenemos que señalar la complacencia de nuestro país a la introducción del Director General en el documento C 77/23, sobre los objetivos de FAO a plazo medio. Encontramos en ese documento lo que podríamos llamar el principio de la concentración de los recursos en sustitución de la dispersión que los torna inoperantes. Dice en dicho documento el Director General de FAO: "En materia de planificación he manifestado mi disgusto por la dispersión de una gran parte de los recursos de la Organización en un sinnúmero de estudios interminables de planificación. Son mucho más interesantes para quienes los realizan que útiles para los ministros y ejecutivos de cualquier país en desarrollo, preocupados por los problemas reales y apremiantes de sus agricultores y masas hambrientas con las que tienen que enfrentarse. "

También compartimos el principio de realismo en las soluciones que está documentado en esa misma introducción del Director General. Dice allí: "En nuestra inquietud por el futuro, por el siglo entrante, no debemos perder de vista la exigencia imperativa de una acción inmediata y concreta para aliviar los sufrimientos del día de hoy y construir para el mañana. "

Uruguay espera también que la FAO continúe sosteniendo la difusión de la tecnología. En este sentido, en Uruguay lo está haciendo muy bien. La aportación de FAO en Uruguay está centrada fundamentalmente en áreas correspondientes a la veterinaria, agricultura y pesquería. No tiene un gran volumen en materia de dinero, pero estos niveles modestos, son los que, precisamente, promueven el autoesfuerzo, que es una de las características del desarrollo nacional uruguayo.

Esperamos también que FAO centre su atención en promover la colocación de los excedentes agrícolas. Existen en el concierto de las naciones varias formas posibles de incrementar la producción. Una consiste en incrementar el empleo del capital técnico, mejorar la tecnología, por ejemplo, como propone FAO

a fin de prevenir las pérdidas en alimentos para abandonar luego a los productores en la colocación de sus productos. Con ello no solamente se pierde la inversión, sino que además se pierde la fe en el proceso de desarrollo, en la inversión y en la acción del Organismo.

Existe otra forma de implementar el desarrollo, impulsándolo en forma sostenida, partiendo del principio, de la base de que debe promoverse cuanto antes el encuentro rápido de la oferta con la demanda, acelerando los ciclos de producción y aplicando entonces la tecnología y el capital en un circuito económico dinámico. Yo diría, para fundar esta premisa, que para qué sirve inyectar sangre al enfermo cuando las arterias están obstruidas. La realidad del comercio internacional en materia agrícola demuestra que sí, que las arterias están obstruidas y que es muy difícil dejar sin efecto esas obstrucciones, y que en ello debemos centrar nuestros principales empeños. Hay en el mundo contemporáneo, aunque parezca paradójico, países en desarrollo productores de alimentos que, como Uruguay, tienen excedentes sin colocar, y países desarrollados que se encuentran empeñados en cerrar sus mercados a los países productores de alimentos. Transfieren artificialmente ingresos de sus consumidores a sus productores; de sus consumidores a los consumidores de sus socios y aun de sus consumidores a los consumidores de otros países desarrollados, transformando, inesperadamente, todo el complejo comercial de los alimentos en una especie de negocio suntuario que a nada bueno puede conducir, en tanto que estos mismos mercados, al mismo tiempo, justo es reconocerlo, realizan muy importantes aportaciones económicas a los organismos internacionales y a los propios países en vías de desarrollo, pero con estos aportes se incrementa la producción, y luego resulta que se termina cerrándoles la frontera.

Frente a este panorama de los países en desarrollo sin hambre y de los países desarrollados, tenemos a los países con hambre y con malnutrición, que presencian, y seguramente no comprenden, cómo nos lamentamos todos de su suerte, y sin embargo no progresamos suficientemente en nuestro camino, que tendrá que ser muy claro y muy inequívoco.

En la economía internacional está sucediendo lo que sucedía en las economías nacionales en la época en que la caridad predominaba sobre las políticas de empleo y de ingresos. Hoy nadie piensa que los países puedan desarrollarse y obtener mejores niveles de vida con patronatos sino con políticas de empleo y de ingresos. Y esta premisa, que es indiscutible a nivel de las economías nacionales, resulta paradójicamente novedosa y sorprendente a nivel de la economía internacional.

Señor Presidente, la conclusión que se puede extraer de mi exposición es que, como Nación, vemos el futuro con optimismo. Los obstáculos, las trabas, el desafío que se nos ha impuesto, han servido para hacernos maduros; han contribuido a formarnos por nuestro propio esfuerzo. Hoy Uruguay se está diversificando en la producción y en el comercio; se ha restituido a las prácticas del mercado y ha implantado una política de apertura en la economía hacia el comercio internacional que merece cada día el creciente respeto de las otras naciones.

Desde el punto de vista mundial, nos sorprende la falta de perspectiva histórica de los dirigentes nacionales inclinados a un cerrado proteccionismo a nivel de sus economías nacionales.

Nosotros formulamos la esperanza de que FAO, como organismo internacional especializado en la materia, sea capaz de integrar los esfuerzos de los Estados Miembros a fin de elaborar una estrategia mundial en materia alimentaria que se encuentre en el nivel de lucidez que la historia de la humanidad, con derecho, demanda a los hombres de nuestro tiempo.

MRS. F. A. CHENOWETH (Liberia): Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen.

I bring you greetings from the home front on behalf of our Head of State, the Government and people of Liberia and on behalf of my delegation and in my own name.

I am particularly pleased that once again, the urgent need to resolve existing problems commonly experienced regionally and internationally in food production, has found expression in the convening of this international forum. However, as I have personally participated in similar forums since the early seventies, I fervently hope that there will be more meaningful impact follow-up actions after our deliberations here.

It is comforting to know that World Leaders and experts in the area of agriculture, have always shown an avid concern for and a resolute desire to ameliorate the stance of World Food Productivity, especially in developing countries where distressingly, food production has not kept pace with population growth.

Here, we must review our respective records in terms of visible and quantifiable, as well as abstract accounts of improvements achieved by member nations in agricultural production since the convening of the Eighteenth Session of the biennial Conference of this Organization, identify problematic areas and bottlenecks, assess the activities of the FAO as they relate to the food situation in our respective countries and the implications for the future, and emerge with practical, meaningful and viable proposals for, and if need be restructuring current FAO food aid policies, programmes and activities in an effort to bridge the ever widening disparity between food production and population growth.

We note with satisfaction that the improvement in World Food Supplies which began in 1975, continued during the past year. However, many undesirable features remain, particularly in respect of long-term problems. Regrettably, "in true assessment, little progress has been made towards the achievement of the goals agreed upon by the World Food Conference.

The improved production results in the developing countries in 1975 were generally followed by further satisfactory increases in 1976. It is of particular interest that the average annual increase in food production in these countries since 1970 has now risen to 2.6 percent although this remains well below the 4 percent target called for in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, reaffirmed by the 1974 World Food Conference, is nonetheless noteworthy.

At the international level, the increase of 3 percent in food production in 1976 was the largest since 1973. Although the increase was minimal, it was a positive and encouraging indication of improvement in the World Food Situation. World cereal production rose by 9 percent to a new record level, rice production lagged slightly behind the 1975 record.

It would be wise however, not to content ourselves with this seemingly impressive achievement in increased food production since we can vividly record that this was the same situation just prior to that which led to the world food crisis. The fact therefore that the receding affect of the world food crisis is now resulting in talks among some developed countries to cut back on their present level of grain production should not be supported since the major improvements have been achieved in the developed countries leaving the masses - the developing countries in their plight of food shortages. This condition of course has persisted largely because the major contributing factor of low capital levels for the intensive infusion in agriculture to make any meaningful changes is still most vividly present in these countries.

In spite of this, it is particularly interesting to note that the increasing attention to agriculture in the form of relatively greater investment in national development plans, and of various programmes and measures, are already beginning to show results in some countries including my own.

On the home front, the agricultural situation is characterized by a strengthening and establishment of the social institutions and infrastructure necessary for the take-off for a self-sustaining and "dynamic agricultural growth and development. To achieve this, a two-fold objective is being pursued:

1. The acceleration of the production of the priority crops, namely rice, tree-crops, livestock, and forestry - towards achieving a level of national sufficiency in our staple food, and to develop the commercial value of our forestry products;
2. To provide assistance to the subsistence farmers so as to re-direct their objectives and improve their productivity, through the application of more scientific farming methods, from a subsistence level to highly productive cash crops for the local and export markets.

The low level of capital for investment remains the major constraint. Additionally, like most other developing countries, Liberia continues to rely very heavily on the export of agricultural primary products to world markets at prices which are controlled by the same developed countries that control the prices of the manufactured goods which the developing countries need for agricultural development. The only solution which seems to hold any hope is the establishment of a New International Economic Order, which the United Nations General Assembly has already called for.

In our assessment of FAO's past and present activities, we hold the view that FAO's Programmes are delimited too much to agricultural activities and not to rural development in its totality. We feel that the new policy of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which directs increasing amounts into the agricultural sector through integrated rural development programmes is commendable and should be emulated by FAO.

For many years, developing countries, through the FAO, relied on technical assistance from the United Nations Development Programme for major agricultural programmes. This source which today is at a level too low to be meaningful has resulted in the termination of projects in these countries before the true impact could be felt. In view of this, we who have attended FAO biennial meetings over the years and have participated in the various discussions as to what FAO could do with regards to the international agricultural adjustment must here admit that unfortunately this Organization has failed to achieve any success in this area.

Another area of concern to my delegation - again this is one which has been debated in this Conference over the past two biennia, and also at two regional meetings is the very low level of representation of the African Region in the FAO staff structure, both here at the Headquarters and in the fields. We again call on the Director-General to take some urgent and very positive action to correct this most unsatisfactory situation.

We have reviewed the Programme of Work and Budget as proposed by the Director-General for the 1978-79 biennium and we support both his proposals and action programmes in the following areas:

1. The prevention of food losses - We are particularly interested in the sound proposals for reducing pre- and post-harvest losses.
2. The creation of the Technical Co-operation Programme.
3. The decentralization of the activities of the Organization to the country level.
4. The appointment of more FAO Country Representatives.

On the proposal for a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, which will discuss principles with wide differences among countries, we call on the Director-General to take note of the mediocre level of actual achievement from the World Population Conference and the World Food Conference when the over-all cost of organizing such forums is considered and should therefore use these experiences as guidelines for expenditure on this Conference.

We join the many other countries who have extended words of welcome to all of the new member countries that have just been admitted into the Organization. We are especially pleased to see amongst us our sister countries Angola and Mozambique. Your struggle for freedom has been long and difficult as you have waited for more than five hundred years for freedom from the cruel colonial domination to which you were subjected. We hold great hope that our other brothers and sisters who unfortunately still suffer from this oppression will very shortly achieve their freedom.

On the whole, my delegation joins me in congratulating you Dr. Saouma for the manner in which you have ably directed the affairs of the Organization, which has resulted in the meaningful reorientation of the Organizational activities since your incumbency.

Though we belong to that part of the world where by reason of fate we find ourselves living at substandard levels with all of the attendant disadvantages, we maintain the hope that if difficulties lie in our path to progress, if obstructions clutter our way, if responsibilities burden our shoulders, let them be neither insurmountable, irremovable nor discouraging. But let them be regarded as tests of our faith, challenges to our courage, defiance to our strength and scrutiny of our purpose.

Our duty as agriculturists and members of the World's Food and Agriculture Organization should continue to be that of delineating the path and taking the lead for continuous development of the sector. On this way, my country reaffirms its determination to loose itself in the cause of agricultural and over-all national development and I can assure you that we are determined in this resolution.

M. A. CADENAS MADARIAGA (Argentina): Uniéndome a las demás delegaciones, en primer lugar quiero expresar nuestra felicitación al Sr. Presidente por su designación, la cual, en mérito a sus antecedentes, estamos convencidos de que hará honor a la confianza depositada en su persona.

Asimismo nos congratulamos de la incorporación de nuevos Miembros a la Organización, en la esperanza de que contribuyan a fortalecerla en su objetivo específico de desarrollo agrícola y mejoramiento de las condiciones de alimentación del mundo. En cuanto al desenvolvimiento de la propia Organización, destacamos que ha realizado importantes contribuciones dentro de las finalidades de su creación, pero estimamos que puede perfeccionarse más su cometido. Al finalizar nuestra exposición sugeriremos algunas ideas en tal sentido, seguros de interpretar la intención de sus autoridades.

#### CONTRIBUCIONES DE LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA A LA SOLUCION DE LOS PROBLEMAS DE LA PRODUCCIÓN AGRÍCOLA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN EN EL MUNDO

Si se analiza la evolución registrada por la producción agrícola entre los países de zona templada en las últimas décadas, en particular de Australia, Nueva Zelanda, Canadá, Estados Unidos y la República Argentina, entre otros, se percibe que hay un atraso relativo manifiesto de nuestro país con relación a la producción de los mencionados países. Esta dispar evolución no ha obedecido a diferentes oportunidades que el mercado mundial pudo ofrecer a unos y a otros, pues se dieron las mismas oportunidades, particularmente en el campo de la agricultura, aunque también, en general, para la exportación de los productos de la ganadería.

Tampoco puede responsabilizarse del atraso comparativo registrado por la República Argentina, a las limitaciones de su área geográfica, porque poseía y aún posee inmensas extensiones sin cultivar o con un grado de aprovechamiento muy bajo.

Por lo tanto, las razones por las que no ha crecido - en ese período - suficientemente la producción argentina se encuentran en factores internos. Ellos han consistido básicamente en una equivocada estrategia de desarrollo, conforme a la cual deliberadamente se restringieron las posibilidades de crecimiento que tenía el sector agrícola, sustrayéndole ingentes recursos a través de diferentes sistemas de subsidios en beneficio del sector público, los sectores urbanos y el sector industrial.

Al error de concebir el crecimiento económico en forma sectorizada se agregaron otros, los que en definitiva determinaron que la República Argentina, contra todas sus posibilidades potenciales, y de oportunidad, derivadas de las circunstancias mundiales, tuviera un desarrollo económico insatisfactorio en el período de la posguerra. Sobre este diagnóstico se funda y origina, en marzo de 1976, una nueva estrategia económica, la que dentro de una concepción de desarrollo global y multisectorial, reserva al sector agrícola un importante papel, en ajustada ponderación de las posibilidades que le ofrecen la geografía y los recursos humanos y de organización que tiene la República Argentina.

En forma muy sucinta describiré los grandes instrumentos de la nueva política agrícola: (a) Vigencia de los precios internacionales en el mercado interno: En primer término se eliminó la sobre evaluación monetaria que inspiró la política cambiaria argentina durante décadas, haciendo que los tipos de cambio progresivamente se unificaran para finalizar en un tipo de cambio único que refleja, efectivamente, el valor de la moneda argentina respecto de las monedas extranjeras. En segundo término y con el mismo propósito, se eliminaron progresivamente los impuestos a las exportaciones hasta su desaparición total para la mayor parte de los productos. En este aspecto se hace notar que el nivel de los impuestos a las exportaciones para los cereales y los oleaginosos en marzo de 1976 se encontraban en el orden del 50 por ciento del valor de exportación de tales productos; (b) Eliminación del monopolio estatal en el comercio de granos: En el orden comercial se eliminó el monopolio estatal en la comercialización de los granos y también la preferente intervención del Estado en la comercialización externa de las carnes. También en esta materia se eliminaron todos los regímenes vigentes de subsidios a los productos alimenticios y los precios máximos, excepto para el caso de la leche, que aún persiste con carácter excepcional, y solamente para el gran Buenos Aires; (c) Extensión de la frontera agropecuaria: La República Argentina tiene un área muy extensa de tierras de gran valor que no se han incorporado a la producción o que mantienen niveles de productividad muy bajos. Para lograr este resultado, en primer término se inició un proceso de privatización o venta de la tierra fiscal en manos de los Estados provinciales, previas las tareas de mensura y parcelamiento; se continuó con la incorporación de tierras de baja productividad, en particular de tierras cubiertas de bosques de poco valor maderero y de tierras áridas, semiáridas o anegadizas. Este programa se desarrollará con la participación del Banco Mundial, hallándose otros proyectos, muy importantes, con la misma finalidad, en etapa de elaboración. Finalmente la reforma de la legislación en materia de arrendamientos se conceptúa que contribuirá significativamente a la expansión del área agrícola y al mejoramiento de la eficiencia, por la incorporación que dará lugar, de los elementos humanos más capaces, a la producción rural. (d) El perfeccionamiento del sistema de comercialización y almacenaje de granos: No obstante que en 1976/1977 se obtuvo una cosecha excepcional de 33 millones de Tn de cereales y oleaginosos, que parecía imposible poder comercializar con las limitaciones derivadas de la capacidad

de almacenaje de la Argentina, se logró concretar dicha comercialización sin mayores problemas, mediante el perfeccionamiento de los sistemas de almacenaje, lo que posibilitó el aprovechamiento óptimo de la capacidad instalada, al mismo tiempo que amplió la red privada de elevadores; (e) EL desarrollo tecnológico: El perfeccionamiento de la tecnología, tanto en el campo de la investigación como en el de la extensión, contribuyó al resultado logrado La República Argentina invierte a través del Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, aproximadamente 60 millones de dólares anuales en esta materia, además de los demás gastos que a través del sistema educacional y de institutos y organismos oficiales y privados se gastan con el mismo objetivo. EL tema del desarrollo tecnológico se conceptúa fundamental en la política agrícola argentina y esperamos tener uno de los mejores institutos de investigaciones y extensión para un futuro próximo; (f) La política sanitaria: Las enfermedades y las plagas causan ingentes daños a la agricultura y a la ganadería argentinas, por lo que a este tema se ha resuelto darle una clara prioridad en la política agrícola. Se creará un instituto y organismo autárquico que será responsable en el orden nacional de la organización de todas las luchas sanitarias, dotándolo de recursos financieros adecuados de aproximadamente 30 millones de dólares anuales. Al mismo tiempo se han incrementado las exigencias de control, y valor inmunológico para algunas vacunas, en particular la de la aftosa; (g) La contribución de otros sectores de la política económica: Al desarrollo agrícola contribuyen poderosamente también las reformas que se han introducido a partir de marzo de 1976 en la política fiscal, mediante la imposición preferente de la tierra, las tasas positivas de interés que han impedido la formación de stocks y terminado con la inversión especulativa en tierras y ganados, y la racionalización de la política arancelaria, haciendo que la producción interna tenga la competencia de las importaciones, para facilitar - entre otras finalidades - el equipamiento agrario en condiciones progresivamente más favorables.

#### EL RESULTADO OBTENIDO

Para ser muy breves nos limitaremos a reproducir un cuadro que indica la evolución de la producción en el período 1976/1977 respecto de los años anteriores.

#### INDICE DE VOLUMEN FÍSICO DE LA OFERTA AGRO PECUARIA (base 1965/69 - 100)

PERIODO	SECTOR AGRÍCOLA	SECTOR PECUARIO	SECTOR AGROPECUARIO
			O
1959/60	84, 3	82, 6	83, 6
1960/61	80, 5	88, 0	84, 0
1961/62	89, 5	91, 1	90, 2
1962/63	84, 5	96, 4	90, 0
1963/64	96, 9	85, 6	91, 6
1964/65	107, 4	97, 7	98, 9
1965/66	94, 1	101, 4	95, 8
1966/67	103, 8	101, 4	102, 7
1967/68	96, 7	102, 7	99, 5
1968/69	97, 9	109, 1	103, 1
1969/70	112, 8	104, 8	109, 0
1970/71	108, 0	95, 5	102, 1
1971/72	86, 5	99, 5	92, 5
1972/73	120, 2	99, 3	113, 9
1973/74	120, 9	103, 0	115, 0
1974/75	109, 3	109, 6	111, 2
1975/76	131, 5	117, 8	125, 1
1976/77	154, 8	117, 0	137, 0

Como puede observarse, se ha logrado un incremento sustancial en el volumen físico de la producción agrícola alcanzándose el nivel más alto de la historia argentina. También puede apreciarse que es mucho mayor la reacción del sector agrícola que la del ganadero, porque la elasticidad de la oferta de los productos agrícolas respecto del precio es mayor en este sector que en el ganadero, y además porque los precios de la agricultura fueron en abril de 1976 sensiblemente mejores que los de la ganadería, en términos relativos.

### LA INFLUENCIA NEGATIVA DE LAS FLUCTUACIONES DE LOS PRECIOS DE LAS MATERIAS PRIMAS AGRÍCOLAS

En los dos últimos años se han registrado variaciones sumamente importantes en los precios de los cereales y muy recientemente en el de las oleaginosas, además de otros productos agrícolas. Estas fluctuaciones, que no fueron neutralizadas total ni parcialmente por ningún mecanismo de compensación interno, salvo la reducción progresiva de los impuestos a las exportaciones y el mejoramiento del tipo de cambio, tuvieron un efecto negativo en la siembra de cereales del año 1977. Esto es perfectamente comprensible porque la caída de los precios de los cereales, los redujo al nivel más bajo conocido a partir de la última posguerra, en valores constantes.

En base a esta experiencia, que reitera y repite una larga experiencia en el comercio mundial, el Gobierno argentino considera que el tema más importante para mantener una oferta apropiada respecto de la demanda mundial de alimentos, es reducir estas fluctuaciones de precios, mediante diversos mecanismos de regulación.

La República Argentina considera igualmente grave y perjudicial para los países exportadores que para los importadores, mantener un sistema comercial que deje librada a las solas tendencias del mercado la correlación entre la oferta y la demanda.

Ello es así porque, cuando un exceso en la oferta produce una caída en los precios internacionales, se opera inmediatamente una contracción en la producción que lleva a un insatisfactorio abastecimiento de la demanda y a un correlativo incremento de los precios. Este comportamiento errático es perjudicial, tanto para los exportadores como para los importadores.

Por esa razón, la República Argentina participa en los esfuerzos que se realizan para regular el comercio internacional; del trigo y los cereales en general; está dispuesta a hacer esfuerzos parecidos en el campo de los productos oleaginosos, y ha dado pasos positivos en el mismo sentido en Australia, Nueva Zelanda, y el Uruguay, en materia de carnes.

Deseamos dejar sentado que esta política no responde en absoluto a la denominada teoría del deterioro de los términos de intercambio, la cual se conceptúa equivocada por no fundarse en un análisis suficientemente cuidadoso de la evolución de los precios de los productos industriales y primarios, realizándose una incorrecta comparación del valor medio de las importaciones y exportaciones de los países en desarrollo, sin tener en cuenta los progresos tecnológicos introducidos en los productos industriales, ni la disminución operada en los costos del transporte.

Por el contrario, se funda la política del Gobierno argentino en el hecho empírico e incontestable de las fuertes fluctuaciones que sufren los precios de las materias primas respecto de los productos industrializados, lo que generalmente se origina en su oferta atomizada por oposición a una oferta concentrada, característica de la producción industrial.

### LA COOPERACION CON LOS PAÍSES EN DESARROLLO

La República Argentina conceptúa un deber fundamental cooperar con los países de menor desarrollo relativo, tanto para ayudarle a resolver los problemas de la producción como de la alimentación.

Sin embargo, conceptúa que la solidaridad en esta materia debe estar sujeta a determinadas reglas y condiciones a fin de que la misma sea más eficaz y se halle compartida equitativamente por todos los países en condiciones de suministrarla.

Con relación a la contribución por parte de los países que se encuentran en condiciones de aportar una cooperación activa, aprecia la República Argentina que, una vez determinadas las necesidades de ayuda, las mismas deben solicitarse o resolverse en función de la capacidad económica de cada país, y que ésta debe medirse en proporción al producto bruto global y al producto bruto per capita de los países más desarrollados, interpretando que las obligaciones al respecto le alcanzan también a la República Argentina.

En el mismo sentido, pero examinando el problema de la cooperación con la preocupación de preservar la independencia y la soberanía de los países en desarrollo, se entiende que la misma debe estar dirigida fundamentalmente a resolver las limitaciones derivadas de factores o causas tecnológicas, defectos de infraestructura en los servicios esenciales o en los sistemas de comercialización.

En el plano institucional, particularmente de las instituciones fundamentales de cada país, la cooperación no puede ser causa o motivo para la introducción de reformas porque ello limitaría el principio de autodeterminación en cuestiones esenciales que hacen a la capacidad y el derecho de autonomía que cada país tiene.

En este orden, una cuestión que nos parece de fundamental importancia es el tema relativo a la reforma agraria, porque él generalmente permite que, so pretexto de cooperar en el desarrollo agrícola, se tiende a imponer al país receptor de la ayuda condiciones que atentan contra principios de su organización económica y política tradicional.

La República Argentina Conceptúa que ningún programa de desarrollo agrícola puede fundarse en el desconocimiento de la propiedad privada. En primer término, porque ello crea un factor de inseguridad que afecta y destruye toda la estructura productiva, y, en segundo término, porque los programas de reformas agrarias, en su concepto más generalizado, ponen el acento sobre una cuestión que a los efectos del mejoramiento de la productividad, ya no es esencial, pues comparando los resultados que pueden obtenerse con los programas de expropiación y subdivisión de la tierra, en cuanto a su rentabilidad, resultan menores que los aplicados al mejoramiento tecnológico de las explotaciones.

Esta cuestión que plantea el tema de la reforma agraria, pero que también puede plantearse en otros temas, debe resolverse por el respeto de las instituciones políticas y jurídicas de cada país, como premisa básica de la acción de la FAO en la materia.

También nos parece fundamental diferenciar la capacidad para comer del derecho a la alimentación. Lo primero tiende a la satisfacción de los sentidos y simultáneamente también a la satisfacción de las necesidades del organismo humano. Lo segundo es esencialmente la satisfacción de las necesidades en proteínas, hidratos de carbono y grasas que tiene todo ser humano. A esto último deben estar dirigidos los esfuerzos de los países con relación a los que tienen problemas de alimentación.

Con relación a este último objetivo se deberían desarrollar productos de valor alimenticio integral que fueran de bajo precio, y no requiriesen frío para su conservación. La República Argentina está desarrollando tecnologías dentro de esta finalidad y está dispuesta a asociarse a otros países para llevar a cabo programas más ambiciosos en esta materia. A la brevedad haremos llegar al Director General detalles de los progresos alcanzados en esta materia.

Para cerrar esta exposición, consideramos necesario referirnos a la forma que entendemos que esta gran institución que es la FAO puede y debe contribuir al desarrollo agrícola y a resolver los problemas de la alimentación en el mundo. Al respecto nuestro pensamiento puede concretarse en la siguiente forma:

- a) El cometido de la FAO debe estar dirigido a superar los factores limitantes de carácter tecnológico, de infraestructura y de servicios que registran los países en desarrollo en el campo de la producción y la comercialización de los productos agropecuarios.
- b) Debe desarrollar programas y planes concretos dirigidos a las finalidades expresadas, científica y tecnológicamente concebidos, a los efectos de requerir el menor esfuerzo por parte de los países donantes y los mayores resultados por parte de los países receptores.
- c) Al respecto debe coordinar los esfuerzos individuales, públicos y privados, que realizan los países, sin pretender que los países o instituciones pierdan la personalidad ni la autonomía propia de cada uno, orientándolas en la forma más inteligente, para lograr el objetivo del mejoramiento de la productividad.
- d) En el mismo sentido, debe tender a coordinar, respetando la autonomía de las instituciones públicas y privadas de todos los países del mundo que estén dirigidas a cooperar en los problemas del hambre y la desnutrición.
- e) Debe abstenerse de propiciar reformas en las estructuras políticas de cada país. Al mismo tiempo debe tratar que su estructura administrativa y el comportamiento de las delegaciones acreditadas ante la misma no impliquen afectar las estructuras institucionales de los demás países.

Señor Presidente, permítame expresar el reconocimiento de mi país al importante apoyo que la FAO prestará a la Conferencia sobre Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo que tendrá lugar en Buenos Aires el próximo año.

Conocemos la valiosa experiencia acumulada por esta Organización en el campo de la cooperación técnica sobre agricultura y alimentación. Por ello, desde ya, estimamos de alto valor la participación activa que se ha previsto para la FAO en dicho evento internacional.



E. L. SENANAYAKE (Sri Lanka): Mr. Chairman, let me congratulate you on your appointment to the high office of Chairman of this Conference.

May I, at the outset, convey to the Nineteenth Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization the most cordial greetings and food wishes of my Prime Minister and of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka. To me, as Minister of Agriculture and Lands, it is a matter of personal honour and satisfaction to be able to address this gathering of distinguished delegates. As delegates are no doubt aware, the present Government of my country assumed office just over three months ago after a resounding and unparalleled victory at the polls conducted in a free and democratic manner.

On the food and agriculture front, clear policies were laid before the people and my Government obtained an unequivocal mandate to implement those policies. Although I do not wish to belabour the conference with details- of those policies in the field of agriculture and food, I shall, during the course of my short statement, endeavour to sort out some of those items that I consider might be of interest to the delegates as well as to the FAO.

My Government has been in office for just over three months. During this short period its attention has been devoted mainly to the immediate problems of the switch-over and I will not be able to present to this august body very much in terms of actual achievement. It is my fervent hope that at the Twentieth Session commencing two years hence I shall be able to present before this body a creditable account of what my Government has been doing in this sphere. We had hardly begun to settle down and start implementing our programmes of work when communal disturbances erupted in the Island and set back the pace of development. However, I am glad to report that the situation has returned to normalcy and we look forward to at least a six-year period of fruitful development and constructive collaboration in this task of national development with World Organizations like the FAO. We note, Mr. Director-General, that this is the first conference to be held after you assumed the duties of this exalted office in November 1975. We look forward to considering your proposals for the Programme of Work and the Budget for 1978/1979 and to listen to the steps you have already taken to give a 'new look' to the FAO by re-orienting its strategies and re-structuring its organisation to enable it to better cope with the new demands made of it.

The guiding principle of the policies in regard to food and agriculture of my Government is to make Sri Lanka self-sufficient in all items of food that can be grown in the country. We propose to achieve this goal not on narrow considerations of mere import substitution but by developing rational and pragmatic systems of crop and livestock development based on reasonable margins of costs and returns. In achieving this goal, we will have to contend with several adverse factors such as the weather patterns which have never been helpful towards a systematic cultivation programme. Price escalations of the basic agricultural inputs, coupled with an acute world-wide shortage of inputs such as fertilizer, have had a crippling influence on our agricultural development programmes. These two fundamental setbacks, accentuated during the last few years by the inability of those in power to manage effectively, and to the common advantage, the available resources, have deprived the poorer segments of our society of the basic food needs.

We propose to give our farmers adequate incentives so that farming will be attractive. In our view it is not sufficient merely to offer the farmers material incentives. We have to raise his status in society so that he can be properly motivated. It is not sufficient, Mr. Chairman, for us to pay lip-service to the need to give the farmer his place in society. With this in view, it was only about three weeks ago that my Prime Minister together with other Members of the Cabinet and the Members of Parliament inaugurated a National Food Production Drive in accordance with the hallowed traditions and customs of our ancient rulers. At this ceremony all of us including the Prime Minister entered the muddy paddy fields and took part in the ploughing operations. The days are no more when we can be content with merely exhorting our farmers to produce more.

Coupled with such intangible incentives we have taken steps to see that the package of inputs that a farmer requires is made available to him in time, at the place that he requires it. After all, there cannot be any controversy that the basic task in agricultural development is to make available the whole range of inputs, including marketing facilities, to a properly motivated set of farmers, at the times they need it most.

When we assumed office we found that not more than about ten percent of the farmers were eligible to obtain credit for agricultural purposes due to the high incidence of default - defaulters being not eligible for fresh loans. As we felt that this constraint could have serious repercussions on the production of food crops, during the first main cultivation season after we assumed office, we have taken steps to issue fresh loans to all cultivators and tie them down to a crop bond under which it becomes mandatory on them to repay the loans in kind. Adequate steps are also being concurrently taken to re-schedule the outstanding debts and recover them either in kind or cash over a few seasons.

In the extremely vital task of providing a package of inputs, we have to harness all the resources, skills, and facilities available in the country. We propose - and have already taken meaningful steps in certain areas such as fertilizer distribution, paddy milling etc - to bring in the private sector which has been excluded completely during the last few years from participation in national development especially in the agriculture, land and food sector. My Government proposes to marshall the skills and experience of the private sector and use them to supplement those of the public sector in the common task of nation building. We propose, in these matters, to follow a practical and pragmatic approach and give up the sterile theoretical and conceptual postures that have been assumed during the past few years.

We have already taken steps to guarantee minimum prices for the produce of farmers. Guaranteeing minimum prices presupposes the existence of an adequate and efficient machinery for the purchase of farmers' produce by the State at those prices. We are taking steps to expand the Paddy Marketing Board into an Agricultural Produce Marketing Board, so that it can handle all crops produced by the farmers. While ensuring minimum prices to the farmer, we are not unmindful of the needs of the consumer, especially the urban consumer. We have already taken measures to ensure that when prices of essential food items that are produced locally go up during off seasons, above particular limits which we feel will entail hardships to the consumers, such items are imported in sufficient quantities to enable prices to be stabilized at satisfactory levels.

I mentioned earlier that land is our basic resource. During the last few years Land Reform Laws have been passed and over one million acres of lands have been taken over by the State from land owners and companies. We endorse this action and do not propose to vary the ceilings imposed on land holdings. However, my Government has been concerned with the mismanagement of the lands that have been taken over and the consequent drop in production and productivity. A vigorous programme has been launched to resuscitate those lands that have been badly mismanaged. These programmes include the introduction of better management systems, better agronomic practices and more diversified systems of agriculture where they can be economically introduced.

We are re-examining the policies and programmes in respect of the institutional structure that was devised by the former Government to manage lands acquired under Land Reform, with the specific intention of re-ordering the structure so as to promote greater social harmony and integration between the estate sector and the villages. In matching land and human resources, emphasis will be given to the right of every individual to improve his productivity and income without in any way interfering with his ownership rights. While group action will be encouraged and fostered, we will not impose on any individual an ideology to which he is not committed. We are aware of the tragedy that has occurred in the area of collective farming that was introduced by the previous Government. It is not the intention of my Government to impose on the people a system of farm organization to which they are neither committed nor familiar with. The right to own, to possess and farm the land within the broad policies and programmes outlined by the Government, in our view, should ultimately be left to the individual in order that the full benefit of his enterprise accrues to him. Our policy is to foster a prosperous land-owning peasantry. With this end in view, we propose to sell to the allottees, on concessionary terms, all the allotments of State land which are now being cultivated by them as lessees of the State. All the collective farms which have shown, to our great dismay, a serious drop in productivity would now be managed in viable units under adequate State supervision and management. The question of whether these collective farms should ultimately be divided up into small units and distributed among deserving youths or should be managed as estates will be determined at a later stage. Our primary aim now is to ensure that productivity is increased in these units and that the youth working in these farms are assured of a fair return.

What I have done so far has been to give you, Mr. Chairman, and Distinguished Delegates, a brief overview of the general policies that we propose to follow and have, in several areas, started to implement. It would be inappropriate for me to conclude this statement without reference to the work of the FAO and its food-aid programmes. We endorse the reorganization proposals that have already been approved and look forward to an increased decentralisation of the work of the Organization. This will, no doubt, make its impact more effective on individual countries of a given region. We appreciate and acknowledge the services rendered to Sri Lanka by the FAO. We have a large number of on-going programmes related to critical areas such as agricultural research and extension, forestry, livestock and dairy development and fisheries, which are being assisted by the FAO and UNDP. I have already referred to the Crop Diversification Programme, which, in terms of the new priorities of my Government, is going to play a vital role in the development of the uneconomic tea and rubber lands in the mid-country upland areas of the country. Special mention has to be made of the direct assistance provided by the FAO for the dairy husbandry programme which is a key area in the development of our country. In the context of my country, the production of milk is necessary not only for the purposes of import substitution and the nutritional requirements of the nation, but also for generating rapid employment in the rural areas where small and medium scale dairy units supported by high quality fodder and pasture grasses and a reasonably good collection network are proving to be one of the important factors of change.

We are grateful to the World Food Programme for the generous assistance it has continued to give over the years to Sri Lanka. Special mention has to be made of the food aid received for the restoration of village tanks, for colonization schemes and for the development of the poultry industry and pasture production.

My Government would like to welcome the steps taken by the FAO to convene in 1979 an International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. I earnestly hope that it might be possible for the forthcoming Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to give concentrated attention to the investment needs of the small farmer.

I would also like to take this opportunity of placing on record the appreciation of the Government of Sri Lanka for the work done by the Food and Agriculture Organization through the Committee on Commodity Problems in its work on an international programme for tea. I am aware that at the sessions of the Inter-Governmental Group on Tea and particularly through the efforts of the Working Party of Tea Exporting Countries which met under the aegis of the FAO in Rome in October this year, it has been possible to achieve a broad consensus among the tea exporting countries on a multidimensional package of proposals which would provide the basis for negotiation for importers and exporters on an International Tea Agreement.

We are concerned that the International Fund for Agricultural Development is not yet operational, in spite of over three years of hard work in preparing for its establishment. The resources of the Fund will only be one billion US dollars for the next two to three years, but it would however act as a tremendous catalyst for greater forms of external investment. I fervently hope that the Fund will be operational at the beginning of 1978 and that it will be possible for the Fund to develop new perspectives in the financing of food production.

In the fisheries sector Sri Lanka has established an exclusive economic zone of two hundred miles at the beginning of 1977 and appreciates the attendant responsibility for exploitation and management of fish resources in the zone and is anxious to utilize the opportunities offered by this action for improving her economy by the development of her marine fisheries. We wish to have the assistance of FAO for conducting a comprehensive resources survey of the zone with a suitably equipped survey vessel.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates, I thank you warmly for your patient hearing. Sri Lanka and its delegation will extend its fullest cooperation to the FAO as it moves along to face the challenges of the final quarter of the twentieth century.

In conclusion, I sincerely wish that the deliberations of this Assembly and the implementation of its decisions thereafter, will bring some degree of prosperity to all agricultural communities that are in need of it.

P. AKPO: (Bénin): Je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de mon pays, la République populaire du Bénin, vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président de la 19ème session de la Conférence générale de notre Organisation internationale, l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture, pour votre très brillante élection. Nul doute que la confiance totale qui vous est ainsi témoignée par notre auguste Assemblée, jointe à vos parfaites connaissances des rouages de notre Organisation, à votre sens aigu du devoir et de l'équité, à vos remarquables qualités humaines, sont le gage de l'heureux aboutissement des travaux de notre conférence.

Qu'il me soit également permis, au nom du Comité central du Parti de la Révolution populaire du Bénin et de son prestigieux Chef, le Président Kerekou, au nom du Gouvernement de la République populaire du Bénin et en mon- nom personnel, de remercier sincèrement et chaleureusement le peuple et le Gouvernement italiens pour l'hospitalité qu'ils ont toujours accordée à nos délégations et pour les efforts qu'ils déploient en faveur de l'entente et de la coopération entre les pays.

Je voudrais enfin remercier le Secrétariat général de la FAO pour la qualité des documents de travail mis à notre disposition.

La dix-neuvième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO revêt à nos yeux, et à plus d'un titre, une importance toute particulière.

C'est en effet la première session de l'instance suprême de notre institution internationale au cours du mandat de son nouveau Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, qui, investi de la confiance de nos nations en novembre 1975, tente de donner une orientation nouvelle et plus dynamique à la FAO, en entreprenant, sur nos recommandations et en accord avec nous: de mettre davantage l'accent sur les

investissements consacrés à l'Alimentation et à l'Agriculture; d'instituer un programme de coopération technique en faveur des pays en développement; de tisser des liens plus étroits avec les Etats membres par une décentralisation plus poussée au niveau des pays; d'engager davantage les travaux de l'Organisation sur des programmes plus pratiques et des activités concrètes et non plus sur des études théoriques à long terme.

Un bilan, ne serait-ce que provisoire, de cette nouvelle politique de la FAO conforme à tous égards à l'intérêt des pays en développement, sera fait par notre auguste Assemblée.

La présente session de la Conférence générale de la FAO est aussi la première qui se tient depuis la mise en route de certaines institutions spécialisées, en application des recommandations de la Conférence mondiale de l'Alimentation qui s'est tenue à Rome en novembre 1974. Nous faisons ainsi allusion au Conseil mondial de l'Alimentation, au Groupe consultatif pour la Production alimentaire et les Investissements (GCPAI) et surtout au Fonds international pour le Développement agricole (FIDA).

Notre session se tient également au lendemain de la Conférence sur la Coopération économique internationale, dont l'ambition louable était l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial. Les résultats du dialogue Nord-Sud, qui laissent planer beaucoup de points de désaccord entre pays industrialisés et pays en développement, quand bien même tous ont une claire conscience de l'interdépendance, doivent nous guider au cours de nos travaux.

La présente session de la Conférence générale de la FAO se tient enfin et surtout au moment où les pays dits du Tiers Monde, ces pays qui abritent les trois quarts de l'humanité et dont les peuples souffrent atrocement de la crise économique engendrée par le capitalisme, se dotent de plus en plus d'une conscience de classe, et s'efforcent de retrouver le contrôle de leurs richesses naturelles. En effet, les peuples opprimés d'Afrique, d'Asie et d'Amérique latine développent victorieusement une lutte de libération nationale, secouent partout le joug de la domination impérialiste pour plus de justice entre les hommes et entre les nations. Ils représentent une force politique qui compte désormais sur la scène internationale.

Mon pays, la République populaire du Bénin qui fait partie de ce que l'on est convenu d'appeler le Tiers Monde, s'est engagé, avec courage et fermeté, dans un processus continu et nécessairement victorieux de lutte de libération nationale depuis la date historique du 26 octobre 1972.

Il s'est engagé dans un processus révolutionnaire dont la finalité est la création d'une société où il fera bon vivre. Cette option fondamentale sous-tendue par l'idéologie marxiste-léniniste appelle inéluctablement la construction d'une économie nationale indépendante, d'une économie autocentrée et non extravertie, pour le peuple et en comptant d'abord sur nos propres forces.

La première composante de cette économie est la production alimentaire et agricole; parce que, à l'étape actuelle de notre développement, 90 pour cent de nos populations tirent directement leurs revenus du secteur rural; parce que, aussi et surtout, nous avons pris conscience de ce que l'arme alimentaire est une arme redoutable.

Ainsi, pas à pas, toutes les structures que mettent en place notre Parti d'avant-garde, le Parti de la Révolution populaire du Bénin, notre Etat, l'Etat révolutionnaire du Bénin, et notre peuple, le peuple militant du Bénin, concourent à renforcer ce fer de lance de notre économie nationale qu'est l'agriculture dans le but de: satisfaire prioritairement aux besoins alimentaires locaux, aussi bien en quantité qu'en qualité; approvisionner les industries locales de transformation existantes ou à créer; constituer des stocks de sécurité alimentaire pour prévenir d'éventuels aléas climatiques; dégager des surplus pour l'exportation dans le cadre des échanges économiques indispensables entre les nations du monde.

C'est ce que nous traduisons, en République populaire du Bénin, par le mot d'ordre "Prendre l'agriculture pour base et l'industrie pour moteur de notre économie".

La maximisation des résultats de nos efforts passe nécessairement par la libération et la mobilisation des forces productives de nos campagnes et de nos villes en vue de les soustraire aux méfaits de l'ignorance, de la féodalité, de l'oppression politique et économique, de tout ce qui avilit le peuple et constitue le fondement de l'exploitation de l'homme par l'homme, afin de permettre à ces forces productives de s'organiser en toute indépendance.

Telle est l'une des significations profondes de notre campagne nationale pour la production agricole, déclenchée par le Comité central de notre parti d'avant-garde, le parti de la révolution populaire

du Bénin, en décembre 1975, campagne qui a davantage conscientisé, galvanisé, mobilisé au sein des structures appropriées que sont les Unions villageoises populaires de Production, les Groupements révolutionnaires à vocation coopérative, les coopératives, les fermes d'Etat, tout le peuple travailleur du Bénin rendu ainsi plus disponible pour l'accomplissement diligent, soutenu et continu, des multiples tâches d'édification d'une économie nationale indépendante, en application conséquente de l'historique discours-programme de politique nouvelle d'indépendance nationale du 30 novembre 1972, conscients que nous sommes qu'il n'y a pas de "sauveur suprême" pour les peuples opprimés du monde.

Ces efforts, joints à la volonté ferme de l'Etat révolutionnaire du Bénin de maîtriser toutes nos richesses, de contrôler et d'exploiter toutes nos ressources naturelles au profit exclusif du peuple béninois, ont vite fait de déclencher la hargne et la grogne des ennemis de notre peuple et de sa révolution.

La lâche, barbare et ignoble agression armée impérialiste du dimanche 16 janvier 1977 contre le peuple béninois et sa révolution socialiste se situe dans ce cadre. Cette sauvage agression armée impérialiste de reconquête coloniale dont le peuple militant du Bénin n'a pas encore pansé toutes les immenses plaies, visait à arrêter nos efforts de production, à anéantir notre volonté de bâtir chez nous, en République populaire du Bénin, une économie nationale indépendante, et à replacer notre pays sous la coupe du capitalisme international, synonyme de l'exploitation de l'homme par l'homme. Mais c'était compter sans la vigilance du peuple béninois et sans la détermination farouche de nos forces armées populaires.

Ayant infligé un échec cinglant à leurs agresseurs sans foi ni loi, le peuple béninois et son Etat révolutionnaire, plus que jamais mobilisés et aguerris, continuent irrésistiblement leur marche inexorable vers le progrès.

La loi fondamentale et notre premier Plan triennal d'Etat, élaborés sur la base de cinq années d'expériences révolutionnaires et de lutte pour la production, et adoptés le 26 août 1977, constituent désormais deux bornes inaltérables, solidement fixées sur la voie radieuse que nous avons librement et souverainement choisie d'emprunter pour édifier chez nous, en République populaire du Bénin, progressivement et en comptant d'abord sur nos propres forces, la société nouvelle, la société socialiste où il fera bon vivre pour chaque Béninoise et pour chaque Béninois. "

Cette juste position de la République populaire du Bénin n'est pas la négation de la coopération internationale à laquelle mon pays croit fermement.

La situation du monde actuel, qui résulte d'un consensus, entre les pays industrialisés aux dépens des nations exploitées, si elle n'était pas radicalement modifiée à brève échéance, conduira l'humanité à la catastrophe et à la perte dans les années 2000, époque où les ressources naturelles disponibles, la production alimentaire et même la production industrielle mondiale, si l'allure actuelle était maintenue, ne suffiraient plus à couvrir les besoins de la population sans cesse croissante de notre planète.

Déjà, alors que les pays riches se livrent à des préoccupations extra-terrestres, l'angoisse quotidienne d'un milliard d'hommes est la simple survie.

Malgré les prévisions optimistes de récoltes des deux dernières années, les réserves alimentaires mondiales ne couvrent plus les 45 jours de consommation nécessaire à une sécurité minimale.

La malnutrition chronique condamne, chaque année des millions d'hommes à une condition infrahumaine, avec ses affreuses conséquences qui ont pour noms "carences physiques et mentales".

Alors même que l'agriculture du temps présent peut nourrir et bien nourrir la planète, les réalités sont là: implacables, absurdes et têtues.

La solution de ce grand problème réside avant tout dans la multiplication des capacités de production agricole et alimentaire. La science et la technique ont rendu disponibles les éléments d'accroissement de la productivité agricole, qu'il s'agisse de la mécanisation agricole, de l'emploi des engrais, de la généralisation de l'irrigation, de l'amélioration des plantes etc. - Ils ont pour dénominateur commun l'investissement.

En effet l'augmentation de la production agricole ne peut se faire sans financement. Si l'on se réfère aux paramètres qui concourent aux capacités financières d'un Etat, il est prouvé que l'épargne nationale détermine pour une bonne part ces disponibilités financières.

De plus il est reconnu que dans les pays en développement, l'épargne nationale est presque inexistante et peu organisée

Les sources financières tant nationales qu'internationales ont, jusqu'à ces dernières années, très peu intervenu dans le financement de l'agriculture du fait des incertitudes qui planent sur ce secteur où la nature et les intempéries restent les maîtres du jeu, dans beaucoup de nos pays.

Les pays en développement produisent donc peu parce qu'ils sont pauvres et ils sont pauvres parce que la faiblesse de leur capacité d'investissement ne leur permet pas de produire davantage. Il s'instaure ainsi un cercle vicieux qu'il nous revient de rompre, par des efforts nationaux d'abord, efforts d'organisation, de création de structures appropriées, de mobilisation de l'épargne interne, et par la coopération internationale ensuite.

La maîtrise de l'eau par exemple est un facteur déterminant dans la productivité agricole, mais les aménagements hydro-agricoles et hydro-pastoraux, la généralisation de l'irrigation, reviennent très cher. Il en est de même des engrais et pesticides dont l'emploi rationnel dans des conditions optimales permet de doubler, voire de quintupler la production.

Il se pose donc ici le problème de transfert et d'adaptation de la technologie entre pays industrialisés et pays en développement. L'ambition légitime de la plupart des pays en développement n'est pas tant de se voir assister tous les ans par la fourniture de produits vivriers, ce qui paraît aberrant face à leurs potentialités de production en la matière.

L'ambition légitime de nos Etats est de pouvoir nous doter de connaissances techniques et de moyens matériels nécessaires à la généralisation de l'irrigation pour mettre notre agriculture et notre élevage à l'abri des aléas climatiques, et pour une meilleure productivité. Elle est également de pouvoir fabriquer sur place les facteurs de production (engrais, pesticides, etc. ) indispensables à la modernisation de notre secteur rural.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture devrait, par son programme de coopération pour l'industrie, intervenir plus efficacement dans ces domaines au niveau des pays en développement.

Nul doute que la conjonction des efforts nationaux et internationaux permettra de sortir à brève échéance l'humanité des affres de la faim et de la misère.

Les pays développés devront prendre davantage conscience de cela, réajuster leur politique en fonction de la volonté majoritaire des pays du Tiers Monde, dans l'intérêt de l'humanité, y compris le leur propre, et s'efforcer d'atteindre le seuil minimum d'aide publique au développement qui est de 0, 70 pour cent du produit national brut de chacun d'eux.

C'est pourquoi nous appuyons fortement la FAO pour l'effort qu'elle déploie dans le sens de la mobilisation des investissements en faveur de l'agriculture et du développement rural, en relation avec d'autres institutions financières, régionales ou internationales, notamment le Fonds International pour le Développement Agricole (FIDA) qui est en train de devenir opérationnel.

Le renforcement du Centre d'investissement de la FAO ainsi que l'institution de son Programme d'urgence de coopération technique (PCT) procèdent de ce même souci dont il convient de se féliciter.

L'un des domaines où nous souhaitons que l'organisation fasse un effort important est la réduction des pertes alimentaires, pertes allant parfois jusqu'à quarante pour cent des récoltes. Comme chacun de nous le sait, il ne s'agit pas simplement de produire; mais encore faudrait-il pouvoir conserver et transformer la production. Dans les pays à climat humide et chaud la conservation des produits vivriers au niveau rural où vivent près de 90 pour cent de nos populations est une véritable gageure. Les efforts de notre organisation devront être intensifiés dans ce domaine.

La femme, dans le milieu rural, tient une place de choix, par l'importance que lui confère le système culturel africain, elle est à la fois l'alpha et l'omega dans le domaine de l'agriculture, en ce sens qu'elle personnifie la fécondité. L'évolution de la femme rurale conditionne aussi l'évolution du milieu rural dans la mesure où la femme est gardienne des traditions et berceau des civilisations. C'est pourquoi nous insisterons auprès de la FAO pour qu'un accent particulier soit mis sur l'éducation de la femme rurale en relation avec le développement économique et social de nos pays. La Division de l'alimentation et de la nutrition devra faire un effort accru dans le domaine de l'économie familiale rurale au service des femmes rurales.

Il nous est apparu que la campagne mondiale contre la faim, action pour le développement, figure en bonne place dans l'organigramme du département du développement de la FAO. Il nous semble cependant que depuis quelque temps son activité s'est réduite. Il nous souvient que de 1960 à 1970, c'est elle qui a tenu en éveil les pays en développement, notamment en ce qui concerne la connaissance de la FAO,

ses activités et les problèmes relatifs à la faim dans le monde, à la malnutrition et au développement. Au moment où le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO entend dynamiser les actions de l'Organisation, nous pensons que de nouvelles tâches de sensibilisation, d'information, d'éducation et de réalisation peuvent à nouveau être confiées à la Campagne mondiale contre la faim, action pour le développement. En République Populaire du Bénin, la Campagne mondiale contre la faim a eu à jouer un grand rôle dans la conscientisation du monde rural, face à nos propres problèmes.

Nous appuyons de toute notre force la décentralisation amorcée par le Directeur général de la FAO par la création des postes de représentants FAO au niveau des pays. Nul doute que cela permettra de tisser des liens plus étroits entre les pays et l'Organisation, et offrir une meilleure connaissance mutuelle pour une grande efficacité dans les actions. Peut-être faudra-t-il alors redéfinir le rôle du Représentant régional de la FAO, sa désignation, le rôle et l'organisation des Conférences régionales. Ce sujet devrait pouvoir s'inscrire dans l'ordre du jour des prochaines Conférences régionales.

Nous ne saurions terminer notre intervention sans adresser nos compliments au Président indépendant du Conseil sortant, Monsieur GONZALO BULA HOYOS qui, durant ses deux mandats, a dirigé les travaux de notre Conseil avec dynamisme, compétence et une grande compréhension des problèmes de développement, des problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture pour lesquels il a toujours consacré le plus clair de son temps.

Nous osons espérer qu'il se tiendra toujours à nos côtés et que nous pourrions jouir de ses conseils pour le plus grand bien de la FAO.

Vous me permettez enfin, M. le Président, d'adresser aux nouveaux venus dans la grande famille de la FAO les chaleureuses félicitations de mon pays, la République Populaire du Bénin.

J. W. S. MALECENA (Tanzania): Mr. Chairman, I would like to associate myself with all previous speakers in congratulating you for your election to lead the progress of this Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference. I would also like to congratulate all the new member countries and the liberation movements which have been admitted into the extended family of the FAO at the beginning of this Session. I wish to welcome these new members in the spirit of strengthened cooperation in all aspects of agricultural development and in our joint efforts to effectively eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

In our address to the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference, Tanzania endeavoured to highlight the major agricultural issues which had affected her economy during that critical period when Tanzania had to import large quantities of grain. The situation was made worse by the hostile international prices for oil and manufactured industrial and agricultural machinery which had escalated to levels which were and are still detrimental to our balance of payments. Tanzania had to postpone a number of her development projects in all sectors in order to avert the threat of starvation that was encroaching while maintaining limited supplies of oil imports to sustain our oil fuelled industry. It was not an easy task both from the planning and financing points of view; but I am pleased to say that our efforts together with the assistance of several international and bilateral agencies have started to show significant signs of economic recovery.

Mr. Chairman, before I proceed to outline Tanzania's agricultural performance in the last two years, I would like to draw your attention to the constitution under which this Organization was established. The Charter stipulates the purposes of the Organization to be raising the levels of nutrition and standard of living, securing efficient production and distribution of food and agricultural products so as to promote expanded world economy and ensure humanity's freedom from hunger. After so many years of FAO's existence there is still evidence to show that we are far from achieving these objectives.

The current international food situation is far from being satisfactory in both production and distribution despite the appreciable recovery over the 1972/74 crisis situation. While developed countries have continued to contribute the larger portion of the overall food increase, some of the developing countries and the most seriously affected have in fact been experiencing incessant declines in food production. The Africa Region, where most of the affected countries are, has thus continually persisted to be a special problem area suffering from one crisis after another and thus literally being reduced to a perpetual beggar, a very humiliating situation. The situation is however, not of Africa's own negligence, it is a consequence of a combination of the hostilities of the environment, inadequate investment in agriculture and a general lack of appropriate technology.

The 1974 Sahel experience is a situation that should serve as an example; the FAO and indeed the international community was caught unawares and many lives were lost before a concerted effort was

organized to bring the situation back to normal. This is a situation that FAO should ensure not to recur and to this effect the role of the National Food Security Programme which the FAO has been endeavouring to promote in various countries needs special emphasis during this Session so that it can be effectively implemented. Whilst we support the idea of establishing an International Food Reserve Programme, we attach a lot of priority to the establishment of National Food Reserves first, before investing in an International Reserve. It would have been a lot easier to remedy the Sahel crisis had the National Food Reserve Programme been established, but to the contrary, although there were adequate food supplies internationally, it took a lot of time and a lot of loss of rice to appreciate the problem and to organize international support for the affected areas.

To avoid such catastrophes and to effect better coordinated food supplies we require a well planned international food production and distribution system. In this context permit me to reiterate Tanzania's request to the Ninth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Sierra Leone last year for a study programme development to ensure Africa Region's food self-sufficiency within the next decade. We believe that the FAO is capable of this undertaking and we trust that implementation to this effect has started; it is certainly the most strategic approach towards solving Africa's chronic food shortages and malnutrition.

My delegation is pleased to note that the FAO, and the world at large, has started to recognize that the prevention of food losses is of utmost importance and requires urgent attention. Even modest estimates indicate that pre-harvest losses and losses due to lack of or poor storage facilities are responsible for more than 30 percent of the potential food harvests annually. Certainly such losses should not be allowed to continue particularly during this critical period of food storage. Tanzania wishes to support the Prevention of Food Losses Programme and my delegation wishes to stress that, among the several aspects of storage and distribution, the Programme should endeavour to look into more effective types of storage from village to national levels.

It is the feeling of my delegation that the Economic Commission for Africa should not only collect and amass statistical information for its own sake but also deliberate efforts should be made to see that the data so collected is effectively used in programme development geared towards solving the problems I have outlined. The ECA could for example help in devising and supervising the implementation of an early warning system for food supply and distribution. It could also help African Governments in setting up efficient data or statistical collection systems.

Tanzania supports decentralization of FAO aimed at bringing services closer to the people requiring them. We do hope that in doing so the Country Representatives will be given adequate autonomy and authority to enable quicker implementation of country programmes by reducing Headquarters bureaucracy in considering such country requests.

Related to this concept of shortening decision-making, we welcome and strongly support the Director General's Technical Cooperation Programme; we see this programme as providing short-cut answers to problems requiring immediate attention in programmes under implementation. It is our sincere hope that this forum would be able to support the programme as well as to endorse its continuation and expansion. We have heard the wild accusation that such a system would give too many powers to the Director-General; but we would like to remind this Conference that bureaucracy has always been a dangerous stumbling block when dealing with man's basic needs. We therefore welcome moves that cut down such bureaucracy.

I am pleased to inform this Conference that in Tanzania the establishment of a strategic grain reserve is well in advance and we hope that the reserve will become operational by early next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those member countries and institutions which are in one way or another contributing to the success of this understanding. These countries and institutions are the U. S. A., the United Kingdom, Canada, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, the EEC and the World Food Programme. One of our stumbling blocks in this programme is the question of storage facilities. It is our hope that FAO and the World Food Programme will continue to marshal assistance for us for this well-deserved project.

These precautionary measures are further strengthened in our Third Five-Year Plan which has recently been reviewed. The remaining three years of the Plan are intended to be a period of economic recovery. The Plan defines self-sufficiency in food production from the nutritional point of view and sets up cash crop production targets. It is our intention to split and allocate these targets to Regions, districts and eventually to villages.

While the 3rd Five-Year Plan was being reviewed, major projects were continuing to be implemented. The National Maize Project has reached its third year and its effect in increasing maize production in Tanzania has already been felt. At the same time efforts to expand sorghum and millet production in the drier central parts in Tanzania, have registered great success in both increased production and as



a demonstration to the peasants of these areas that these drought-resistant crops were the most economic choice for their agricultural investment. This achievement has consequently called upon expansion of better seed production and distribution.

We are aware that such intensive production measures do not exclude the use of fertilizers. It is in this context that we welcome and support the International Fertilizer Scheme and the institutionalization of the Fertilizer Commission. We believe that the International Fertilizer Scheme has an important role in increasing production and bridging the balance of payments in developing countries. The International Fertilizer Scheme has also been demonstrated as a very useful tool in developing area-specific fertilizer recommendations. Our 3rd Five-Year Plan has seriously viewed this issue in the light of a better fertilizer distribution and pricing system and has embarked on country-wide agronomic and farm management studies aimed at establishing correct fertilizer rates and farming systems. In this respect, we anticipate assistance from the International Fertilizer Scheme which we hope will be continued and expanded.

Coupled with these research and production efforts is the establishment of an internal marketing infrastructure aimed at facilitating the collection of the farmer's marketable crop, transporting and storing it efficiently. A construction programme of food storage facilities at national, regional, district and village levels has already started.

Tanzania puts as much emphasis on cash crops as she does on food crop production. Our economic development, and indeed of any developing country, will continue to rely on agricultural exports for her foreign exchange. Consequently programmes are under way to increase production of a whole range of cash crops. Particular attention is also being attached to increasing the value added on our agricultural exports by increasing both the quantities and quality through better handling, grading and quality control and, more important, processing. Thus in Tanzania the processing of tobacco, cashew nuts, coffee and sisal are being expanded.

Our present plan has laid down better strategies for improving the livestock sector. These strategies include various means of improving the traditional herd improved pasture, provisions of watering facilities-, stock routes, tsetse fly eradication and general disease control. The farmers are being encouraged to sell off their unproductive and surplus livestock.

The 3rd Five-Year Plan policy is to expand milk production in Tanzania based on smallholders and cooperative farm units. The larger public dairy farms so far formed are aimed at commercial production of buffer supplies for urban area consumption while providing the necessary technical and logistic services to the small dairy producers in the villages. Smallholder production is viewed in the context of both income distribution and a most efficient means of ensuring availability of essential nutritional requirements to our peasants. Distribution of better milking cows to individual smallholders and village projects is linked with an established milk collecting system to central processing plants in order to cater for future milk surpluses. The success of the dairy industry in Tanzania would certainly depend upon the immediate introduction of better progeny from the dairying world.

We, in Tanzania, believe that development, especially rural development, can only be efficiently achieved if it is brought about by the people themselves. Therefore the kind of development we are talking about is one which is directed to the rural people as the target receiving the project benefits. To this effect we welcome the idea of convening a World Conference on Agrarian Reform. We hope this will be properly done, so that the effort will not be dissipated.

With the formation of about 8000 villages covering over 80 percent of the entire rural population, the target is to make each village a technically efficient production unit. Consequently, most of our projects are centred around the villages as basic units of production. Of course such production ambition would have to be backed up by an intensive technical device dissemination as well as a general provision of the necessary social services. I am pleased to say that the political side of villagization in Tanzania which was indeed a difficult task, is now complete; what remains is a challenge to our technicians in assisting the villages in becoming the country's principal centres of production.

We in Tanzania do not pretend to have found the answers to all the problems of rural development, but we would like to say with confidence and pride that the concept of Ujamaa villages is certainly a major answer to rural development problems. Under this concept all the land of the village belongs to the villagers themselves. They own the land and determine its use, thereby eliminating completely the possibility of absentee landlords. It is a concept that stirs the enthusiasms of the rural people and makes them work hard because they believe and they know that all the fruits of such efforts will be for the villages themselves.

With the coming in of the Ujamaa concept in Tanzania we feel confident that we have broken the chains of old concepts of rural development which up to now have proved ineffective in stimulating rural

development, thanks to our President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere who formulated this concept of Ujamaa villages. We invite you all to come to Tanzania and see this exciting concept being implemented.

But our production potential is far from being exhausted, in fact most of it is yet to be exploited. To enable us to utilize the potentials of the land efficiently we need to import technologies currently non-existent in the country. Such technologies range from machinery and equipment to the expertise that goes with it. These requirements are available in the developed countries for procurement but I would like to reflect here that the present state of affairs in the world has tended to have terms of trade more in favour of the industrialized countries to the extent that the developing countries can hardly manage to import even the bare requirements for exploiting their natural wealth. In this regard, therefore, bilateral aid and soft long-term credit arrangements from rich and developed countries remain the most feasible mechanism of transferring technologies to the developing world.

We in Tanzania have already established the organizational structure for development-orientated production; what we now require are the tools for production. We are determined to succeed and with the assistance of the more advanced countries the process of our development should be effectively hastened.

In this context Tanzania wishes to confirm its support for the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. My Government has already endorsed our membership to the Fund and the necessary Instruments of Ratification have already been submitted.

Allow me now to turn to a very sensitive issue where, as the old saying goes "Angels would fear to tread". This is the question of the funds accumulated as a result of the devaluation of the Italian Lira. I know for sure that this amount of money does not appear in any of our national budgets as some kind of income from the FAO.

To be honest with this Conference, there are very few countries that insist on this issue. There are those that advance constitutional arguments; there are those that argue that giving money to any international institution is a voluntary matter, yet there are those who argue on purely good faith, "Give us back the money, and do believe us, we will give it back to the Secretary-General". These arguments are ad infinitum. My delegation sympathises with all these arguments.

The money is with FAO. The Director-General, as is expected of him by us, at least by Tanzania, has budgeted for this money to be effectively used to finance the prevention of post harvest losses, a programme on which all of us are agreed.

But now we are told that FAO must hand back this money to us all. I say to us all, because even Tanzania and all members here will be entitled to some share. To some of us such shares will be very small and yet the delays in giving it back will mean a delay in implementing a programme to which we have all agreed.

Tanzania and indeed the majority of all of us in this hall are saying to the Director-General "Now that you have the money keep it". We are obeying the old English saying that "a bird in hand is worth two in the bush". It is not the custom of Tanzania to distrust those whose generosity we have for years enjoyed.

Let us pause for a moment to think which are these countries that insist that the money be given back. To be honest with you, all these countries are few - very few indeed. They are all countries which belong to the highly-developed world. They are countries whose citizens die more from over-feeding rather than malnutrition. They are countries which are spending much more money than we are talking about on the manufacture of slimming pills.

Forgive me for these undiplomatic words in the halls of a conference that calls for diplomacy.

We earnestly appeal to all delegates here to support the view that the money remains with the Director-General, who must get the job done immediately.

I hope we can have a common stand on *this*. instead of a confrontation and indeed evolve an acceptable formula which would satisfy the envisaged accounting problems.

The task of enabling mankind to feed the starving millions is still tremendous.

I can imagine that as we make numerous speeches including my speech in this hall, this same day millions of people will go to bed without food. Thousands will die in the next twenty-four hours due to malnutrition and hunger. Thus human suffering still continues.

We can speak in demographical terms that population still outstrips food resources. We can speak of the inadequacies of family planning or population control, or even the lack of modern methods of farming in many of the developing countries. We can speak of the oppressive conditions that prevail in the tropical countries such as drought in some areas and torrential rains in others. The prevalence of pests and all kinds of diseases - all these lead to one and only one conclusion, that our enemy - hunger and malnutrition - is still at large causing a lot of miseries to millions of people of the starving world. Our task is still great. We cannot afford any more delays in vigorous attempts to fight hunger and malnutrition.

Let us all, therefore, rededicate ourselves to our humble goal so that together we can give to all men, irrespective of country or colour, the most basic need of mankind, which is food.

E. BERROUET (Haïti): Vos Pairs vous ont choisis. A le faire, ils ont du certainement déceler en vous toutes les grandes qualités qui avaient distingué vos éminents prédécesseurs à cette même place.

La délégation d'Haïti vous présente ses plus chaleureuses félicitations.

Hommage en soit aussi rendu à vos pays respectifs,

Que le maillet symbolique que vous tenez, Excellence, Monsieur le Président, indique sérénité et compétence durant tout le temps de votre mission parmi nous.

Ma délégation veut aussi rendre témoignage à l'actuelle Direction de la FAO pour son réel souci de conserver les nobles traditions de courage et d'indépendance de l'Institution, dans ses relations avec les Etats Membres.

En cet univers troublé, dominé par l'angoisse, il est vraiment réconfortant de retrouver ici une telle conjonction de courants de pensées, tant de conceptions diverses qui viennent se reprofiler chaque fois au creuset de ces Assises de la FAO où en même temps nos délégués peuvent s'interroger sur une méthodologie d'action à rechercher pour la sauvegarde de notre civilisation confrontée à l'épineux problème de la faim.

Une fois déjà, avec l'écroulement de la Société des Nations, s'effondrait, du même coup, l'espoir de millions d'hommes dont les espérances légitimes se sont renouvelées au sein du système des Nations Unies, Tous les responsables du bien-être des peuples pour le présent et pour l'avenir se doivent de relever un défi affligeant: la détérioration de la condition des trois quarts de la population du globe en proie à la sous-alimentation et à la malnutrition. De tous les droits de l'homme, le droit à la nourriture, en effet, demeure essentiellement un droit fondamental,

Rourtant à cette époque de notre civilisation où la technologie n'a jamais été aussi développée, où l'accroissement et la concentration des capitaux ont atteint, en certains points du globe, des niveaux surprenants et insoupçonnés, où la conscience de la valeur transcendante de l'homme par rapport à son univers physique se précise de plus en plus, combien de millions d'êtres humains souffrent encore de la malnutrition ! Et la mortalité par la faim et par les faims spécifiques a dépassé les seuils les plus critiques. L'avertissement est déjà lancé: "Le chantage alimentaire menace la paix, " Somme toute, selon l'ordre économique international traditionnel, ne devrions-nous pas considérer les trois quarts de la population du globe comme condamnés, si leur aliénation séculaire, leurs frustrations de tous genres devaient se perpétuer comme un corollaire obligé de la richesse des nantis ? Et je ferai alors tout mon profit, pour cette analyse sommaire, des propos mêmes de l'Ancien Président du Conseil de la FAO: "Aux prix auxquels les denrées alimentaires se vendent sur les marchés mondiaux, les pays du Tiers Monde s'épuisent un peu plus chaque fois qu'ils en vendent à des pays riches. . . et l'accès au marché, que leurs gouvernements réclament ne débouche très souvent que sur l'exploitation aggravée de leurs populations productrices et de leurs richesses nationales par leurs acheteurs, " En dépit d'une stabilité apparente, le bien-être généralisé contemplé pour chaque peuple et pour toutes les nations ne peut se réaliser que dans la mesure où s'effacent les disparités criantes pour faire place à la fraternité humaine authentique, A cette croisée de chemins où les perspectives de l'avenir s'estompent de nuages sombres, quand les mythes séculaires vacillent sous l'action d'idées forces, génératrices de mutations, il n'y a pas de temps à perdre; l'urgence appelle l'intervention décisive. Si l'on ne procède pas sans délai à un véritable reconditionnement de l'environnement des pays en retard le processus deviendra demain irréversible et le désespoir de certains peuples ne sera rien moins que la rançon de l'irresponsabilité des détenteurs de la richesse et de ses privilèges. La solution dépend objectivement de la prise de conscience et du vouloir des pays développés parallèlement à une promotion de l'esprit de concertation des pays démunis: là résident les germes ultimes de l'espoir.

Représentant d'un pays du quart monde aux prises avec toutes les contraintes du sous-développement, j'éprouve un réel plaisir à participer à ces importantes délibérations et saisis cette opportunité pour informer, une fois de plus, de la volonté du Gouvernement et du peuple haïtiens de collaborer étroitement aux efforts déployés par la FAO en vue d'accomplir valablement la mission qui lui est dévolue. A cette détermination, le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti ajoute ses plus vifs remerciements pour la coopération dont il a bénéficié, de la part de cette Organisation spécialisée, au cours des dernières années. Aussi fait-il confiance aux objectifs de la FAO et l'assure-t-il de sa volonté de continuer la lutte pour le plein épanouissement de l'homme grâce à l'établissement d'une société plus juste et plus libérée. Il plaît aussi à la délégation d'Haïti de souligner combien excellentes et assorties d'un haut esprit de compréhension ont toujours été les relations de la FAO avec le secteur agriculture, malgré certaines anomalies égocentriques qui surgissent parfois dans les rapports humains et qui s'expliquent par le fait que la coopération technique émerge à peine de sa période pionnière.

Je ne me lancerai pas dans une présentation exhaustive des nombreux projets développés conjointement par Haïti avec les Nations Unies. La promotion de l'agriculture demeure le principal volet de notre stratégie de développement et s'inscrit en toute priorité dans notre plan quinquennal. Le secteur primaire constitue, en effet, le grand pourvoyeur du reste de l'économie en biens de consommation, en matières premières et en main-d'oeuvre. La participation de l'Organisation à notre effort de développement a donc toujours été intense et ses différents domaines de compétence seront de plus en plus mis à contribution.

Un effort appréciable a porté sur le chiffre indicatif de planification qui est passé de quelque six à dix-huit millions de dollars. Nous estimons cependant que ces investissements n'ont pas encore atteint le seuil désirable. En ce qui concerne la FAO, il importe que l'unique projet de mise en défens que nous conduisons avec cette Organisation serve de catalyseur pour la prise en considération d'un programme conjoint d'aménagement de bassins versants, à l'échelle nationale, selon un ordre de priorité à établir. J'ai, en outre, instruit mes collaborateurs d'inclure dans ce programme la création d'une Ecole Forestière de niveau moyen et d'un service renforcé d'extension forestière.

Durant son séjour à Rome, la délégation d'Haïti s'efforcera d'obtenir une assistance élargie dans le domaine de la pêche, de la pisciculture et de l'élevage.

Puisque le temps des ostracismes aberrants a pris fin et que se développe un regain de faveur pour le Tiers Monde, notre délégation renouvelle les vifs sentiments de gratitude du peuple haïtien à tous ceux qui déjà coopèrent ou qui viendront s'associer à la promotion de ses ressources naturelles.

Le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti suit avec intérêt l'évolution de l'Organisation, ses nouvelles orientations. Il a également retenu la décision prise par le Conseil de la FAO, en sa session de juillet 1976, de créer le Programme de coopération technique (PCT) qui sera entièrement financé par un budget spécial de l'Organisation. Il apprécie en outre, comme une action efficace et positive, la libération de fonds consacrés en priorité aux pays les moins favorisés pour la mise en oeuvre de projets de production vivrière et de toutes autres interventions susceptibles d'améliorer le revenu et le niveau nutritionnel des petits agriculteurs. C'est dans cette perspective et selon l'optique même du Directeur général de la FAO que le Gouvernement d'Haïti a basé sa stratégie pour augmenter la productivité des grands facteurs de développement, à partir du triptyque: l'homme, la terre et l'eau.

Déjà le Gouvernement s'est penché avec intérêt sur la finalisation de l'Accord de principe signé avec la FAO en vue d'élever le rang de la représentation de cette organisme en Haïti, à l'effet de rendre ce nouveau statut fonctionnel dès le présent exercice fiscal.

A la lumière de ces considérations, le renforcement de l'assistance des organismes compétents des Nations Unies est vivement sollicité dans les domaines suivants:

a) Irrigation

La réhabilitation et l'extension de notre infrastructure d'irrigation à l'échelle nationale s'avèrent urgentes pour réduire notre servitude vis-à-vis de notre agriculture pluviale et augmenter la productivité et la production agricole. A cet égard toutes nos ressources hydrauliques seront exploitées au bénéfice de cette production et de l'alimentation en eau potable des populations. En effet sur une superficie irrigable de 200 000 hectares seulement 75 000 sont irrigués. Seuls le capital et la technologie limitent notre action, puisque nombreuses sont nos rivières et nos sources qui se perdent. Avec la coopération de l'Agence Canadienne de Développement International (ACDI) le Gouvernement a pris en mains l'inventaire des ressources hydrauliques de notre pays. En divers endroits, la nappe phréatique accuse une capacité intéressante, mais la terre continue à subir les caprices d'un climat de plus en plus perturbé.

b) Exploitation des terres de montagne

L'aménagement et une mise en valeur plus rationnelle de nos bassins versants sont l'objet de pressantes démarches pour la protection des infrastructures d'aval et pour la promotion d'une agriculture de montagne combinant ainsi harmonieusement les activités agro-sylvo-pastorales de la vallée et des hauteurs. L'appropriation des terres de plaines par quelques familles et leur affectation aux cultures industrielles a provoqué une emprise inquiétante de la majorité des petits exploitants de cultures saisonnières sur nos terres déclives. En fait, une grande partie du volume de notre production vivrière provient des zones montagneuses. Cette exploitation intense des terres déclives a engendré un déboisement continu et une érosion accélérée des sols mettant de plus en péril notre programme d'infrastructure routière, notre réseau d'irrigation, de même que la vie et les biens des communautés.

c) Encadrement technique et animation

La nécessité d'un renforcement de l'encadrement technique de nos petits exploitants s'avère de plus en plus contraignante. Il s'agit, à long terme, de transformer nos communautés respectives par une intervention continue dans le contexte des conditions réelles et changeantes, des forces productrices et des rapports sociaux: telle a été d'ailleurs exprimée, dans le cadre du développement global, la transcendance du nouvel humanisme technique en vue d'une prise en charge de leur devenir par les populations elles-mêmes selon un libre choix de la voie qui leur convient.

d) Transfert de technologie

La recherche d'un niveau technologique adapté aux besoins de nos petits fermiers organisés en groupements agricoles, sociétés pré-coopératives et coopératives, conseils d'action communautaire, etc. constitue un thème fondamental de notre éducation de base. Souffrez que je vous dise combien je serai exigeant quant à la qualité et à l'importance de tous les niveaux d'expertise fournie par la FAO à mon secteur.

Le Plan agricole 1976-1981 témoigne de la volonté du Gouvernement d'intensifier son action dans l'agriculture en particulier et d'une façon générale sur l'économie nationale. Ce plan prend en considération les volets fondamentaux de la promotion économique d'un Etat moderne:

- une production suffisante et équilibrée de biens pour l'alimentation de la population, dans le cadre d'une politique nationale d'autosuffisance,
- La production de notables surplus pour approvisionner les entreprises agro-industrielles aux fins de rechercher une incidence bienfaisante sur les termes de l'échange.
- Un nouvel excédent de production en vue de rendre favorable notre balance commerciale, par l'exportation.

Avec la détermination d'améliorer notre capacité d'absorption de cette coopération internationale et d'atteindre les objectifs du Plan national, il convenait de créer des structures d'accueil au sein de notre Département. C'est ainsi qu'il a été constitué:

- un Service de Semences Améliorées (SENANSA);
- un Service National de Commercialisation Agricole (SENACA);
- un Conseil de Coordination de Projets qui fait office de cabinet ministériel composé uniquement d'experts nationaux;
- un Comité Sectoriel de Politique Agricole (COSEPA), la plus haute instance de planification intégrée du Secteur.

Tous ces nouveaux Organes appelaient une restructuration de notre réseau d'appui sur le terrain au niveau de nos traditionnels districts agricoles en vue de transiter la mise en route du nouveau concept de régionalisation tel que défini dans le Plan. Ces mesures sont déjà opérationnelles.

Consécutivement à la triple, crise de l'énergie, de l'eau et de l'alimentation que le pays a connue à la jonction des années 1976-1977, le Gouvernement a institué au sein du Département de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Naturelles et du Développement Rural une entité responsable de la production alimentaire. Ses premières activités ont porté sur un programme d'urgence qui a couvert environ 30 000 hectares en grande partie irrigués. Ce programme d'urgence sera transformé en activité permanente pour les prochaines campagnes agricoles. Toujours dans le souci de pouvoir à l'occasion apporter des solutions rationnelles aux problèmes nationaux de l'alimentation, de l'énergie et de l'eau potable, il est apparu

opportun au Gouvernement de considérer et d'associer les aspects de la qualité de la vie aux activités portant sur le développement des programmes sectoriels conventionnels. C'est ainsi qu'il a été mis sur pied selon décret présidentiel du 9 avril 1977 le Conseil National de l'Environnement et de Lutte contre l'Erosion, le CONAELE, dont l'une des tâches essentielles consiste à définir de nouvelles formes d'intervention pour la sauvegarde de l'environnement et la restauration des équilibres écologiques.

Nous ne manquerons pas de faire un simple rappel, pour l'édification de l'assemblée, des divers projets régionaux de développement intégré conçus et exécutés par le Gouvernement en coopération avec les Institutions multinationales, bilatérales et financières. Nous prenons occasion de cette communication pour leur exprimer les sentiments de gratitude de la communauté haïtienne.

Au terme de cet exposé, nous lancerons à nouveau le cri d'alarme dénonçant la permanence du danger de la situation alimentaire défavorable du monde sous-développé, en réaffirmant la confiance d'Haïti dans l'Organisation et dans les efforts qu'elle déploie pour maximiser l'efficacité de la coopération internationale. Membre à part entière de la Communauté, la République d'Haïti nourrit l'espoir que les revendications fondées du Tiers Monde inciteront les privilégiés de l'heure à changer leur comportement dans le sens d'un renforcement de la capacité de négociation des éternels démunis. En effet, que vaudraient ces réunions si elles ne devaient répondre qu'à un simple formalisme et manquaient d'être un point d'épanchement de la sincérité entre les Etats ou de favoriser une remise en question des termes de leurs relations ? A ce compte, nous partageons une responsabilité commune qui nous interdit de rester sourds aux appels pressants de tous les peuples défavorisés pour une coopération moins académique dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim.

J'avoue que personnellement je ne suis pas un familier de ces assises; cependant rien ne m'y paraît étranger. C'est peut-être d'avoir emporté de mon cher pays d'Haïti un peu de cette chaleur entretenue par les contacts permanents de mon département ministériel avec les différentes représentations des Nations Unies qui ont su capter pour nous le cri alarmant de la terre d'Haïti, la volonté d'un peuple de prendre l'initiative de son développement et la détermination de son chef de réaliser sa révolution économique.

Je vous exprime mon appréciation personnelle et les sentiments relevés de la délégation d'Haïti pour la tenue remarquable de ces assises.

Je vous remercie bien vivement pour la bienveillante attention que vous avez accordée à cette communication. La délégation d'Haïti vous félicite de votre participation active à cette 19ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

A vous tous, et tout particulièrement aux pays frères nouvellement reçus membres de l'Institution, je transmets le salut fraternel et pacifique du peuple haïtien,

P. ROMANY (Hungary) (interpretation from Hungarian): I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you upon your election as Chairman of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference. Please accept my best wishes for your important work. I avail myself also of the opportunity to greet through their delegations - the people and governments of all new member countries of FAO. I would like the delegates of these countries to know about Hungary's firm wish to deepen her cooperation with them alike with all member countries.

Since the last session the world food situation has considerably improved. May I express the sincere appreciation of my Government to the Director-General for the work he has done in the past two years in improving the agricultural production and food supply in the world in general and in the most affected countries in particular. My Government feels that in spite of the progress made we have neither the reason nor right to be over-optimistic. Although the world food situation did move from the bottom it had touched in 1973-74, the results have been brought about rather by the favourable climatic conditions than by measures affecting the bases and the structure of agricultural production. I wish to reiterate our point of view we have declared together with other socialist countries at many international fora, that is we consider co operation with developing countries as necessary and we are taking our share in this co-operation in accordance with our capacity. The co-operation must help the governments of the countries concerned in overcoming their difficulties themselves in the medium and long run. This is why we are in agreement with the Programme of Work submitted to us, giving priority to action-oriented programmes on the assistance to food production in developing countries.

Every member of the United Nations family is expected to spare no efforts in endeavouring for the improvement of the world food situation where FAO is playing a major role. I have to point out that my Government does not find the success of these efforts promising unless the arms race is limited, and world peace and security strengthened. May I remind you of the resolution the USSR submitted to the 28th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the 10 percent reduction in the military expenditures of all permanent members of the Security Council and on the allocation of the funds made consequently available to the assistance to developing countries including their agriculture and food production. It is my great honour to welcome the new proposals of the Government of the USSR on the simultaneous stop to the production of nuclear weapons and on the discontinuation of every kind of nuclear experiment.

I feel that FAO in pointing out in its medium-term objectives the establishment of new, more just and equitable economic relations, sets a fair course to contribute to the strengthening of the peaceful coexistence of countries with different social structures and attached to different alliances, thus contributing to the widening of security and detente all over the world. It is my Government's desire to develop further its cooperation with FAO, which has proved to be fruitful so far, expanding also in this way its involvement in assisting the agriculture of developing countries. Suggestions have been sent to the Director-General some months ago, in which we touched upon how my country might impart her experiences gathered in the field of agriculture to the developing countries also in the framework of FAO. A special timeliness is being given to our suggestions by several statements included in various Conference materials about increasing the practical content of training courses organized by FAO and about strengthening the adaptation of agricultural experiences and skill in developing countries.

Hungary's participation - in accordance with her possibilities - is well known in various aid programmes. Taking into consideration the world food situation as well as the financial strength of my own country and feeling the significance of food problems of developing countries it is my government's intention to raise the value of its contribution to the World Food Programme by 20 percent as from 1st January 1979 and to join the International Undertaking on World Food Security.

My delegation concurs with FAO concentrating its available funds at a greater extent than before on carrying out practical and action-oriented programmes in those countries who request this assistance. I would, however, like to call your attention to the fact that the Conference materials seem to tone rather down the cooperation among the countries of the European region, albeit the cooperation in the scientific networks of these countries have actually achieved promising results, on one hand, and these results may well be of assistance to the developing countries on the other. I should like to refer to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of Helsinki and its follow-up meeting in session just now in Belgrade.

The final Pact of Helsinki is construed as an action programme by its signatories, among them Hungary. It is my belief that the European cooperation in agricultural and food issues to be pursued within the framework of **FAO** outgrows the boundaries of Europe and may add to the global nature of FAO's activities.

I am only happy to oblige the request of the 71st session of the FAO Council by elaborating on our agricultural investments and on their implications. Hungary has become an economically medium developed industrial-agrarian country with a socialist large scale industry and a large scale agriculture. A good number of factors can be credited with playing a major role in this progress, such as the industrious work of our farmers. The many sided cooperation and integration activities carried out within the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance should also be mentioned here.

The focal point of the Hungarian investment policy is the large scale production, i. e. the development of the production cooperatives and the state farms. 15 percent of our arable land amounting to 7 million hectares is farmed by state farms and combinâtes, the average size of which is 7600 hectares. Agricultural production cooperatives own and manage 74 percent of the total arable land, the average farm size being 3500 hectares. From the mid-sixties onwards our investment policy has been planned and formulated to meet the following primary objective; the equipment and the fixed assets of the large farms should match their production structure and their development should serve a flexible up-dating of their production pattern to be able to meet the requirements of the domestic and world markets. Investments in agriculture and food industries have always had and they actually have a decisive role to play in the industrialization of agriculture and in the implementation of integrated production systems. Plant production, chiefly cereals, were recently a major success. Results have also been recorded in some branches of animal husbandry. In the years to come we have the intention of proliferating up-to-date production methods into other branches as well, by a planned orientation in the motivation of the farmers.

One of our most important tasks is the further development of the results we have so far achieved in cattle husbandry and in milk production. Quick return investments in machinery and more economic building constructions were given priority in the development of the large farms in order to offset the rising prices in the world markets. Major attention is going to be given to an early establishment of a balance between agricultural production and food processing, to a possible improvement in the geographical distribution of production and to the support to be given to the investments serving these objectives.

More funds will have to be allocated to facilities preserving the value of agricultural produce such as silos, dryers, fertilizers and pesticides **Stores** as well as to facilities for the protection of the environment. Commercial food stores and outlets will also be given higher priority. The importance of these goes beyond that of domestic supply, since a quarter of our agricultural production is being exported. Therefore, the planning and implementation of investments into agriculture and food industry is carried out with increased attention to the international market and to the food production in developed and developing countries.

I consider the submitted programme of Work and Budget in totality well balanced and practicable. The Programme of Work underlines the assistance to be given to the integrated rural development and agrarian reform. Compared with other development actions in agriculture, the programmes supporting rural development and agrarian reform are less capital intensive, at the same time their impact on medium and long run has enormous advantages. Therefore I suggest that the allocation of large materials and theoretical resources be considered for this purpose. I am in agreement with the efforts of the Director-General to lower the cost increase of FAO, and to maintain the level of FAO staff numbers together with the regrouping of staff members in favour of field programmes.

As I have elaborated before, my Government intends to enlarge and develop further its cooperation with FAO, in order to support in a more effective way efforts of the Organization directed to solving the world food problems and in the interest of progress of people.

H. E. SIGURDSSON (Iceland) (interpretation from Icelandic): In their opening statements, both the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Saouma, and the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Hadiwijaya, drew attention to the fact that the World food situation at the present moment is considerably better than when the last FAO Conference was held in the fall of 1975.

The successful efforts of FAO throughout the world as well as favourable weather conditions, are undoubtedly major causes of this happy state of affairs.

Other factors have helped to bring us closer during these two years to our goal of reaching sufficient levels of food production: At the time of the last FAO Conference in the fall of 1975, the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference had just begun to discuss the division of the ocean and the rights of coastal states. Iceland had then just declared a 200-mile fishing zone around the coast. Our decision was based on the finding by marine scientists that the most important fish-stocks in the sea around Iceland were rapidly deteriorating. This was a development that had to be reversed immediately because Icelandic economic existence depends almost wholly on fishing. Icelanders had already learned an expensive lesson from overfishing the herring stocks which resulted in almost complete disappearance of herring from the North Atlantic.

Subsequent protection measures have since partially restored the herring stock, and herring fishing now provides us with an increasing source of income.

In our judgement, this is proof that scientific control of fishing can guarantee sustained high yields from ocean fishing.

The Icelandic Government was of course fully aware that when it limited our own fishing effort in order to protect the cod stock and, at the same time, extended the exclusive fishing zone to 200 miles, this would result in considerable economic hardship for the Icelanders and at the same time cause temporary difficulties in our relations with friendly neighbours who had a long tradition in fishing around our coastline.

But this was unavoidable in order to secure the economic survival of the Icelandic Nation.

It is therefore a source of great satisfaction to us that this dispute has ended and that our neighbours now respect our jurisdiction over the fishing zone around the country. Although the Law of the Sea Conference has not yet been concluded, a general consensus seems to have been reached for coastal states to have control over a 200-mile zone off their coasts.



We believe that the measures we took for protection of fish stocks will lead to a better appreciation of the need for fish stock conservation throughout the world and that this will in turn lead to increased food harvests from the ocean.

A well-known British scientific journal recently suggested that the timely action by the Icelandic Government may indeed have saved the cod stock of the North Atlantic.

We want to put special emphasis on the responsibility that those countries now carry, which have assumed full control over the 200-mile fishing zone.

It is now their responsibility to protect the fish banks, especially the coastal breeding grounds and thereby to help increase the fish catch generally.

We Icelanders are used to wrestle our food from our harsh and difficult natural surroundings both on land and at sea. We also know that man's greed in exploiting the natural resources can do more harm to our environment than natural catastrophies.

We must be on our guard. Our eyes are opening to the fact that we must not overtax nature and to see the short distance between a fertile soil and the creep of the desert.

The deterioration of the soil is not only taking place in the Sahel of Africa or the drylands of North America, Asia and Australia. Soil erosion is also taking place in northern latitudes and in mountain regions. We are often so busy worrying about the problems of the South, of the Tropics and the dry plains, that we forget the problems of the small farmer in steep mountain regions and in the harsh North. Because of the current industrial wealth of the North, we forget the difficulties encountered in farming many northern and mountain areas. Nevertheless, it is much more difficult to restore fertility to lands in the cold North than in more favourable climates, if the "soil has been eroded by overexploitation.

Those who live in Iceland know these difficulties which in earlier times caused repeated famines in the country. I would therefore urge FAO to help establish effective international cooperation in order to put mountain and northern farming on a sounder basis and to improve the agricultural technology of the North.

Two things are of prime importance: Increased investment in this sector by the countries concerned and the leadership of FAO in coordinating research and development on an international or regional basis. I fully support the resolution which has been placed for this Conference to strengthen FAO's activities in Europe and in this connection want to stress the problems of the mountain farmer.

We must realize that a rapid increase in world population calls for an increased demand for arable land to grow cereals, fruits and vegetables for human consumption. In the competition for fertile lands, the livestock must give way to the edible crops. Nevertheless, one expects an even more rapidly rising demand for meat and other livestock products in the future. It is thus clear that we must use the mountains, the large areas of the cold North and other marginal lands for production of roughages for livestock.

This matter is not only of interest to us living in the far north but it also concerns a number of farmers in large areas in most of the developing countries.

When we discuss the need for greater investments in agriculture, we should not only focus our vision on maize, wheat, soybeans etc. The forage grasses, the main food of livestock and the management of grasslands have been neglected. The development of this type of agriculture is in great need for increased research on grassland soils, hay and pasture species, and on the technology of the use of mountain grasslands. There is great need for increased investments in fences, animal housing, implements, fertilizer, better seeds and last but not least in the training and education of the farm workers deriving a living in these areas.

It is of special interest to us, Icelanders, that FAO strengthen its activities in the livestock sector and we are, as are many of the developing countries, most interested in sheep production.

Although our land is not easy to farm, we have achieved remarkable success in lamb production and are able to export considerable quantities.

It is a paradox that in spite of food scarcity in many places of the world, it is not easy for a small country to find markets for its food products, even though this food is nourishing and could alleviate hunger among

the needy It is the task of FAO to promote the move of wholesome foods to the tables of the needy. Although we Icelanders cannot contribute large foodstocks towards World Food Security, we are prepared to discuss with FAO in what way we can use a part of our meat production as a contribution towards attaining freedom from hunger in the world.

One of the changes in the program and activities of FAO with which we are very happy, is the fact that FAO has now been given the opportunity to give direct assistance with its own resources to the development of agriculture and food production.

Although FAO has an important role to play in executing development projects funded by UNDP and from bilateral sources, the Organization must have its own financial resources to be able to carry out a number of priority projects which cannot wait for a cumbersome machinery to function.

A good example of such priority projects is the plan for action to prevent Post Harvest Losses of food both from land and from the sea.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I drew attention to the pioneering work done by my small country in taking measures to prevent destruction of valuable fish stocks and to exercise caution in our dealings with Mother Nature. The view of the grower in contrast to the view of the exploiter, must prevail in our dealings with our land and sea resources and not the least in how we apply our modern advanced technology.

The proper and sensible processing and utilization of the food we produce is also one of the main contributing factors securing adequate nutrition for a growing population.

We who inhabit a difficult terrain near the polar region **seek** to harness modern technology in such a way that our food production - the fish from the sea and the lambs from the mountains - can contribute to attaining the goal which FAO is aiming for - to banish hunger from the world.

My concluding words are to wish FAO continued success in its noble efforts to improve the lot of the rural poor and to feed the hungry of the world.

N-DANG (Viet Nam): Veuillez me permettre tout d'abord d'apporter, au nom de la Délégation de la République Socialiste du Viet Nam, nos chaleureuses salutations à tous les distingués Délégués et Observateurs, et particulièrement aux Représentants des nouveaux Pays Membres de la FAO.

Il y a deux ans, de cette **même** tribune, durant la 18ème session de la Conférence, j'ai eu l'honneur de faire entendre la voix d'un peuple qui venait de sortir victorieux d'une guerre patriotique de plus d'un quart de siècle. A cette 19ème session, l'honneur m'échoit à nouveau de représenter un Viet Nam réunifié, tout engagé dans son oeuvre d'édification du socialisme et à qui la Communauté Internationale a tout récemment donné confirmation de la place qui lui revient à l'Organisation des Nations Unies.

Les séquelles d'une guerre d'agression longues de trente années de destruction dans tous les aspects de la vie du peuple vietnamien, et en particulier dans le domaine de la production alimentaire, dépassent toute estimation, et leur liquidation radicale exige d'immenses efforts continus.

Dans le Nord, les bombardements ont causé de lourds ravages aux digues, aux ouvrages d'hydraulique agricole, aux stations de tracteurs, aux usines électriques et de mécanique agricole, aux fabriques d'engrais et d'insecticides, **aux** constructions navales, aux ports, aux embarcations, aux dépôts, etc. bref, à notre infrastructure encore trop limitée.

Dans le Sud, en conséquence de la guerre, des millions d'hectares de forêts et de terres cultivées ont été dévastés, l'équilibre écologique a été rompu, trois millions de chômeurs nous ont été laissés et dix millions de paysans se sont entassés dans les villes après avoir quitté les campagnes.

L'étude et l'application des progrès scientifiques et techniques dans le domaine de la production ont connu un sérieux retard et la mise en valeur de grandes potentialités de notre pays en matière **de** main-d'oeuvre et de ressources naturelles a été entravée.

C'est pourquoi, dans son oeuvre de reconstruction d'après-guerre, le peuple vietnamien doit résoudre de nombreux problèmes de première urgence et de grande envergure tant dans le domaine économique que social, et jeter en même temps les bases pour un développement planifié, stable et de longue échéance.

Durant ces deux dernières années, avec une détermination inébranlable, en vue de reconstruire le pays, nous avons remis en valeur une partie importante des terres en friche, procédé au reboisement d'une

superficie de plus de 100 000 hectares, remis en état de fonctionnement et construit un certain nombre d'ouvrages d'hydraulique agricole. Nous avons édifié et élargi de nouvelles zones économiques dans le Sud du pays, développé la pêche et la pisciculture, intensifié nos efforts pour faire de l'élevage une branche principale de notre agriculture. Des centaines de milliers de chômeurs ont retrouvé du travail. Un certain nombre d'usines qui desservaient l'agriculture, la sylviculture, la pêche et la pisciculture a été restaurée, l'emploi de variétés de céréales à rendement élevé a été élargi.

Ces résultats ont été obtenus non seulement au terme d'intenses et pénibles efforts mais aussi au prix du sacrifice de milliers de vies durant les opérations de déminage des champs.

Nous tenons à souligner un point important: Ces résultats ont été acquis non seulement de par nos propres forces mais aussi grâce au soutien de pays frères et amis, grâce aussi à l'aide importante de la FAO, du PAM et d'autres Organisations internationales.

Au nom du peuple et du gouvernement de la République Socialiste du Viet Nam, je tiens à exprimer à cette occasion nos sincères remerciements.

Mais ce ne sont là que des résultats initiaux.

La production agricole progresse lentement, d'une manière instable, dépendant en grande mesure des conditions naturelles. En 1976, la production du riz a connu un progrès sensible, mais cette année-ci, le froid rigoureux et prolongé au nord, la sécheresse grave dans tout le pays, les typhons et les inondations consécutifs ont causé de graves dommages aux récoltes de riz et de plantes alimentaires subsidiaires. Cette année, nous nous attendons à une diminution notable dans la production des céréales.

Pour affronter le futur, notre gouvernement a défini comme tâche primordiale sur le front économique d'assurer un puissant développement à l'agriculture en vue de résoudre coûte que coûte le problème alimentaire, d'assurer les besoins essentiels en vivres de toute la société et de constituer des réserves. Il nous faut déployer de grands efforts pour atteindre en 1980, dernière année du Plan quinquennal 1976-1980, les grands objectifs suivants: 21 millions de tonnes de produits alimentaires, 16 millions et demi de porcs, 1 million d'hectares de terre nouvellement mise en culture, 1 million deux cent mille hectares reboisés, 1 million huit cent mille travailleurs mobilisés pour la mise en valeur des nouvelles zones économiques.

Plus de 30 pour cent des investissements dans le quinquennat sont réservés à l'agriculture.

Notre peuple s'efforce d'obtenir ces objectifs afin de parvenir au stade d'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Mais les séquelles de la guerre et les calamités naturelles nous portent à considérer comme toujours nécessaire l'assistance internationale pour la reconstruction de notre pays.

C'est avec joie que nous constatons que les relations entre le Viet Nam et la FAO d'une part, et le PAM d'autre part, ont été bonnes.

Le programme d'aide au Viet Nam pour les années 1976-1977 est en bonne voie d'exécution. Dans l'avenir, nous sommes certains que le Viet Nam, l'un des pays les plus sévèrement affectés comme l'a recommandé l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU récemment, continue à recevoir une aide accrue de la part de la FAO, du PAM et du FIDA, qui sera opérationnel sous peu de temps ainsi que de la part d'autres Organisations internationales.

La 19ème session de la Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment où, en ligne générale, la production mondiale des céréales connaît de bons résultats.

Mais, dans les pays en voie de développement, la croissance de la production agricole se trouve encore à des niveaux bien bas, elle est incertaine et ne dépasse pas encore l'accroissement démographique.

A long terme, le problème alimentaire, la production agricole constituent, pour ces pays, une grave hypothèque.

Actuellement, la situation est devenue plus préoccupante dans le Sahel, au Viet Nam et au Laos, comme l'a bien mentionné M. le Directeur exécutif du PAM, lors de l'ouverture de la 4ème séance du Comité des Politiques et Programme d'aide alimentaire.

La faim reste une menace constante pour des millions d'êtres humains en Asie comme en Afrique.

Cette situation troublante pose de lourdes responsabilités aux peuples du monde entier et à notre Organisation dont le noble objectif est de libérer l'humanité de la faim.

La situation exige des choix opportuns et fondamentaux.

Certes, le premier devoir qui incombe aux gouvernements des pays en voie de développement est d'appliquer une politique agricole et d'adapter des mesures efficaces en vue d'assurer l'approvisionnement alimentaire à leurs populations.

Mais, en ce qui concerne notre Organisation, tenant compte des expériences des déconies passées, nous pensons que la FAO devrait adopter une nouvelle stratégie: C'est une nécessité des plus impérieuses que d'orienter d'une façon encore plus efficace les activités de notre Organisation, en faveur des pays en voie de développement.

Nul n'ignore qu'au lendemain d'une longue période de domination intégrale de la part des impérialistes et des colonialistes, les pays retardés abordent de leur propre chef leur redressement et leur développement à partir d'une infrastructure embryonnaire.

Il leur manque les fonds nécessaires pour les investissements dans l'agriculture comme dans l'industrie, il leur manque les techniques nécessaires.

Si la FAO n'a pu et ne pourrait aider ces pays à se procurer les capitaux nécessaires aux investissements, il est souhaitable qu'elle leur accorde une assistance technique des plus efficaces.

C'est en ce sens que nous apprécions et soutenons pleinement l'initiative du Directeur général en vue d'orienter la majeure partie du travail de la FAO sur le terrain et de réduire le nombre des réunions; des publications et des documents ainsi que l'effectif du siège.

Nous nous réjouissons de l'établissement du programme de coopération technique qui répond directement aux besoins urgents à court terme des pays moins avancés pour porter au maximum leurs efforts de développement.

Nous pensons que cela constitue une orientation juste.

Nous donnons tout notre appui au programme de travail et au budget à court terme présenté par M. le Directeur général.

En réalité, c'est un budget trop limité pour une organisation ayant une tâche aussi grandiose et à la fois aussi difficile que la nôtre. Mais nous voudrions souligner que le budget pour le programme de coopération technique est encore trop restreint.

Nous donnons aussi notre plein appui au projet de résolution en ce qui concerne les fonds pour la prévention des pertes alimentaires.

Notre Conférence devrait se procurer les différentes sources d'approvisionnement pour que le Fonds puisse fonctionner le plus tôt possible.

Nous accueillons avec satisfaction l'objectif de contribution aux ressources du PAM pour les années 1979-1980.

Notre Délégation fera tout son possible pour se joindre aux efforts communs de la Conférence et réaffirme que, dans les conditions bien difficiles de la période de reconstruction d'après-guerre, le Gouvernement et le peuple vietnamiens sauront s'acquitter de leur responsabilité en tant que Membre de la FAO en résolvant au mieux notre problème alimentaire, en continuant à bien utiliser le soutien et l'aide internationale pour contribuer dans un proche avenir à la solution des problèmes des denrées alimentaires dans le monde entier.

Au nom de ma Délégation, je forme les vœux de bon succès pour la Conférence et je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président et distingués Délégués, de votre attention.

CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform you that I have received a request from the representative of the World Meteorological Organization to have his short statement included in the record of this meeting.

M. J. CONNAUGHTON (World Meteorological Organization): I should like to express my appreciation for having been given this opportunity of addressing the Conference on behalf of WMO.

Since weather is a most important factor in all facets of agriculture, it is obviously essential that there should be the closest collaboration between agriculturalists and meteorologists at both national and international levels. The importance of this collaboration was recognized by the World Food Conference which in a number of its resolutions called for close liaison between meteorologists and agriculturalists at the national level and joint efforts by FAO and WMO in various aspects of agriculture. While such collaboration existed before the World Food Conference, it is true to say that the need to establish closer ties and develop closer co-operation between our two agencies has received fresh impetus as a result of the Conference. For its part, the Congress of WMO has approved extended agrometeorological activities in aid of food production which are mainly oriented towards developing countries and of which close liaison and full co-operation with FAO is an important component.

Conference Document C 77/25 refers to some examples of the increasing collaboration between FAO and WMO in agriculture and meteorology: joint agroclimatological surveys (with UNESCO) in Africa, the Near East and South America, joint FAO/WMO Technical Conferences in Agriculture Meteorology in Ibadan and Rome, the provisions by WMO to FAO of rainfall data from some African Countries as meteorological input to the GIEWS, and the participation of FAO representatives on WMO working groups on agricultural meteorology. Another important development has been that working arrangements have been concluded between the Secretariats of FAO and WMO which formalize the co-operation between the two bodies in the field of agricultural meteorology.

The Twenty-Ninth Session of the Executive Committee of WMO (May/June 1977) strongly favoured the initiative taken by the Secretary-General of WMO in promoting increased collaboration between WMO and FAO, by inviting FAO to join in the organization of certain seminars, symposia, technical conferences and projects and expressed the hope that FAO would take similar initiatives regarding the participation of WMO in selected FAO projects requiring a substantial agrometeorological input. I should like to assure the Conference that any requests from FAO regarding such participation would receive the sympathetic consideration of WMO and that all efforts would be made to meet them - subject of course to budgetary considerations.

Two fields which offer much scope for WMO/FAO collaboration are, I believe, those of Integrated Rural Development in developing countries and of Combating Desertification; in the latter field where both climate and land management practices play vital roles, the plan of action drawn up by the recent United Nations Conference on Desertification envisages that both our agencies will play important parts.

In summary, therefore, WMO, being strongly of the belief that close collaboration between our two agencies in the field of agricultural meteorology is highly desirable, welcomes the ties that have been established over the years and suggests that the Conference may wish to consider ways and means by which agriculturalists and meteorologists at national and international levels may be able to co-operate even more closely in the planning and implementation of joint projects. <sup>1/</sup>

The meeting rose at 19. 00 hours

La seance est levee à 19 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 19. 00 horas

<sup>1/</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/14

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 14ª SESION PLENARIA

(19 November 1977)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09. 40 hours.

S. Juma'a, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 40.

sous la présidence de S. Juma'a, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 09. 40 horas

bajo la presidencia de S. Juma'a, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): The Chairman of the Conference has requested me to replace him on the chairmanship of this morning's meeting, which is a great honour for me.

A. W. M. AL-DAHIRI (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): The Iraqi delegation would like to extend contratulations to the Chairman on his election to preside over the meetings of this Conference and to the delegations of countries which have recently joined this Organization.

The developing countries are still facing one of the most important problems of their development -namely, the provision of foodstuffs necessary to meet the growing requirements of the population. Developing countries are suffering from underdevelopment, poverty, malnutrition and atrocious exploitation. They are striving hard to get rid of these social ills in order to cope with the progress of civilization, in spite of the difficulties they are facing in view of the repressive policies pursued by imperialist countries in monopolizing the use of modern technology, by occupying lands of others by force and continuing to forge ahead with the policy of racial discrimination and overlooking the National Liberation Movements that have been recognized and imposing restrictions on external trade and laying down difficult terms when extending loans for agricultural development.

Our agricultural policy is based on the principles pursued by the Arab Socialist Bath Party and the Charter of National Action in accordance with the strategies of the party and its economic philosophy and its programmes set for this stage.

Our national duty calls on us to go ahead with the process of socialist build-up and mobilize the forces of development on the basis of clear-cut objectives and renewable formulas which aim at providing practical means for effecting radical transformations in increasing the levels of production and raising the rates of productivity for labour and invested capital and making rational use of available resources.

We are trying hard to rebuild the civilization of the value of the two rivers in which agriculture was one of the main foundations. We are seeking to strengthen the capacity of the country to increase production in order to face growing demand for agriculture products and to develop our abilities to carry out our national duties by contributing to the solution of the problems of food in the Arab homeland. Later on we can participate in this field at the international level as well.

Moreover, the development of the agricultural sector is something which is rendered inevitable as a precondition for building up the national economy because of the availability in Iraq of a favourable natural environment, water resources and financing potentialities for promoting agricultural growth. Taking into consideration the strategic role played by food and agriculture in the movement of development in the Arab homeland at large and the importance of this role under the existing international circumstances, our policy of developing the agricultural sector stems from our faith in the need to change the system of agricultural exploitation, the need for rural development in Iraq, and to raise the level of the rural cultivation from the economic, socialist and cultural points of view, through organizing the exploitation of agricultural ownership and changing the pattern of agricultural relationships and creating a genuine desire for participation in action programmes through the deepening of socialist transformations in the country and creating incentives and emphasizing the strategy of the social sector by the development of state-owned and collective farms and agricultural cooperatives.

The Iraqi Government has enacted a number of reform laws necessary for the organization of agricultural ownership. These laws belong to three categories. The first category comprises laws for reducing the maximum limit of ownership, such as the Agrarian Reform Law No. 30 and the Agrarian Reform Law No. 117 and the law for organizing agricultural ownership in the autonomous region. These laws aim at restricting agricultural ownership and laying down a maximum limit for ownership. By so doing we have



been able to eliminate feudalism and to make social justice prevail, to liberate the farmers and to create new possibilities of agricultural production and the achievement of stability and to guarantee a dignified and free life for the masses of the peasants who have a real interest in developing agriculture. The second category comprises laws for laying down a minimum limit for agricultural ownership such as the law for organizing an economic limit of agricultural ownership which has prevented the partition of agricultural and horticultural lands into areas which are below the level of economic viability necessary to ensure a livelihood for one peasant and his family. And this is going to lead to the amalgamation of small and scattered and uneconomic ownership.

The third category comprises laws for the organization and standardization of the exploitation of the agricultural lands such as the law on agricultural ownership in agricultural products and the law for standardizing varieties of lands owned by the State. Thus the ownership of agricultural lands has been organized and all the varieties of lands owned by the State have been classified while maintaining the rights of disposal so as to guarantee that they would be placed in the hands of the actual farmers who are capable of exploiting them.

We are seeking with all our capacities to achieve an increase in agricultural production, both plant and animal, at an annual rate not less than 7 percent in the development plan for 1976-1980, in order to face the growing demand on foodstuffs and raw materials needed for industry; and we stress the importance of self-sufficiency in the production of grains and basic agricultural commodities in order to make Iraq in the long run capable of producing a surplus of agricultural commodities, to meet part of the requirements of the region.

Our agriculture plan during the past years has been affected by the rise in the prices of manufactured goods in the developed countries and the rise in the costs of agricultural production and technology. The policies we are pursuing for the achievement of our agricultural goals stem from our reliance on comprehensive agricultural planning for both investment and production and our reliance on the principle of regional planning in order to ensure a balanced growth of all parts of the country. We are also trying to complete studies on water balance and establish projects for the construction of dams and reservoirs and the carrying out of irrigation and drainage projects, improving **water** management and the implementation of integrated agricultural projects by concentrating on a number of major projects, and completing the construction and reclamation of land and establishment of necessary facilities and of independent departments for the administration of each project, so that each department may be responsible for all the requirements of the project from the technical, administrative and financial point of view, so that the project may be an integrated economic unit.

We also work for the development of rural areas and to reduce the disparity between village and town. We try to realize stability for the population in the country by increasing the income of the farmer side by side with achieving the requirements of rural agglomerations and agricultural integration. This is in addition to raising the efficiency of investment directed toward the benefit to man in the rural areas and developing human technical capacity through the training of the farmer, and orienting him in order to raise his standard and to be able to deal with modern agricultural technologies and to administer agricultural processes in an effective and efficient manner designed to raise the productivity of the land and of labour. Our policy aims at concentrating the process of land reclamation and carrying out an intensified campaign for the reclamation and desalinization of land in Iraq, after completing work on the main estuaries and carrying out surveys and studies concerning the soil and making detailed topographical maps to be used in determining which agricultural lands are capable of being cultivated, and to specify the type of crops suited to each of them in order to raise productivity and reduce seasonal fluctuations.

We also try to develop technological methods in the field of agricultural mechanization and also to secure the necessary cadres for the administration, operation and maintenance of this equipment. We also try to expand our use of better seeds and of fertilizers and pesticides and all measures likely to maintain the fertility of the soil. We also try to ensure agricultural intensification through concentrating on the use of land having available water resources. Moreover, we seek to develop our animal health by expanding the provision of veterinary services and carrying out projects for livestock improvement and diversification of breeds and we try to establish operatives which specialize in animal health and to provide the necessary cadres. This is in addition to concentrating on the development of poultry production and of fisheries along with relative measures to organize fishing and make use of water catchments in depressions and lakes in order to increase production of fish and achieve nutritional balance and to provide the means of storage, transportation and refrigeration and all measures likely to lead to the safe marketing of this source of work.

We also try to provide basic services in the country by developing the main network of roads in rural areas and linking them with the main roads in accordance with the requirements of the agricultural sectors and ensuring direct links between the centres of production and those of marketing on one hand, and realizing closer cultural links between village and town on the other. While completing the construction of an agricultural cooperative structure we try to establish the largest possible number of cooperatives all over the country, also seeking to implement projects for the training of farmers on modern farming methods. In addition to orientation centres that have been established for the benefits of the farmers and of the peasant women and youth, we also seek to build modern villages.

Iraq is part of the international community and it has faith in the importance of international cooperation in the various fields through international organizations, foremost among which is the Food and Agriculture Organization, because this Organization has enabled developing countries to benefit from the technical experience in the different domains of agricultural activities. This is in addition to promoting regional cooperation between countries which have different geographical circumstances. We call for coordination and regional cooperation among countries in the field of agricultural production and for efforts to achieve agricultural integration. Iraq has enacted a law for the national authority in relation to the FAO by virtue of which a national body has been established which has an independent personality and which enjoys autonomy both financially and from an administrative point of view to organize cooperation between the Organization and the various ministries which benefit from the assistance of the Organization. This is designed to lead to the consolidation and extension of projects of agricultural, social and cultural development programmes of food which are sponsored by the states and to determine priorities and to participate in the world campaign for freedom from hunger. We are trying to play our role within the limits of our potentialities by extending technical and financial assistance to countries which are in need of it.

In this connection I should like to refer to the development fund established in Iraq and to which Iraq is generously contributing in order to extend it to sister and friendly countries. We are also actually participating in covering the cost of the projects carried out by the Organization in our country. We greatly appreciate the establishment of a large number of regional centres by the Organization in my country and we are going to extend to them every possible support to enable them to carry out their objectives for the benefit of everyone. We call on developing countries to solve their agricultural problems by depending on themselves and we hope that people will be able to produce their food by themselves, depending on their own capacities to develop their agriculture. We also invite the rich and developed countries to carry out their human duty towards the underdeveloped peoples until the latter are able to stand on their feet.

My delegation had studied closely the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization and we think that enormous efforts have been exerted for preparing this Programme. My delegation has clearly realized the enormity of the tasks which are being given to the different programmes and we would have hoped for increased cooperation between the Organization and its regional centres in order to achieve the required integration in agricultural development.

We also support the new trend pursued by the Organization for realizing decentralization on the regional level and the consideration of the integrated commodity programme of the UNCTAD and the projects of economic cooperation and integration among developing countries while concentrating on the programmes of investment and direct action designed to increase production, because these matters are closely related to the objectives of a new international economic order. Moreover, we call for the consolidation of regional offices and giving them sufficient competence to carry out their function effectively and to strive away from bureaucracy and direct their efforts towards the field while adhering to objectivity and taking into consideration the principle of equitable geographical distribution between the different regions and inside each region when they fill the main posts on the basis of experience and efficiency.

Attention should also be paid to a study of the phenomenon of duplication of work and overlap of responsibility in different sectors of the Organization and we hope that the Organization will be restructured in this regard.

Iraq believes that understanding and cooperation among countries are the basis for comprehensive international stability and for enabling humanity to achieve its noble objectives which are manifested in the realization, of justice and prosperity for everybody and we hope our region will receive greater attention and a greater allocation by the Organization because of the availability in this region of the main foundations for agriculture and for the increase of production and the possibility of easing the tension of the world food crisis, we are ready to cooperate with all peace-loving peoples and we will try to achieve a better life for humanity.

We extend our congratulations to Dr. Saouma for having been able to direct the affairs of this Organization in a wise and rational manner and I wish this Conference every success.

C. FERNANDES (Angola) (interprétation du portugais): Après environ 500 ans de colonialisme, le peuple de l'Angola, conduit par le MPLA sous la direction éclairée du camarade Agostinho Neto, Président du MP LA et de la République populaire de l'Angola, a atteint finalement son indépendance politique. Nous venons juste de célébrer le deuxième anniversaire de cette indépendance, advenue le 11 novembre.

Le programme du MPLA nous dit que la conquête de l'indépendance politique ouvre une nouvelle phase dans le processus angolais. Dans cette phase, la satisfaction des besoins matériels de notre peuple demandera un développement rapide des forces productives sous le signe de la transformation progressive des relations de production périmées héritées du colonialisme.

Cette directive tend à faire de l'Angola un pays absolument indépendant, afin de garantir le bien-être et le bonheur de notre peuple.

L'indépendance de l'Angola a été conquise à une époque où le système colonial, dans sa forme classique, se trouvait moribond. Cependant, dans son essence, ce même système réussit encore à subsister car il y existe encore des régimes à la tête desquels se trouvent des agents de l'impérialisme,

La nature même du nouveau pouvoir établi en Angola, est en pleine contradiction avec les desseins néocolonialistes des puissances impérialistes, lesquelles, de par la retraite de notre pays du colonialisme portugais, ont perdu le contrôle de l'exploitation matérielle et de l'exploitation de la force de travail de notre peuple.

Cette contradiction ne peut trouver une solution que par la violence, et c'est par la violence que l'impérialisme soutient les invasions dont notre pays en a été victime, au Nord par les forces régulières zaïroises et par les hordes de mercenaires, au Sud par les troupes du régime raciste de l'Afrique du Sud. Le peuple angolais a donc été obligé de subir de nouveaux sacrifices pour la défense de son indépendance, de son intégrité territoriale et pour la défense des conquêtes durement acquises pendant la lutte de libération nationale.

En conséquence de ces invasions, la base matérielle héritée du colonialisme, faible en soi, a subi des pertes considérables. Pour donner une idée des dommages infligés par la fureur criminelle des ennemis de notre peuple, nous vous donnerons quelques chiffres:

- Pour ce qui concerne la production agricole, la perte d'une partie de la récolte de café a été en 1975, d'environ 26. 960 tonnes. En plus de cette perte immédiate, la dégradation des plantations, faute de pouvoir leur apporter les soins de manutention, a fait baisser de 60 pour cent la productivité, et, pour les mêmes raisons, 30 pour cent des plantations ont été détruites.

Après déduction de frais courants de récolte et préparation du produit, la perte totale de ce café correspond à environ à 208, 500, 000 dollars E. -U.

- La récolte du sisal au sein de la plus importante zone productrice du pays a été touchée à 80 pour cent pendant l'année 1976.

- La campagne du coton de 1975/76 a aussi été atteinte et les pertes se chiffrent à 6. 970. 000 dollars E. -U.

- Les dommages que l'agression du régime de Vorster a fait subir à notre peuple dans la production de céréales-correspondent à environ 75. 900, 000 dollars E. -U,

L'agression par les racistes sud-africains a entraîné encore le vol et le pillage de l'équipement agricole, et ce patrimoine ne peut pas être rétabli à brève échéance. Il en résulte une baisse dans l'exportation des produits de notre industrie alimentaire aussi bien que dans la production des produits de consommation du peuple, tels les céréales et les oléagineuses. Cette chute de la production se maintiendra encore en 1977 et se fera sentir jusqu'en 1979, si le rééquipement nécessaire n'est pas réalisé. Ainsi nous devons ajouter aux pertes déjà signalées celles qui résultent de la chute de la production, qui montent à 65. 700, 000 dollars E. -U. et celles qui regardent les pertes dans les cultures de base, soit 141. 600. 000 dollars E. -U.

De la même façon, notre activité d'élevage a été atteinte par l'agression des racistes sud-africains. Dans les régions laitières plus importantes il y a eu une paralysie totale de la production, soit, aux prix du marché interne, une perte de 12. 020. 000 dollars E. -U. Les anciens niveaux de production ne peuvent pas rapidement être rejoints, car non seulement les centrales laitières et l'équipement ont été détruits, mais le vol du bétail a réduit les effectifs, de sorte qu'il va falloir quelques années et des gros investissements pour reconstituer ce patrimoine.

Les pertes de bétail de haute qualité montent à 236. 700. 000 dollars E. -U. Il faut encore signaler que parmi les animaux volés par les agresseurs sud-africains il y avait des femelles adultes et reproductrices, y compris des animaux importés de haute valeur zootechnique.

En plus de ce bétail il y a eu une perte d'animaux en âge d'abattage estimée à 600. 000 têtes, ce qui représente une somme de 15. 000. 000. de dollars E. -U. aux prix du marché intérieur.

En ce qui concerne l'équipement, 7. 000 tracteurs, pour une somme de 90. 000. 000 de dollars E. -U., ont été détruits. Les pertes d'un autre type d'équipement, inclus les véhicules du secteur agricole, s'élèvent à environ 70. 000, 000 de dollars. Les installations agricoles détruites exigeront à peu près 10. 000. 000. 00 de dollars E. -U. pour leur récupération.

A coté de ces pertes matérielles, le Gouvernement de la République Populaire de l'Angola affronte les problèmes qui, naturellement découlent du retour de l'exil auquel beaucoup d'angolais ont été forcés pendant la période coloniale. Il faut donc un grand effort pour loger, alimenter et habiller à peu près 750. 000 compatriotes, jusqu'à un retour à une vie normale.

L'Angola est un pays récemment indépendant qui a hérité d'une structure économique dépendante, . Pour cela, le Gouvernement de la République populaire d'Angola aura certainement des difficultés sérieuses pour créer les bases nécessaires au démarrage de son économie. Ceci est aggravé par l'abandon du pays de la plupart des techniciens spécialisés qui ont servi le régime colonial, et par les difficultés qui se présentent pour la formation accélérée de cadres, étant donné le taux élevé d'analphabétisme au sein de notre peuple.

Pendant la période coloniale, la structure agraire se caractérisait par la coexistence de la grande propriété coloniale et la petite propriété familiale paysanne, celle-ci comprenant environ 85 pour cent de la population qui est presque en régime de subsistance.

Dans ces conditions, le MPLA et le Gouvernement de la République d'Angola ont établi les lignes directrices qui guideront le futur développement du pays. La proclamation de l'indépendance, la loi constitutionnelle et la troisième plénière du Comité Central du MPLA définissent l'agriculture comme la base de notre développement. C'est-à-dire qu'à la phase actuelle de la reconstruction nationale, les activités liées au secteur de l'agriculture et de l'élevage sont considérées prioritaires, ayant pour but d'atteindre le plus vite possible les productions nécessaires aux besoins de notre peuple.

Ainsi, nous envisageons d'abord de parvenir à l'autoapprovisionnement dans la production de denrées de consommation de masse et, progressivement, d'augmenter la production d'aliments qui sont encore aujourd'hui de consommation régulière des minorités, dans le sens de l'amélioration du régime alimentaire de tout le peuple.

Nous ne croyons pas à la résolution définitive des problèmes complexes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation sans la transformation radicale de la structure agraire défectueuse existante dans la majorité des pays exploités.

Nous concevons la réforme agraire comme un système global qui vise, en même temps, la transformation politique, économique, culturelle et technique de la terre.

En conséquence, nous croyons que l'augmentation de la production et de la productivité, et l'amélioration des conditions de vie et de travail des paysans doivent passer **par** l'élargissement de la propriété sociale et par la pratique de la coopération agricole, puisque le maintien des petites propriétés dispersées ne peut conduire qu'à la stagnation des forces productives.

Nous pensons, cependant, que ce n'est que l'augmentation progressive de la coopération agricole et la modification des rapports de production qui peuvent conduire les masses paysannes à assumer la direction du processus productif qui les concernent, à se libérer définitivement de la faim, de la misère et de l'obscurantisme et à acquérir une mentalité nouvelle.

En outre, l'élargissement de la propriété sociale avec la constitution d'unités d'Etat de production agricole appartenant à tout le peuple, traduisent déjà des changements profonds des rapports de production dans le secteur agricole. Les unités d'Etat constituent ainsi un appui important pour garantir l'augmentation rapide des productions ayant recours à une technologie de pointe.

Les ressources de l'Angola et la politique agraire poursuivie, par notre Gouvernement nous montrent clairement que l'effort qu'on pourra faire dans ce domaine permettra de résoudre, dans un délai relativement bref, les problèmes plus graves de l'alimentation de notre peuple et, encore, créer des excédents alimentaires qui peuvent contribuer à la réduction des problèmes du continent africain et du monde.

Dans ce but le peuple angolais et le Gouvernement de la République populaire d'Angola sont intéressés à la collaboration de la FAO pour la réalisation de projets concrets qui puissent correspondre aux objectifs envisagés. C'est maintenant que la République Populaire, d'Angola, devenue membre de la FAO, a sa place comme membre de plein droit dans les débats et les décisions de cette remarquable organisation. Pour cela, naturellement, on n'a eu aucune participation aux discussions antérieures qui ont orienté la préparation du projet du Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79, que M. le Directeur général nous présente.

Cependant, le fait que la République populaire d'Angola appartienne au groupe des pays du Tiers Monde - ce qui nous identifie aux problèmes des pays en situation similaire - nous permet d'exprimer notre appui de principe au Programme de travail et budget pour 1978-79.

Nous sommes certains que les actions programmées peuvent contribuer à amoindrir certaines des difficultés que connaissent les masses paysannes du Tiers Monde, même s'il nous semble, comme nous avons affirmé ci-dessus, que la solution définitive du problème doit obligatoirement passer par la transformation des rapports de production dans chaque pays et par l'établissement d'un nouvel ordre économique international qui moralise les rapports entre les différents pays, comme il a déjà été référé plusieurs fois dans cette Conférence.

Répondant aux plus profondes aspirations du peuple angolais, le MPLA a choisi la voie non capitaliste de développement, ayant pour but stratégique la construction du socialisme scientifique.

C'est une option qui relève d'abord de notre peuple, mais qui a une influence décisive dans le changement de la corrélation de forces à niveau mondial, particulièrement dans le sud du continent africain.

Monsieur le Président,

Le processus historique se développe en obéissant à des lois objectives que personne ne peut nier. Les mesures nécessaires pour la lutte contre la faim dans le monde passent obligatoirement par l'établissement de rapports plus justes entre les nations, permettant aux masses ouvrières du monde entier l'accès à la jouissance des richesses qu'elles seules peuvent créer.

C'est, forte de ce grand objectif, que la République populaire d'Angola s'intègre dans cette Organisation spécialisée des Nations Unies.

La Lutte continue

La victoire est certaine

I. SHOUKRY (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): In the name of God, the Merciful:

I have the pleasure, on behalf of the Egyptian Delegation, to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as chairman of this session. I also wish to extend my congratulations to the distinguished officers of the Bureau. I am sure that the work of this session, thanks to your wise leadership and to the assistance of your fellow officers of the Bureau, will be successful. My congratulations to Angola, Comores, the Democratic Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles and to the U. N. Council for Namibia on their admission in FAO membership which would strengthen the international Community and promote FAO activities.

I am particularly happy to address this distinguished gathering of agriculture leaders of the world. Though this is the first time that I attend a FAO Conference, I have had close ties with FAO and have followed its activities, since a long time, both as a farmer and as an agronomist. This relationship has been further strengthened by my meeting with Mr. Edouard Saouma, the Director-General, during his Visit to Cairo, during which we exchanged views concerning FAO activities and its world role.

Two years have elapsed since our last Conference, That period was characterized by economic crisis and disturbances which led to a severe wave of inflation accompanied by balance of payments disturbances and higher rates of unemployment. These aspects had their impact on the world economy. All categories of developing countries, whether the least developed or the most seriously affected, were the states that suffered most from an economic crisis that affected their development plans and limited their aspirations for a better future. This period also witnessed several attempts made in various international fora such as the measures taken following the proclamation of the New International Economic Order by a special session of United Nations, the efforts made during the IV Conference of UNCTAD, the series of dialogues between various groups of countries, the last of which being the North-South Dialogue, and finally there was the WFC meeting in Manila last summer which I had the honour to attend.

Looking at what happened in all these gatherings, we find that there was a consensus among developed and developing countries on the seriousness of the situation and the necessity to take remedial action. Some compromises have been reached between developed and developing countries but the gap between them is still wide in such matters as production and income growth rates, this gap is still growing wider day after day in view of the fact that developed countries have more resources and take advantage of modern technology. In such a situation it is difficult for the developing countries to catch up with these countries.

Nevertheless, the situation is not all discouraging. Some promising "developments have occurred such as an increase of 3 percent in food production in 1976, an increase of 9 percent in grains production, a higher average annual increase in food production in developing countries even though it did not reach the 4 percent target set by WFC. We may mention also in this respect, that financial assistance sources have become relatively more available than in the 60s and early 70s, the most important aspect being the emergence of new donors among the developing countries group beside traditional donors, and the establishment of international and national finance funds, the last of which being IFAD. Moreover, there was an increasing interest in agriculture on the part of the World Bank and increased involvement of FAO with investment activity. However, we note with concern that available official development assistance is still below the level set by the United Nations with a view to helping the developing countries achieve a growth rate of 4 percent in food production.

This is the background against which I would like to make some comments.

I start with agricultural investments. Here we consider it necessary to provide a greater share of financial assistance to developing countries on concessional terms as most of them suffer from the burden of debt servicing, especially in agriculture. It is for this reason that we would like to see the International Development Association of the World Bank expanding the scope of its activities and increasing the volume of credit channelled through it in view of the nature of its terms as against those of the World Bank and of the relevance of such credits to agricultural activity. Here also, I would like to express our support for the new approach of the Bank concerning the establishment of coordination groups for some developing countries. It is necessary that assistance provided from various sources be in line with the requirements of the countries concerned and their absorptive capacity while securing coordination among various assistance sources. I would also like to refer to a situation which we frequently confront in Egypt and I think is being confronted also by many developing countries, namely the lack of trained personnel to carry out the required feasibility studies for investment projects. Such a lack left these countries entirely dependent upon international or bilateral institutions in preparing these studies. This situation must not be allowed to continue, for the scarcity of such technicians constitutes an obstacle to the implementation of development projects. We believe that FAO can assist developing countries in this respect by establishing units to carry out such studies.

We come, now, to the need for modern technology transfer as a main instrument for agricultural development. Here I wish to stress the importance of adapting the means of technology transfer to the conditions and circumstances of the developing countries for it is useless to transfer such advanced technology to a country that did not reach the stage capable of absorbing it. There is another related problem which confronts most of the developing countries namely the lack of trained man-power on all levels including agricultural workers, supervisors or technicians. Without providing training at all these three levels simultaneously, there would be no use in transferring modern technology to developing countries. I would like to refer here to the role which can be played, in this respect, by agricultural extension and vocational training institutions and to the need of linking them with agricultural research. I am convinced that FAO can play an effective role in this respect whether through providing advisory services or in assisting in organizing national training centres.

Agricultural development in the developing countries, when funds and experience are available, should take two directions: by vertical and horizontal expansion. We all know that land-reclamation projects are very costly in money and time and that developing countries, aspiring to develop their economies, as far as possible, cannot by themselves afford such a cost. Hence the importance of vertical expansion based on the provision of agricultural inputs especially seeds as they are the cornerstone of increasing production and improving of soil fertility, pesticides as a means of protecting production and agricultural equipment which have become necessary in view of the nature of agricultural work and labour conditions. These inputs should be made available to farmers at reasonable prices. I believe that this can be best achieved by setting up an appropriate machinery for agricultural credit and cooperation. This is the only way through which small farmers can benefit from modern technology and mass production. We hope that this matter will draw the attention of the World Conference for Agrarian Reform as modern agrarian reform concept has now gone beyond mere land distribution to the establishment of a developed rural community in which agricultural cooperation and credit play an effective role.

The establishment of food security has become the major preoccupation of the whole world. It can be best achieved through two ways of a complementary nature and of equal importance, namely production increase and control, of food losses. Post-harvest losses are now one of the most serious problems which particularly affect the developing countries in view of the limited facilities at their disposal for controlling pests and storing crops especially at the farm level in these countries. This requires a comprehensive plan covering the various agricultural crops starting from growing stage until the product reaches the consumer. For this reason we urge the establishment of a special fund for post-harvest losses.

I am happy that many of the points I mentioned, are in line with the new policies of the Director-General as outlined in the Programme of Work submitted by him to our Conference. I avail myself on this occasion to express our appreciation for his efforts during the last biennium, I particularly mention his approach to strengthen agricultural investment activity in FAO in order to meet the requirements of the developing countries at this stage in which IFAD has been established. No doubt that FAO will be IFAD primary source of expertise as a result of the experience it accumulated during the last 25 years. We also support the decentralization trend and the expansion of country-offices which will strengthen the relationship between FAO and many developing countries and enable to serve them more directly. We wish to express our satisfaction with the programmes submitted by the Director-General in rural development fields particularly those concerned with agrarian reform, agricultural credit and training. Here I would like to point out the importance of using national institutions in training since many of the developing countries, including Egypt, have now efficient and experienced training bodies that can provide training facilities to trainees from other developing countries. This idea has been emphasized by the last FAO Conference and by many international organizations including the United Nations. We hope that FAO will expand the use of these institutions. Emphasis on seeds and fertilizers as the main agricultural inputs and control of post-harvest loss is, also, in line with what I referred to, and is considered among the main features of the aforementioned programme, as both elements have substantial impact upon agricultural production increase in most of the developing countries. Last, but not least, we welcome the establishment of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) initiated by the Director-General which gave FAO autonomy and freedom of movements to meet the urgent and pressing needs of the developing countries. This is one of the main objectives of FAO which should be given support by all of us, developed and developing countries alike, in order to achieve FAO's lofty objective, namely a world free, from hunger, and prosperity for all humanity.

I. GARANDI (Uganda): First of all, allow me and my delegation to congratulate you on your deserved election as the Chairman of the Nineteenth Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference. Also Mr. Chairman, allow me and my delegation to congratulate the Director-General on his inspiring and encouraging statement to the Conference. We are confident, judging from the revolutionary ideas and actions he has already initiated in the short period he has been in office, that FAO will continue to move from strength to strength to achieve its objectives under his direction.

Secondly, my delegation would like to join other Member Nations in welcoming our brothers and sisters from: Angola, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles, who have been admitted to this world organization. We trust that with their added support this Organization will go a long way to fulfilling its objectives.

Uganda is a small country with a total area of 241 000 square kilometres of which about 36 000 square kilometres is under open water and swamps. The arable land amounts to some 175 000 square kilometres, the rest being forests, mountains and game reserves. Of the arable land, only about 20 percent is presently being cultivated. This indicates that Uganda has still vast land resources and much potential for agricultural development. Much of the land area is suitable for cultivation and most swamps can be reclaimed using modern techniques. Throughout the country, the climate is favourable for agricultural production. In fact, the country is ideally suited to the production of a wide range of tropical, subtropical and temperate crops and livestock. In addition, other important areas including fishery and forestry have high potential for development. Moreover, Uganda is widely renowned for her other wonderful tourist natural resources including varied types of game in the famous national parks, abundant fish in the numerous lakes and rivers, and the famous mountains.

Ever since we started planned development, Uganda has accorded high priority to agriculture in the national development plans and in the allocation of annual budgetary funds. The Government's long-term policy has remained to change Uganda's agriculture from subsistence to commercial farming. The medium and short-term objectives of the Government have included:

- Ensuring that farmers produce sufficient food for themselves and for the public of a type and quality to ensure good health.
- Ensuring that the land is properly used and the soil adequately conserved through farming systems that do not deplete the soil.

- Seeking new knowledge-by means of coordinated research designed to improve land usage, the yields and quality of both crops and livestock.
- Encouraging the maximum production of suitable economic crops and livestock for local use and for export.

The main strategy for achieving these objectives has been to introduce new technologies on the one hand, and to adapt and upgrade! the traditional ones on the other. This strategy involves the provision of technical assistance to the farmers in the form of trained agricultural extension staff, research in crop and animal production, production tools, implements and inputs. The Government has also established farms for demonstrating proper husbandry practices and for breeding quality seeds and stock for distribution to farmers.

Uganda has vast fishery resources in the many inland lakes and rivers. Government has embarked on scientific management and exploitation of this resource by investing in new technology to accelerate the rate of planning, exploration, conservation, exploitation and utilization of fish and fish products.

Uganda is also endowed with rich tropical forest reserves and suitable conditions for extensive afforestation. One of the most important forest policies is to ensure maximum exploitation and conservation while at the same time ensuring the development of forest plantations with suitable tree species in strategic zones so as to maintain climatic conditions, soil fertility and stability, and to provide for domestic, industrial and export requirements.

In addition, Government has now embarked on the Action Programme **1977/78 - 1979/80**, a three-year national economic plan whose major objective is to improve the key sectors of the economy so as to put Uganda on a sound basis for further development. The Action Programme gives top priority to the agricultural sector and aims at, among other things, increasing the level of agricultural output and diversifying the scope of production.

In spite of the efforts that have been made to exploit the existing agricultural, animal, fishery and forestry potentiality, the level of investment has not been adequate to generate sufficient food surpluses that could be exported to other countries. It must be appreciated that full exploitation of these resources would require much more investment, both in terms of capital and technology, than Uganda can afford at this stage of her development. Therefore, if the world is going to derive maximum benefits from Uganda's natural resources, the world must be prepared to invest in their exploitation. It has been mentioned in this Conference that food is a birth and political right of man; while this is true, quite often, some developing countries have been denied international aid to produce sufficient foodstuffs simply because their internal policies happen to be unacceptable to some donor countries.

The Uganda delegation would like, at this stage, to associate itself with the global efforts and activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and, in particular, with the Food and Agriculture Organization. We commend the FAO's policy proposals including the decentralization of her office to establish country resident offices in developing countries. We believe that this measure will enable the Organization to focus particular attention on specific problems peculiar to some developing countries. We support FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and the International Fertilizer Scheme which we hope will be continued to help to reduce the balance of payments difficulties faced by many developing countries. Finally, Uganda fully supports the efforts and measures by world community in establishing the World Food Council, Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the proposed World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We feel that these new measures deserve the support of all member countries and the guidance of the United Nations already established institutions.

While we commend the efforts and activities of the international organizations, our experience with their present mode of operation, especially as regards the processing and implementation of projects and programmes, is one of disappointment. My delegation feels that the present slow processes can be speeded up and made more efficient by full utilization of local experts and facilities.

Developing countries have local experts who are capable of formulating viable projects but who are presently discriminated against by international biases. Uganda would like to call on all international organizations to accept and make full use of locally available experts and facilities so as to reduce the present time wastage.



The Uganda delegation would particularly like to request the United Nations agencies, especially the International Fund for Agricultural Development when fully operational, to devote more resources to the field of agro-industrial development in the Third World. As this Conference is aware, agricultural commodities on which most developing countries depend for their economic survival have been increasingly facing worsening market conditions brought about mainly by acute competition from artificial products and by the protectionist policies adopted by the developed economies. In this connection, Uganda calls for international action, assistance and support for developing countries to establish agro-industries which raise the market values of agricultural commodities. Uganda also calls for a change in attitude to the present protectionist policies by the developed market economies.

Uganda's concern, like that of most countries **and** the United Nations organizations, is the production of sufficient quality food products to satisfy internal demand, to satisfy food reserve requirements and to generate surpluses for export. From our experience, it is obvious that merely increasing food production without eliminating the present very high post-harvest losses and food wastage will not solve the problem of food shortage. A lot of food is lost through lack of proper preservation and conservation measures in most of the developing countries brought about mainly by inadequacy of capital and lack of appropriate technology. My delegation would like to call for international action, assistance and support for developing countries to adopt appropriate research and other measures that will minimize the present high post-harvest food losses.

Uganda's agriculture presently relies on rain-fed farming which, because of moisture deficiency during the dry periods, limits the full utilization of land resources. This is in spite of the abundant reservoirs of water in the numerous lakes, rivers and swamps which could facilitate irrigated farming, and the potential irrigable land area of about 200 000 hectares. Our limitations in adopting irrigated farming have largely stemmed from inadequacy of capital and lack of irrigation technology. My delegation hopes that the International Fund for Agricultural Development will use its resources and expertise to assist the country exploit this important resource.

More particularly, Uganda invites and welcomes interested parties, both private and Government, to invest and assist in the exploitation of her resources. The country's laws protect foreign investments and guarantee fair returns and repatriation of profits. Only last month, the country's Foreign Investment (Protection) Act was amended to give more liberal terms to investors, perhaps equal to none in the developing world. In the agricultural sector, investors are welcome in such areas as horticultural production and processing, oil seeds production and processing, production and processing of grains such as wheat, barley and rice, and in the processing of fishery and forestry products.

The Uganda delegation regrets to note that international negotiations on commodity trade have yet to produce a worthwhile remedy to improve the present adverse terms of trade between developed and developing countries. UNCTAD IV in Nairobi last year, and other negotiation attempts since, have failed to produce any immediate practical solutions, thereby leaving international agricultural commodity trade to the vagaries and machinations of the existing market channels. While we delay in reaching agreements on these negotiations, investments in artificial cotton, rubber, sisal and many other products continue and new artificial brands daily appear to compete natural products out of the market. This situation does not improve the adverse trade imbalances between the developed and the developing countries. My delegation calls for speedy action and results from these negotiations to remove the present anomalies.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, allow me to convey good wishes to you and the delegations for the success of the Conference from His Excellency Al-Hajji Field Marshal Dr. Idi Amin Dada, VC, DSO, MC, CBE, Life President of the Republic of Uganda.

H. Y. ALNISF (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate: Mr. Chairman, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate you on your election to the chair of this Conference, and on the well-deserved confidence that has been shown in you. On my behalf personally and on behalf of the delegate of Kuwait I would like to wish you full success in those duties. I would also like to congratulate the new member states, whose contribution will not fail to strengthen this Organization in its work in the service of humanity as a whole.

Mr. Director-General, heads of delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen: for all of us this Conference is an excellent opportunity for going into the various questions relating to food and nutrition in the world, questions on which this Conference and subsequent conferences will have to dwell with the continuing attention which they deserve, because our common objective is to increase production and eradicate hunger throughout the world.

In the course of the last few years we have seen a tangible growth in the production of cereals and other food products. This has given us cause for optimism. We felt it was a first step towards major international efforts stimulated by FAO aimed at increasing production. But suddenly a doubt has entered our minds. It did so when we learned that some states were asking their farmers to limit and reduce their production in order to maintain prices, in spite of the position of the poor countries who are threatened by hunger because of the shortfall in their agricultural production as a result of difficult climatic conditions and the shortage of resources that are necessary for agricultural production and the exporting of the natural resources of those countries.

Thus the populations of these countries are no longer facing only simple malnutrition: above all, they are facing undernutrition, hunger and death. As human beings we must help our neighbours, the rich must help the poor, the have-nots must be given food aid and technology so that they can increase their production.

On the basis of this objective and this principle through FAO we would like our efforts to concentrate on increasing food production in all countries. We would like our recommendations to be effective and down-to-earth, because man in our age needs to eat more than he needs to speak.

In this context I would like to say that we feel that the North-South dialogue has taken a rather suspect line, as we see it. We ask those countries who have natural resources, food resources and technology, to get together in order to reduce the obstacles to the conference and to facilitate the North-South dialogue.

At this Conference which we have every two years we see a renewal of the hopes and expectations of humanity with a view to seeing an increase in production, but although we have seen an increase in the production of certain cereals this is not enough. Many countries are emphasizing agricultural production. They also participate and help in the projects in the fraternal countries. In spite of the inherent situation in Kuwait we do the best we can to increase our agricultural production so that we can participate and we try not to depend on others quite so much. In our annual budget we have increased the allocation for agricultural production. We participate in a large number of projects, multi-lateral and bilateral, , with a large number of countries.

I would like to refer to some of Kuwait's activities in this context of assistance.

First, there is a donation of \$5 million to the Regional Cooperation Project in the Middle East.

Secondly, there has been more than one-third participation in the African Arab Bank of \$500 million.

Thirdly, there has been participation in the capital of the Islamic Development Bank of \$120 million.

Fourthly, there has been participation in the capital of the Arab Economic African Development Bank of \$20 million.

Fifthly, there has been participation in the Arab Fund for African Development of \$6 million.

Sixthly, there has been participation in the Economic and Social Arab Development Fund of \$255 million.

Seventhly, there have been credit operations in the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development, which in 1976 amounted to the sum of \$340 million, which covered 30 states belonging to the group of Third World countries. In the context of this fund we have a number of projects in cooperation with the countries concerned.

Eighthly, there has been participation in the OPEC fund of \$72 million. You all know that fund is devoted essentially to financing agricultural and industrial activities in developing countries.

Ninthly, there has been participation in international organizations working in the agricultural field, such as the Arab Agricultural Development Fund, the Arid Zones and Drought Zones Fund and the regional training centre in fisheries, the project for mapping and developing water resources, and then the production and animal health project in the Middle East, as well as other international regional programmes.

Before concluding I should like to make a few comments. First, we support the project for the reduction of food waste after an integrated study which was carried out taking into account the different circumstances which influence the situation in order to achieve success in this project. The financing must come from the available funds, the fund held over, and from other sources.

Similarly, we support agricultural investment projects such as the Director-General has adopted under his new policy and we hope that they will constitute an important step forward in the life of our organization.

Also we support the Director-General in his decentralization policy and we think that he should give a broader mandate to the regional offices of FAO, also that he should provide the experts necessary for this operation of regional decentralization.

These are the aspirations of our countries in the regional context and they cannot but facilitate the direct action by the various countries and by the central Organization.

In conclusion, I must thank you for your attention, and I would like to express the hope that the results of this Conference will be fruitful and beneficial for humanity as a whole, that our recommendations will have a direct impact on increasing food production, and that all of us will be able to cooperate in the service of the world as a whole.

M. BRAH (Niger): La délégation nigérienne est heureuse de prendre la parole à l'occasion de la 19ème Session de la Conférence générale de notre organisation.

Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer nos remerciements au Gouvernement et au peuple italiens pour l'accueil extrêmement cordial que nous avons reçu. Nos remerciements vont aussi aux organisateurs de la conférence pour l'immense travail qu'ils ont réalisé afin de faciliter le déroulement de nos travaux.

Je voudrais aussi vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, ' pour votre brillante élection à la Présidence de notre Conférence et exprimer au Directeur général, digne fils du Tiers monde, la sympathie et le soutien de mon Gouvernement pour le nouveau dynamisme qu'il a imprimé à notre Organisation grâce à sa volonté soutenue par une conviction profonde de voir notre Organisation devenir une institution internationale au service du développement rural.

Monsieur le Président, nous sommes venus à Rome pour manifester l'intérêt tout particulier que nous accordons à la nécessaire dynamisation de notre Organisation mais aussi, et surtout, apporter notre modeste contribution aux débats que nous aurons à mener au cours de cette session.

La situation mondiale, sur le plan de la sécurité alimentaire est si fragile qu'il serait incomplet de faire un discours sans s'y référer.

Monsieur le Président, notre monde actuel est fait de contradictions, d'égoïsme. Seul le langage d'intérêt domine les relations entre personnes, entre Etats et entre nations.

Je dis monde de contradictions, car l'humanité se trouve confrontée devant un défi qu'elle n'arrive malheureusement pas à lever, à en juger par les résultats peu encourageants voire décevants obtenus dans le cadre de la stratégie internationale du développement au cours des première et deuxième décennies passées.

En fait, le fond du problème fondamental qui se pose à nous, s'agissant de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, et des investissements dans le secteur rural, se présente sous deux aspects:

- comment nourrir les déshérités?
- comment encourager les sociétés reposant sur l'agriculture de subsistance à se développer et à produire plus de denrées alimentaires pour s'autosuffire ?

De l'avis des spécialistes, plus des deux tiers de l'humanité vivent dans un état de malnutrition, dans un monde où les possibilités d'augmentation de la production agricole sont presque infinies grâce aux moyens techniques et scientifiques disponibles et pouvant être mobilisés.

Nous savons aussi que la question de la sécurité alimentaire a été pourtant au centre des préoccupations de notre Organisation depuis sa création. Qu'il me soit aussi permis de rappeler la Conférence pour l'alimentation de Hot Springs, réunie en 1943 et qui a donné le jour à la FAO. Non seulement les quarante-quatre nations réunies révélèrent au cours de cette conférence, sans la moindre réticence, les conditions réelles pour nourrir leurs peuples respectifs, mais aussi projetèrent-ils les mesures communes qu'il convenait d'adopter pour effacer, ou tout au moins estomper, sur les cartes mondiales les taches sombres des noyaux des populations sous-alimentées et affamées.

Un fait est certain, la question de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale ne date pas d'aujourd'hui; force nous est de constater qu'elle se présente aujourd'hui avec une telle acuité qu'une solution urgente s'impose. Nous savons que le contexte actuel de l'économie mondiale rend difficile voire illusoire une solution rapide aux deux aspects de la question de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Les multiples crises économiques, les hausses des facteurs de production indispensables à l'amélioration de la productivité agricole, les baisses des prix des produits agricoles, sont autant de facteurs défavorables à l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire mondiale.

De l'avis de notre Organisation (la FAO), la chute de la consommation des produits fertilisants dans les 43 pays les plus pauvres a eu pour conséquence un déficit alimentaire céréalier suffisant pour passer d'une situation de subsistance à un état de famine larvée.

Ces questions nous préoccupent au plus niveau, du fait que nous bénéficions du triste privilège d'appartenir aux 43 pays les plus pauvres. D'autre part, vous n'ignorez pas que mon pays a subi et souffre encore des conséquences de la tragique sécheresse qui a frappé l'ensemble des Etats sahéliens.

Cette triste réalité que nous vivons ne pourra que s'amplifier tant qu'une solution radicale n'est pas trouvée. En nous référant à la solution préconisée par la Conférence mondiale pour l'alimentation, afin de résoudre le problème alimentaire mondial, cela nécessitera la mobilisation des moyens suivants:

- 31 600 000 tonnes d'engrais;
- 800 000 tonnes de pesticides;
- 150 milliards de dollars USA pour réaliser les travaux d'irrigation, les routes et développer le crédit agricole.

Cette solution nous paraît irréalisable tant que l'égoïsme des possédants n'est pas vaincu, tant que le nouvel ordre économique juste n'est pas établi.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai jugé utile et nécessaire de relater ces considérations générales avant d'arriver à la situation spécifique de mon pays.

Le Niger est un pays enclavé, un pays sans littoral où le port le plus proche est situé à plus de 1000 km de la capitale.

Le Niger est aussi un pays sahélien, un pays où la situation agro-pastorale dépend principalement de l'abondance et de la répartition des pluies. Cet environnement austère que nous n'avons pas choisi, mais où nous devons vivre quand même, rend chaque année aléatoire la production agro-pastorale, base de l'alimentation de notre peuple.

Les difficiles années que nous avons passées (au cours de la dernière sécheresse), difficultés dont les effets ne sont pas encore effacés, nous ont amenés à réviser notre politique de développement rural. Cette nouvelle politique est contenue dans notre programme triennal de développement (1976-1977-1978).

Notre politique de développement rural, fondée sur une vision à long terme s'appuie sur trois volets principaux:

- volet production végétale,
- volet production animale,
- volet lutte contre la désertification.

Conscients aussi du fait qu'aucune politique de développement rural ne peut réussir sans la participation effective des masses rurales (force principale), nous avons opté pour le développement du système coopératif dans les zones rurales nigériennes.

La généralisation des structures coopératives adaptées aux réalités nigériennes permet aux paysans de se sentir concernés par les projets de développement agricole.

S'agissant du volet production végétale, il est à noter ici que l'agriculture nigérienne est caractérisée par deux aspects:

- un système de production à très faible niveau de productivité;
- un environnement austère (le Sahel).

Ces deux critères conditionnent l'amélioration de la production agricole. Ce n'est qu'en solutionnant ces deux aspects que nous arriverons à asseoir une agriculture nigérienne avec les rendements stables et élevés.

Les moyens dont nous disposons pour mener notre politique actuelle s'orientent suivant deux axes:

- les projets de productivité rurale (pour améliorer les rendements des cultures pluviales);
- les aménagements hydro-agricoles (pour soustraire notre agriculture des contraintes naturelles).

Pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire, en dépit des aléas climatiques, le CMS Conseil Militaire Suprême, et le Gouvernement ont choisi la voie des réalisations de travaux hydrauliques afin de garantir l'alimentation de notre peuple.

D'ici à 1980, nous programmons de réaliser plus de 8000 hectares dans la vallée du fleuve Niger et 5000 hectares dans la maggia, et enfin 500 hectares dans la vallée de la Komadougou.

Je dois faire une mention spéciale pour le barrage de Kandadji qui, une fois réalisé, nous permettra de mener une politique de réalisation des aménagements hydro-agricoles dans la vallée du fleuve sans inquiétude et grâce à la régulation du débit du fleuve. Les disponibilités existent et, nous pensons pouvoir aménager plus de 140 000 hectares (cuvettes et terrasses comprises).

S'agissant du volet production animale, il est à noter que dans les années qui ont précédé la dernière sécheresse, l'ancienne politique a donné la priorité absolue à l'action sanitaire (prophylaxie, lutte contre les épizooties).

La dernière sécheresse a changé en partie les données du problème. Il faut bien sûr maintenir et même intensifier l'action sanitaire sur un troupeau diminué en effectif, mais, force nous est de donner la priorité à l'accroissement de la productivité et à sa reconstitution dans la limite des charges supportables.

Aussi avons nous retenu, comme priorités:

- la reconstitution du cheptel;
- la lutte contre les épizooties;
- la modernisation de la zone pastorale;
- l'embouche bovine.

Promouvoir les productions céréalières et animales sans prêter attention à l'amélioration de l'environnement naturel serait une absurdité.

La récente sécheresse qui a sévi au Sahel en général, et au Niger en particulier, est venue amenuiser le maigre patrimoine ligneux que nous possédons. C'est pourquoi notre nouvelle politique forestière vise à:

- garantir à nos populations un approvisionnement continu en bois de chauffage;
- lutter contre la dégradation de l'environnement pour réhabiliter nos terres;
- exploiter rationnellement la faune terrestre et aquatique.

En essayant de vous tracer les grandes orientations du CMS et du gouvernement nigérien en matière de recherche de l'autosuffisance alimentaire de notre peuple, je voulais par là, traduire notre volonté de compter sur nos propres efforts pour assurer l'alimentation de nos populations. Le Chef de l'Etat, le Lieutenant-Colonel SEYNI KOUNTCHE disait, dans son message à la nation nigérienne le 2 août 1977, je cite: "la terre demeure notre grande richesse, la source inépuisable de la seule prospérité qui dure et qui libère vraiment: celle de l'autosuffisance alimentaire" fin de citation.

Le problème de l'alimentation de nos populations reste notre principale préoccupation. Nous voulons atteindre cet objectif en comptant sur nos propres forces. Mais compter sur nos propres forces n'exclut pas l'aide des pays amis. Tout au contraire cette aide complète et renforce notre volonté tendant à augmenter la production agricole au Niger.

Malgré notre volonté de compter sur nos propres forces, malgré l'aide appréciable des pays amis, la campagne 1978, qui a été prometteuse au début de la saison des pluies, s'est encore soldée par un bilan déficitaire sur le plan de la production céréalière.

Afin d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour l'année 1978, le Niger attend des donateurs potentiels les quantités suivantes:

- 50 000 tonnes de mil et sorgho;
- 15 000 tonnes de blé;
- 10 000 tonnes de riz;
- 10 000 tonnes de maïs.

Il nous faut aussi 50 000 tonnes de mil et sorgho à titre de stock régulateur.

Nous espérons qu'une fois de plus la solidarité internationale jouera pour nous permettre de trouver ces quantités indispensables pour assurer le minimum vital à nos populations des zones déficitaires.

L'appel à la solidarité internationale, déjà lancé par le Ministre Coordonnateur du CILSS, est malheureusement notre dernier recours.

Monsieur le Président, un vieil adage chinois dit: "mieux vaut apprendre à un homme à pêcher que de lui donner des poissons".

La signification de ce adage est profonde, mais aussi claire.

Certes, en cas d'urgence, nous n'avons d'autre choix que de demander une aide d'urgence mais nous ne voulons pas être des éternels assistés.

Nous demandons à la communauté internationale de nous aider financièrement et techniquement pour nous permettre de produire suffisamment des céréales, base de l'alimentation de notre peuple.

Le Niger nouveau a choisi cette voie, conscient des multiples sacrifices qu'il nous faut consentir pour asseoir une agriculture indépendante des aléas climatiques. Je vous remercie.

A. FASLA (Algérie): Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de nos travaux. Nous sommes d'autant plus satisfaits du choix de la Conférence qu'il s'est porté sur le représentant de l'Indonésie, pays qui a contribué à l'éveil de conscience qui a conduit, avec l'avènement de la décolonisation, à cristalliser les aspirations du tiers monde et à canaliser ses efforts vers la recherche d'un ordre économique plus juste et plus équitable.

Pour le représentant de l'Algérie, saluer l'entrée à l'Organisation de nouveaux membres n'est pas un simple sacrifice à la tradition, car il s'agit avant tout de pays et de peuples auxquels l'Algérie n'a jamais ménagé sa solidarité et son soutien agissant.

L'admission de la République d'Angola, du Mozambique, des Seychelles, de Djibouti, de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, de la Namibie et de la République populaire démocratique de Corée contribue au renforcement du caractère d'universalité de notre Organisation et prouve que la cause des peuples finit toujours par triompher.

Notre session se tient après un long processus de négociations et toute une série de réunions, tant au sein qu'en dehors des Nations Unies, sur les relations économiques internationales et dont les résultats sont nettement insuffisants et parfois même décevants. L'esprit de dialogue et d'ouverture qui a animé les pays en voie de développement, dont la plupart luttent pour leur survie, s'est **heurta** au refus **des** pays développés, détenteurs du pouvoir économique, d'abandonner les privilèges exorbitants et d'apporter, conformément aux résolutions de l'Assemblée générale sur le Nouvel ordre économique international, des changements aux règles du jeu du système actuel, générateur d'inégalités et de déséquilibres croissants dans les rapports entre le Nord et le Sud.

L'humanité semble frappée d'impuissance devant les maux qui assaillent sa partie la plus pauvre. Alors que certaines régions du globe regorgent de superfluités et s'adonnent à une exploitation souvent irrationnelle des ressources du tiers monde, plus de la moitié de la population mondiale souffre de la faim et de la misère. Cette situation intolérable ne dégrade pas seulement la dignité des peuples qui la subissent mais également celle des pays qui la tolèrent.

La situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale s'est améliorée ces deux dernières années; les stocks céréaliers ont atteint 18 pour cent de la consommation mondiale, mais cette conjoncture favorable a touché presque exclusivement les pays développés. Pour les pays en voie de développement, si la famine ne constitue pas comme par le passé, dans certaines régions, le Sahel par exemple, une menace immédiate, le danger n'est pas totalement écarté.

L'incertitude du lendemain constitue la préoccupation première de nombreux pays en voie de développement devant l'absence de réalisation des objectifs pourtant raisonnables de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, notamment en ce qui concerne le système de réserves alimentaires mondial pour parer aux cas de l'urgence et la mise en place d'un système de stocks nationaux coordonnés sur le plan international conformément à l'Engagement international sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Concernant l'aide alimentaire, nous regrettons que l'objectif des 10 millions de tonnes n'ait pas encore été atteint. Bien que considérée comme un phénomène transitoire, l'assistance alimentaire, lorsqu'elle est bien gérée par les pays récipiendaires et ceux qui la dispensent, permet de soulager les couches les plus vulnérables de la population des pays pauvres, notamment les enfants et les femmes. Je voudrais à cet égard rendre un hommage particulier au Programme alimentaire mondial pour les efforts qu'il déploie au tiers monde, dire combien notre pays apprécie sa coopération et souhaiter à son nouveau Directeur exécutif, M. Garson Nathaniel VOGEL (Canadien) tous mes vœux de succès.

L'accroissement de la production agricole et alimentaire dans les pays en voie de développement, en vue de parvenir à l'autosuffisance doit être l'objectif majeur de notre Organisation et de la Communauté internationale.

Cette tâche ardue et tributaire de plusieurs facteurs dont l'interdépendance exige leur approche intégrée.

Ces facteurs parmi lesquels il faut entre autres mentionner la mise en valeur des terres, l'utilisation optimale des sols et des ressources hydrauliques, l'utilisation de semences sélectionnées, d'engrais, de machines agricoles, la protection des cultures, l'infrastructure de stockage et d'entreposage, la transformation des produits et leur commercialisation, requièrent d'énormes investissements tant sur les plans financiers, scientifiques et techniques qu'au niveau de la formation des hommes, que les pays en voie de développement ne sont pas en mesure de mobiliser sans le concours accru et soutenu des pays développés et des institutions financières internationales.

Nous ne perdons jamais de vue que le développement est une tâche essentiellement nationale devant se traduire par la mobilisation de toutes les ressources physiques et humaines, par des réformes économiques et sociales radicales en vue d'assurer la justice sociale. Mais les efforts de nos pays seraient vite compromis sans un changement structurel fondamental dans les relations économiques internationales.

Les capacités d'importation des pays en voie de développement, leur possibilité d'acquisition et de maîtrise de la technologie sont de plus en plus limitées en raison du lourd fardeau de la dette, de la détérioration des taux de l'échange, de l'instabilité des prix des produits agricoles que les sociétés transnationales, qui contrôlent le marché mondial, font fluctuer au gré des circonstances, en fonction de leurs intérêts propres. A tout cela, s'ajoutent les entraves à l'accès des produits agricoles bruts et transformés sur le marché des pays développés qui ne cessent de prendre et de renforcer des mesures protectionnistes.

Pour permettre au tiers monde de promouvoir le secteur agricole et alimentaire, les pays riches doivent donner suite aux objectifs fixés par la stratégie internationale pour le développement concernant l'aide politique et faire preuve de volonté politique dans la négociation en cours sur le Fonds commun pour les produits de base.

Les institutions financières, quant à elles, devraient assouplir les conditions de prêts aux pays les plus pauvres et accorder une attention particulière au secteur primaire. La nouvelle tendance de la Banque mondiale concernant les investissements dans le secteur agricole est encourageante, comme l'est d'ailleurs l'entrée imminente en fonctions du FIDA.

Cette nouvelle institution financière, résultat d'un véritable plan de solidarité internationale, permettra à travers une gestion saine des ressources et d'une étroite coopération avec la FAO, d'apporter un concours appréciable aux pays en voie de développement dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi d'évoquer brièvement l'expérience de mon pays dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

L'Algérie, dans le cadre de la Révolution agraire, est engagée dans un processus global de transformation radicale des conditions de vie et de travail du monde rural. Cet objectif qui sous-tend notamment l'accroissement de la production et de la productivité vise entre autres:

Premièrement, à assurer au monde rural la satisfaction des besoins fondamentaux et à faire bénéficier les paysans des progrès économiques, culturels et sociaux.

Deuxièmement, à permettre au pays de parvenir à l'autosuffisance sur le plan agricole et alimentaire.

Troisièmement, à intégrer le monde rural dans le développement global du pays.

Cette entreprise gigantesque appelle des investissements considérables que notre pays s'efforce de mobiliser, et la mise en place de structures économiques, sociales et administratives à travers tout le territoire national.

Il serait peut-être utile de souligner que les investissements agricoles ont plus que quintuplé entre le plan triennal 1967/1969 et le deuxième plan quadriennal 1974/1977, sans compter ceux effectués dans le cadre d'une politique d'équilibre régional au titre de programmes spéciaux dont ont bénéficié les régions déshéritées de notre pays.

Le flux des investissements a été orienté principalement vers la mise en valeur des terres, l'acquisition d'équipements, la formation et l'amélioration des conditions de vie dans les campagnes.

Sur le plan de la mise en valeur des terres, l'action entreprise a porté sur des campagnes de reboisement dans la partie nord du pays, sur la mobilisation des ressources en eau pour irriguer à terme 600 000 hectares, objectif ambitieux si l'on tient compte du caractère aride et semi-aride des terres.

Un projet d'envergure de lutte contre la désertification et l'érosion des sols, le "BARRAGE VERT", couvrant une superficie supérieure à 3 millions d'hectares allant de l'Est à l'Ouest du pays et se situant à la limite de la partie saharienne de notre territoire est en voie de réalisation grâce notamment à la participation des jeunes du service national.

Cette oeuvre sera bientôt appuyée un peu plus au nord par un autre barrage d'arbres fruitiers d'une superficie égale, qui, tout en renforçant l'action de lutte contre l'érosion permettra à terme, de satisfaire nos besoins en matière de fruits.

Sur le plan de l'équipement, la priorité est accordée à l'implantation d'unités industrielles fournissant les inputs au secteur agricole. Parmi celles-ci nous pourrions citer les usines de tracteurs, de moissonneuses batteuses et autres matériels agricoles, les unités de production d'engrais azotés et phosphates, enfin les unités de plastiques destinés à l'agriculture. A cet effet, tous les équipements destinés à l'agriculture bénéficient de la franchise douanière.

Au niveau de la formation des cadres et de la recherche, des efforts sont déployés pour donner à l'agriculture l'expertise et la technologie nécessaires à son développement et la doter de l'encadrement spécialisé et administratif requis. A cet effet, de nombreuses institutions ont été créées: Instituts supérieurs, Instituts technologiques, Laboratoires de recherche, etc.

Mais c'est au niveau social que la Révolution agraire a entamé les transformations radicales et les investissements les plus importants. La finalité de cette vaste entreprise étant l'Homme, il était dès lors nécessaire d'offrir au monde rural toutes les conditions qui permettent au paysan de vivre en parfaite symbiose avec la terre, de l'y maintenir en garantissant à lui et à sa famille le bénéfice des bienfaits du progrès.



La première phase de la Révolution agraire a permis à 100 000 chefs de famille, paysans sans terre, de recevoir gratuitement des terres à la seule condition de se grouper en coopératives agricoles afin de pouvoir opérer une transformation des structures de production, notamment par l'adoption de méthodes culturales modernes et la mécanisation.

Pour lutter contre les disparités économiques et sociales entre la ville et la campagne, un plan ambitieux de construction de 1 000 villages agricoles a été lancé. Une centaine de villages ont été déjà réalisés.

La philosophie du village agricole repose sur une volonté de regrouper les paysans afin qu'ils puissent avoir à leur disposition, en plus d'un logement décent totalement équipé, les services sanitaires, culturels, administratifs et commerciaux dont ils ont besoin.

Cependant, la Révolution agraire ne se limite pas aux tributaires des coopératives du secteur socialiste. Ayant pour but la promotion du monde rural, son objectif vise à insérer le secteur privé des petits propriétaires, les grandes exploitations ayant été nationalisées, dans le processus de modernisation et de développement de l'agriculture.

A l'instar des coopérateurs, les petits paysans bénéficient de nombreuses mesures visant la promotion du monde rural et la revalorisation du travail de la terre: soins médicaux totalement gratuits, allocations familiales, régime de retraite, suppression de l'impôt foncier, accès au crédit agricole à des conditions très avantageuses pour l'acquisition d'équipements, préfinancement des campagnes, etc.

Toutes ces considérations permettent de mesurer l'effort national consenti pour transformer le monde rural et accroître la production agricole.

Monsieur le Président,

Je voudrais maintenant exprimer l'avis de notre délégation sur quelques points particuliers inscrits à l'ordre du jour de la présente session.

Depuis son arrivée à la tête de l'Organisation, le Directeur général n'a cessé d'oeuvrer pour lui donner une impulsion nouvelle et une dimension plus grande, en réorientant ses activités vers le terrain. La réduction des dépenses administratives au profit des programmes dans les pays est une initiative salubre que nous appuyons comme nous soutiendrons toute mesure tendant à doter l'Organisation de plus en plus d'expertise hautement qualifiée au détriment de la bureaucratie qui hélas continue de sévir au sein de nombreuses institutions du système des Nations Unies.

Le Programme de coopération technique, devrait, de l'avis de notre délégation, être institutionnalisé.

En effet, malgré la modicité des fonds alloués, l'expérience a été concluante si l'on juge 'par le nombre de projets réalisés et la rapidité avec laquelle l'assistance a été octroyée.

Pour ce qui est de la question de la réduction des pertes agricoles, nous lui accordons une très grande importance et on ne peut que se féliciter des propositions du Directeur général pour remédier à cette situation. Nous sommes convaincus que nous finirons par trouver une solution aux difficultés à caractère financier que suscitent les mesures envisagées.

Le budget présenté par le Directeur général nous paraît raisonnable même si nous le jugeons insuffisant eu égard à l'ampleur du programme préconisé.

La décentralisation harmonieuse des activités de la FAO, si elle est souhaitable, doit se traduire par un renforcement des activités sur le terrain dans les pays en voie de développement et l'offre d'une expertise plus qualifiée, et non point déboucher sur la création d'une représentation bureaucratique et administrative onéreuse.

Nous ne mettons nullement en doute les motivations sincères du Directeur général et sa profonde conviction que la nouvelle formule de représentation bénéficiera plus que par le passé aux pays en voie de développement. Mais nous espérons que l'autonomie des représentants n'empêchera pas une étroite coopération avec les Représentants résidents du PNUD en vue de garantir la nécessaire coordination au niveau national entre les différentes institutions du système des Nations Unies.

Mon pays attache une très grande importance à la Conférence de la Réforme agraire et le développement rural à laquelle il apportera la contribution de son expérience nationale.

Je voudrais, pour terminer, insister sur le rôle capital de la FAO dans la recherche de solutions aux graves problèmes agricoles et alimentaires que connaît l'humanité.

Ce rôle qui est assigné dans son Acte constitutif ne pourrait être valablement assumé sans que les Etats Membres, quel que soit leur poids économique ne manifestent clairement leur volonté politique de dépasser les intérêts égoïstes pour édifier un monde plus juste et plus équitable, qui permettra de préserver la dignité de l'homme.

Cela ne pourrait être atteint sans que l'institution elle-même inscrive son action dans le cadre des principes, des buts et des objectifs du nouvel Ordre économique international, tels qu'ils sont énoncés dans la déclaration et le Programme d'action adoptés lors de la sixième session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale et dans la Charte des droits et devoirs économiques des Etats. Elle devra à cet égard apporter, à l'instar d'autres institutions des Nations Unies, une contribution effective à l'évolution conceptuelle dans la promotion du développement, afin d'aider les pays pauvres à être mieux préparés dans les négociations avec les pays riches.

L'acquisition par la FAO de cette nouvelle dimension lui donnera un rayonnement plus grand sur le plan international et lui permettra, en conjuguant ses efforts avec les autres organismes et institutions du système des Nations Unies, au premier rang desquels se trouve naturellement le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, de promouvoir une coopération internationale véritable dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

J. RIBEIRO DE CARVALHO (Mozambique) (interpretation from Portuguese): I have already had the opportunity to speak at this 19th Session of the FAO Conference when we were admitted as full members of the Food and Agriculture Organization. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly elaborate the position of the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique regarding some of the questions that we have on our agenda.

Agriculture is of major importance in our country. A vast majority of the population lives in the countryside and it is also there that you find the base for our future welfare. Considering the enormous potential for agriculture production that we have in our country, a potential that is based on the quantitative and qualitative value of renewable natural resources like soil, water, flora and fauna it is clearly stated in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Mozambique that agriculture must be the base in the economy and that industry is the driving force behind it.

General objectives for the agricultural sector in our country were established already at the proclamation of our Independence and they are as follows:

- to satisfy the food requirements of the population and to improve the standard of the diet;
- to supply necessary agricultural raw-material to industries;
- to guarantee a certain level of exportation necessary for our economic development.

Although these objectives were established already at the proclamation of our Independence it was not possible for the Government to outline a concrete and coherent programme during **1976**. This was due to historical reasons.

As a result of the armed struggle for National Liberation the colonial-capitalistic system which existed in Mozambique entered a crisis at the beginning of the seventies. The crisis came to a climax after the coup d'état on the 25th of April 1974 when the fascist regime in Portugal was overthrown and the victory of the armed struggle of the peoples of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique was realized. Seized by desperation the colonialists committed a series of sabotages trying to cause chaos and disorganization in the economy. We saw robberies of machinery and livestock, illegal exporting of capital, destruction of factories, etc. During the first half year the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique therefore had to concentrate its efforts on two fundamental tasks: to prevent actions of the enemy and to survey the situation in general in the country in order to be able to elaborate a programme for our economic development. The thorough study that was made allowed us to take important decisions at the Third Congress of FRELIMO.

Regarding the agricultural sector these decisions have as their ultimate objective a modernization of the agricultural production. It is the responsibility of the Government to accomplish this modernisation but not only by making investigation and to give general orientations for the production of the farmers but also by creating state-farms. The state-farms consist of abandoned and reorganized farms and the production on these farms will within shortly provide necessary food for the people, recover the level of exportation of agricultural products and reestablish the supply of agrarian raw-material for our industries. With the introduction of modern agricultural methods on these farms they will also be the primary instrument for a steady accumulation in our economy.

Based on the fact that the small farmers in our country are spread over big areas and the production on their farms is very low the Government launched a programme aimed at organizing these farmers in cooperatives. The Government will assist in the creation and consolidation of these cooperatives by training of personnel, by giving technical assistance and by providing loans on favourable terms. By organizing the farmers in this way they will be able to increase their production and it will also be easier to supply necessary inputs as well as collecting and distributing the products.

A comprehensive and coherent programme for our economic development for the years 1977-80 has been worked out. It is clearly spelled out in this programme that agriculture shall be given priority when distributing available human and financial resources. The main activities that are foreseen to be implemented in various agricultural sub-sectors until 1980 are as follows:

- (i) Training of personnel on all levels. Training of personnel is of vital importance for us. And during this period we will concentrate our efforts on training personnel on basic and medium levels.
- (ii) Investigation of available land and water resources, to allow us to extend the area under cultivation. At the moment only 10 percent of the land available for agriculture has been brought under cultivation. A project to this effect was started in 1977 with assistance from FAO.
- (iii) Production of certified seed.
- (iv) Improvement and increasing utilization of fertilizers, giving special attention to rational application of organic fertilizers.
- (v) Development of agricultural research.
- (vi) Establishment of minimum producer prices for approximately 15 different products.
- (vii) The creation of an infrastructure to enable us to minimize food losses during the harvest and storing period of products.

On the question of livestock, our concern is as follows:

- (i) To start a programme for tsetse control.
- (ii) To reorganize our service system, thereby giving special attention to prophylactic measures such as vaccination and treatment of parasite-infected animals.
- (iii) To improve management and feeding systems.
- (iv) In order to be able to improve the diet standard of the people within a relatively short period of time, we have also given priority to the raising of small animals such as chickens, rabbits, ducks, etc

In the field of forestry, we are going to pay special attention to surveying the forest resources of the country and promoting a vast programme of artificial reforestation in zones subject to erosion problems.

Our country is frequently affected by natural disasters. In particular, we have problems with floods in the river that irrigates our so-called granary zone in the country. This year thousands of hectares cultivated with cereals were destroyed and thousands of peasants lost their houses and properties and some even lost their lives. The people started, however, to reconstruct the area and re-establish the production capacity. Construction necessary for effective control of available water resources is also going on continuously.

The fluctuation of prices of agricultural products on the international market has created a situation of uncertainty. Considering that the exportation of these very commodities constitutes our main source of external currencies, the situation is very severe. This has become even more serious with the constant increase of prices of manufactured products, and especially of equipment.

The establishment of a New International Economic Order is therefore a necessary prerequisite of developing countries if they should be able to reach a just and dignified position in the world, and if the sacrifices they are now experiencing are really to be worthwhile.

The implementation of the decisions taken by the Third Congress has been concluded this year by an investment in the agricultural sector of an amount exceeding **50** million dollars, which in our situation is a considerable amount of money. This has been possible thanks to the determination of our people, who have understood the policy of the Party and the Government, and therefore have made the sacrifices necessary to realize this investment. We must however emphasize that this has been possible also thanks to the international solidarity there has been and still exists, between the Socialist and Nordic countries, more particularly. These countries have made an important contribution to the realization of this programme.

All these efforts have been made although we face difficulties both on the national and on the international level. Our country is a victim of constant armed aggression by the minority, racist and illegal regime of Ian Smith. He massacres defenceless people, destroys crops and grain stores and is thereby trying to intimidate us. The most recent aggression caused losses in our country to a value estimated at about **80** million dollars, which is the evaluation made by a mission sent by the Security Council of the United Nations. Once more we want to assure you that the People's Republic of Mozambique does not hesitate to continue to provide all possible assistance to the liberation struggle that the people of Zimbabwe are undertaking, as well as to all other struggles for National Liberation.

Although we have been members of this Organization only for a few days, please allow me to give some remarks about the work that is carried out by FAO.

Our relations with FAO date back to our armed struggle. They became even more close after the proclamation of our independence and they will certainly develop further in the future.

Based on our experience of FAO, we have noticed that this Organization is useful to the international community. However, we think that it could be much more efficient if it managed to involve itself more deeply in studying and resolving problems that hamper the agricultural development, particularly in developing countries. It is with real satisfaction that we have studied the introduction by the Director-General to the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium **1978-79**, which stresses the capacity of the Organization. The need to make the Organization more effective is there clearly pointed out. If these ideas can be realized, we are convinced that our Organization has taken a big step forward. We would especially like to say that we agree to all actions that will lead to a greater decentralization and more flexible and operational structure of FAO.

From our experience we have found that an important reason why FAO is not as effective as it could be is that the manpower resources and also the decision-making procedures of the Organization are concentrated on the headquarters here in Rome. Bureaucracy is a natural consequence of the lack of contact with reality. We should therefore always bear in mind the fact that agriculture is a dynamic sector that many times requires fast and opportune decisions which need to be taken where the problems arise.

We are certain that FAO is an important international organisation for those who work in solving agricultural problems. We are, however, convinced that the Organization can be fully effective only if all its members contribute to its work. One important way to reach this goal is to make sure all members of the Organization know how to utilize it. As a complement to the efforts being made to decentralize the Organization, we therefore welcome the idea of establishing a system with country representatives, and we hope that it will be possible for us to have such a post in our country very shortly.

Finally, Mr, Chairman, allow me on behalf of the people and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique to express our thanks for all the kind references that have been made to my country and its people.

A LUTA CONTINUA

M K. ATTOBRA (Côte-d' Ivoire): Les orateurs qui m'ont précédé, ont su avec éloquence faire ressortir vos mérites et vos qualités. La délégation de la Côte-d'Ivoire s'associe à eux pour vous adresser ses vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection à cette haute fonction de la 19ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Je ne saurais manquer l'occasion que m'offre cette tribune, de vous adresser nos chaleureuses félicitations pour la nouvelle orientation que vous avez su donner à notre Organisation depuis le dernier biennium.

J'ai l'agréable devoir de souhaiter la bienvenue aux huit Etats nouvellement admis dans notre Organisation et espère que leur contribution à cette oeuvre gigantesque sera utile à tous.

Pour comprendre l'évolution de la politique du développement agricole de la Côte-d'Ivoire au cours du biennium écoulé, il convient de la situer dans l'économie générale de mon pays. Je voudrais tout brièvement rappeler que les 30 pour cent de la population vivent de l'agriculture, et que celle-ci constitue tout à la fois une source d'emploi, une source de recettes extérieures de l'Etat, autant qu'un moyen d'élévation du niveau de vie de cette population. C'est pourquoi elle constitue, et constituera pour longtemps encore, la priorité des priorités dans nos programmes de développement.

Ainsi, alors qu'au lendemain de notre indépendance, l'agriculture était marquée par la prédominance de quelques grands produits d'exportation de la zone forestière que sont le café et le cacao, la banane et le bois, soumis aux fluctuations des marchés extérieurs, la Côte-d'Ivoire a vite compris la nécessité d'élaborer et d'adopter une agriculture plus diversifiée, plus évoluée et de plus en plus capable de répondre à ses besoins et à ses objectifs propres, comme aux sollicitations et aux perturbations extérieures. Cette diversification s'est prolongée par une intégration plus rationnelle, caractérisée par des grands complexes agro-industriels.

C'est alors qu'est apparu le plan de développement du palmier à huile et du cocotier, qui place déjà la Côte-d'Ivoire parmi les grands pays exportateurs d'huile végétale, avec ses 200 000 tonnes, celui du coton, d'hévéa, d'ananas et de riz qui comptent désormais dans nos produits traditionnels d'exportation en attendant que demain le sucre, le maïs et le soja viennent élargir notre gamme d'exportation de produits agricoles.

Parallèlement, nous développons notre élevage par la création de ranches, par l'embouche et surtout par la multiplication d'espèces à cycle court. Dans ce domaine, je me réjouis de citer tout particulièrement une expérience entreprise en zone forestière, dite "élevage sous palmeraie" dans laquelle le bétail élevé sous les 100 000 hectares de palmier à huile se nourrit du fourrage incidemment semé, en même temps qu'il participe, sans le savoir, à l'entretien des palmiers.

En matière de pêche, en plus des ressources halieutiques disponibles dans la mer, les fleuves et lagunes, la pisciculture intensive est désormais comprise comme une spéculation lucrative qui, bien gérée, rapporte à l'hectare autant, sinon plus, que le café et le cacao. A propos de notre production animale, je me dois de reconnaître que la Côte-d'Ivoire ne nourrit nullement l'ambition de se suffire à elle-même. Elle n'entreprend que des opérations pouvant lui fournir un approvisionnement d'appoint. Bien que tributaire pour longtemps encore de quelques pays pour sa consommation en viande, la Côte-d'Ivoire souhaiterait intensifier son élevage par la lutte contre les flossines dans sa zone tropicale humide, avec le soutien de la FAO.

Au titre des ressources forestières, conscients de l'épuisement des forêts naturelles à long terme, et afin de prévenir le déclin prévisible de la production de bois, nous entreprenons depuis 10 ans, un programme de reboisement en essences à haut rendement, au rythme encore modeste de 3 000 hectares par an pour le porter à 10 000 hectares à partir de 1980. Ces reboisements, en même temps qu'ils produiront du bois participeront au maintien d'un équilibre écologique que nous savons précaire, surtout en zone tropicale.

Si nous avons à cœur de développer les cultures industrielles qui alimentent en grande partie notre commerce extérieur, nous ne perdons pas de vue les cultures vivrières, tant il est vrai qu'à l'échelon d'une nation et même à l'échelon international l'adage "ventre affamé n'a point d'oreille". à toute sa valeur. Dans ce domaine, notre action a porté sur la stabilisation et la modernisation de ces cultures, afin de préserver les forêts naturelles, et sur la rationalisation des circuits de commercialisation.

Cette politique de diversification des cultures, de transformation des produits agricoles et de modernisation de l'agriculture, nous a obligés à rechercher des structures nouvelles par la création de sociétés d'Etat spécifiques, plus à même de suivre la multiplicité des problèmes qui en découlent. Ainsi, que ce soit au niveau du financement des nouvelles créations, au niveau des programmes de productions sectorielles, ou au niveau de la commercialisation, ces sociétés de développement sont uniquement chargées de l'animation et l'encadrement, mais jamais de la production, celle-ci restant l'apanage de l'initiative du paysan. Tous ces programmes sont soutenus par une institution de sensibilisation qu'est la Coupe nationale du progrès, organe de l'information du monde rural qui récompense tous les deux ans le meilleur paysan de chaque région et le lauréat national.

Tels sont les traits caractéristiques qui ont marqué la politique de production agricole durant ces dernières années. Mais quelles sont les orientations nouvelles et les perspectives d'avenir? Nous pensons que l'agriculture n'aura atteint son but que si la production globale est suivie d'un développement harmonieux de toutes les régions. Nous avons donc décidé de faire de la lutte contre les disparités régionales notre objectif numéro un, au 6ème Congrès de notre parti politique, car ainsi que l'a affirmé le Président Houphouët-Boigny, "nous ne voulons pas avoir, à l'intérieur de la Côte-

d'Ivoire, nos nantis et nos déshérités". C'est ainsi qu'après les tournées effectuées par le Président de la République dans le nord du pays, c'est-à-dire, dans les zones de savane, des décisions immédiates ont été prises, et des ressources financières dégagées (40 milliards CFA) pour donner une impulsion nouvelle au développement de l'agriculture dans ces régions. Si bien qu'actuellement, si la zone forestière est le berceau des grandes cultures d'exportation la savane est devenue le grenier et la mamelle de la Côte-d'Ivoire. Dans ces programmes du nord, l'innovation réside dans le fait que c'est le paysan lui-même qui assure son propre développement dont il est le moteur, en élaborant lui-même l'assiette d'emploi des fonds qui sont mis à sa disposition, aidé en cela par les jeunes cadres de ces régions. Ces réalisations régionales qui se résument en construction de barrage hydro-agricoles, en aménagement des terrains, de cultures et en constructions de rizières et de 9 sucreries dont trois sont en fonctionnement.; sont les témoignages les plus significatifs de notre détermination d'ouvrir au progrès et au mieux-être toutes les régions du pays.

Le second trait caractéristique de la nouvelle orientation de notre politique est la promotion du monde rural, Il s'agit, d'une manière globale et fondamentale, de réserver au paysan ivoirien, des conditions d'épanouissement et d'autonomie qui restent acceptables. C'est le rôle assigné à l'Office national de promotion rurale (O. N. P. T. ) une autre société d'Etat nouvellement créée, "qui a pour objet de promouvoir, dans le cadre du développement économique, social et culturel, des actions visant à former et motiver les hommes et les femmes pour qu'ils deviennent les acteurs conscients du processus de modernisation du monde rural". La première tâche de l'O. N. P. R. est de faciliter ses rapports avec le monde moderne, en lui assurant la possibilité d'enrichir ses connaissances traditionnelles qui lui permettront de mieux maîtriser son environnement. L'O. N. P. R. aide ainsi les communautés rurales à s'organiser pour diriger leurs affaires, à dialoguer avec l'appareil de l'Etat, et avec tous ceux qui interviennent en milieu rural. Bref, la finalité de toutes ces actions est la recherche du bonheur de l'Homme ivoirien.

Il ne suffit pas de produire, mais il faut vendre notre production. C'est là que nous plaçons tous nos espoirs en la FAO pour être, de concert avec les autres institutions spécialisées des Nations-Unies., notre interprète auprès des Etats nantis afin que ceux-ci offrent une juste rémunération de l'effort de l'agriculture. Nous croyons pour notre part que là réside le seul remède de sortir le paysan de Côte-d'Ivoire, et plus généralement le paysan de l'Afrique, de son cortège de misères que sont la faim, la maladie et l'ignorance, qui sont les manifestations les plus apparentes du sous-développement.

C'est pourquoi la Côte-d'Ivoire donne son appui inconditionnel au programme proposé par le Directeur général de la FAO concernant:

- 1) Les investissements dans l'agriculture par l'allocation de crédits aux petits agriculteurs à des conditions favorables. Le F. I. D. A. jouerait un rôle très appréciable à ce propos.
- 2) Quant à la prévention des pertes après la récolte, la création du fonds spécial, ainsi que l'amélioration des conditions de stockage rencontrent notre entier agrément. A ce sujet, la Côte-d'Ivoire a élaboré un programme de conservation de certains produits alimentaires, notamment l'igname première production vivrière avec 2 000 000 de tonnes, et la banane.
- 3) La décentralisation des activités de la FAO au niveau des pays a retenu notre attention. En effet, elle permettra une collaboration plus directe et plus concrète entre les pays et votre Organisation.
- 4) La coopération technique entre pays en développement est sans nul doute le meilleur gage de transfert de technologie et la meilleure façon de prendre la mesure des progrès réalisés dans nos régions respectives. A cet effet, on peut citer l'exemple de coopération que nous tentons avec certains pays de notre sous-région dans le domaine de la culture de café, de cacao et du palmier à huile.

Ce bref aperçu de l'agriculture ivoirienne, ne doit pas nous faire perdre de vue les différents problèmes qui sont les nôtres dans ce domaine, mais devra plutôt nous conduire à rechercher une solidarité entre tous les peuples de cette terre pour un meilleur devenir de nos populations.

A. MAJID (Afghanistan): It is my privilege to represent the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan at this Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my sincere felicitations to you on your election as Chairman of this important Conference. We are confident that under your Chairmanship, the deliberations of this Conference would lead us to finding effective solutions for the serious problems which affect us all. I hope that you all will join me in recording our appreciation for the untiring efforts of Mr. Edouard Saouma since his assumption of the office of Director-General of FAO, especially for his efforts towards the reorganization of FAO aimed at bringing about structural changes so as to make the organization more effectively responsive to the

needs and requirements of Member States through more short-term and result-oriented actions. I take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to the new members of this Organization. We trust that by their joining this Organization the efforts of the Organization for the realization of its objectives will be further enhanced.

We are meeting at a time when despite improvement in the world food and agricultural situation, many serious problems including widespread incidence of hunger and malnutrition particularly in the poorer areas of the world remain. Such a situation which in our view, deserves serious attention of this august gathering, calls for the adoption of more effective measures aimed at substantially accelerating the agricultural development in the developing countries and at the acceleration of the rate of growth of food production in these countries. Needless to emphasize the urgent necessity of the international agricultural adjustment and the drawing up of carefully adjusted policies for the management of supplies at both national and international levels, so as to make it possible to move forward towards the attainment of the objective of world food security thus adequately meeting world food requirements.

Afghanistan has supported the international undertaking for world food security which was first adopted by the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference and endorsed by the World Food Conference. Our country is among those countries which have subscribed to this undertaking. My delegation is of the view that in order to secure the intended objectives of this undertaking as well as for a substantial acceleration of the rate of growth of agricultural and food production, adequate financial and technical assistance should be extended to the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, for their agricultural development and the increase of their food production. Many of these countries, including my own, have a promising potentiality for the realization of such objectives.

As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the recent FAO findings indicate that the long-term production trend has been especially unsatisfactory in the least developed countries and the most seriously affected countries. FAO findings further confirm a disturbing fact, that despite the persistence of the longstanding problems of hunger, malnutrition and shortage of food production in different parts of the world, the total of official commitments of external assistance to agriculture has fallen by 7 percent in real terms after 1976.

At the national level we have continued our efforts within available resources for the social and economic development of the country. After the establishment of the Republican Order in Afghanistan on July 17, 1973 under the able leadership of our national leader and President, Mahammad Dauod, the Government has undertaken measures aimed at bringing about drastic changes and reforms in the social, economic and administrative sectors of the country. The Government has already successfully launched the First Seven Year Economic and Social Development plan in which agricultural development is among priority areas. Furthermore, the first Land Reform Law of the country has already been enforced.

The Afghan Government, being aware of the very important role agricultural production and livestock play in the economy of the country, has paid considerable attention to agricultural development and the increase and protection of livestock. However it is with a degree of concern that I would like to draw the attention of this august assembly to a serious drought situation in some parts of the country, especially in the northern part of Afghanistan, due to a 40 percent decline in precipitation and its irregular spacing. The adverse effects of such abnormal situation are already felt on the wheat production and livestock.

Due to very adverse weather conditions and very low precipitation in Afghanistan during the last winter and the spring of the current year, both irrigated and dryland wheat production are reduced considerably and the animal population of the country is seriously threatened due to consequent shortage in animal feed.

As a result of the drought situation, wheat output in 1977 in Afghanistan has declined. It is anticipated that despite carry-over stocks and donor-shipments from abroad, a serious wheat shortage situation will exist in Afghanistan between now and the next harvest season which is next July. Unless immediate measures to supply wheat from international organizations and friendly countries are taken, the anticipated deficit in wheat production would be between 140 000 to 150 000 tons.

Having brought to the attention of this important gathering the drought situation in Afghanistan and its adverse consequences on our economy and wheat production as well as animal feed, it is the earnest hope of the Government of Afghanistan that the Food and Agriculture Organization as well as other friendly countries would consider most favourable extending to Afghanistan all possible assistance to enable it to overcome the problems of wheat and animal feed shortages. I would like to express the gratitude of the Government of Afghanistan for the positive response already given by some of the friendly countries to our request in this regard.

I would further hope that FAO would favourably consider the request of the Government of Afghanistan already made to FAO for providing a specific quantity of wheat to Afghanistan. We feel that the serious shortage of wheat in Afghanistan as a result of the drought situation, which I have already explained, would justify immediate favourable action by FAO with regard to our request.

The occurrence of drought underscores the need for dependable irrigation. There are ongoing projects and more planned to bring more land under irrigation. These projects are likely to bring 62 000 hectares of new land under irrigation during the Seven Year Plan period. The irrigation facilities on 335 000 thousand hectares of the existing land will be strengthened by improving the network of existing traditional irrigation systems and better management of existing water supply. Besides irrigation, we need promotion of application of chemical fertilizers and improved seeds. Fertilizer consumption over the years increased rapidly and in 1976-77, 84 000 tons of fertilizers were consumed. The Government have subsidized the distribution of fertilizers by as much as 50 percent to popularize its use by the farmers. The Seven Year Plan aims at a total fertilizer distribution of 1.5 million tons of fertilizers, out of which about one million tons will be UREA and 521 000 tons will be DAP. In order to meet the requirement of chemical fertilizers both UREA and DAP, especially the latter, have to be imported. It is here that we would like to channel our imports through IFS. The country has made a breakthrough in the use of high-yielding varieties of wheat, cotton and potatoes. A Seed Company has been set up for implementing the multi-dimensional programme of seed production and regulation of production activities which also takes care of the activities of the Seed Project.

Cooperative institutions have yet to become a strong link in the rural credit structure. In view of this, our present Seven Year Plan envisages a significant expansion in the number of cooperative institutions and improvement in their functioning to enable them to play an increasingly important role in facilitating access to rural credit, overall increase in production, organization of marketing institutions for agricultural produce, storage and export promotion of fruits and dry fruits.

Research efforts are directed to evolve improved varieties of wheat, rice, potatoes and vegetables suitable to local soils and climate. Programmes to control pests and diseases are being continued with greater vigour. But the fruits of agricultural research are yet to reach the farmers of the rural areas because of inadequate extension services. The Government have launched a comprehensive plan to increase and strengthen the extension services, but financial and technical assistance as also training facilities are required for its success.

Afghanistan enjoys optimum growing conditions for the production of fruit crops which constitute a large and vital element of the country's agricultural activity. In recent years, as a result of Governmental programmes, fruit production, especially grapes, raisins and pomegranates, has increased substantially. To promote exports of fruits an integrated fruit and vegetable export project suggested by IBRD has been accepted, which when implemented, we hope, will boost exports and improve market conditions.

Forests covering 1 978 million hectares besides providing fuel and timber, serve as a natural cover to mountains, a check to soil erosion and creeping deserts. Over the years, the denudation of forests and resultant land degradation has necessitated reforestation and rational exploitation of forests. The recent Conference on Desertification held in Nairobi spotlighted the problem of desertification and possible solutions. We hope that the recommendations of the said Nairobi Conference, including the recommendations contained in Resolution 74/L.38 which was adopted unanimously and which urges the United Nations, the specialized agencies and international and regional financial institutions, to extend, in addition to the current international and bilateral assistance, appropriate technical and financial assistance to the least developed countries for the purpose of enabling them to combat desertification, would be acted upon, as soon as possible.

Afghanistan is heavily dependent on agricultural and animal products which account for about 64 percent of the total export earnings. While it is encouraging to note that the volume of world trade in agricultural commodities has increased, it is distressing that this increase is unevenly distributed between different regions. It is a matter of concern for the developing countries that even under the Generalized System of Preference they did not get a fair access to developed markets. As most of the items of our exports belong to the competitive group of commodities, we request the developed countries to give our exports preferential treatment.

Improved input use promotes increased production but the previous land tenure system was not conducive to it. As I indicated in my earlier statement the First Land Reform Law to improve the owner-peasant relationship, agricultural production and social justice in the rural society has become operational.

The flow of financial and other resources from rich countries for promoting, agricultural investment and thereby increasing production, has no doubt risen. But these need to be greatly increased further. We note with satisfaction that some sort of cooperation between FAO and IFAD is being contemplated in order to boost agricultural investment in these countries.



The many challenges facing mankind today and the challenges of the future, we believe, would further bring us together for united actions aimed at removing the many problems which hamper our common efforts for a better and prosperous world.

A. K. HLOPHE (Swaziland): Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, to begin with, Mr. Chairman, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference: the Director-General on his intervention and the new Member States on their admission. In respect of our new colleagues I do wish to state that my Delegation regards their admission as much needed and welcome reinforcement which should enable our Organization to win the battle against hunger and poverty much earlier than would have been otherwise.

The theme of this Conference, "Investment in Agriculture -Implications at the National and International Levels", is indeed timely. It is one that concerns us all, including both investors and recipients. Yet, as important as this issue may be perhaps we have not given it sufficient thought; we often find ourselves on the horns of a dilemma either because we have too little or too much investment in agriculture.

Swaziland is a small country of some 17 thousand square kilometres and with about one-half million inhabitants. Yet, in many respects we are a microcosm of many of our larger sister nations with all their aspirations, challenges and frustrations. We all need and seek external funding from both bilateral and multi-lateral financing agencies to help us carry out our investment programmes and as such have similar problems and frustrations associated with the structure and composition of such investments as well as repayment.

Indeed; we in Swaziland need and appreciate investment from external sources to help us meet our development objectives. We are of course aware that investment is one of the prime movers in the development process and indeed find ourselves in serious difficulties when it is not forthcoming in the right amounts and at the right time.

Not only does investment get certain specific projects moving, but they exercise a secondary and expansionary role in which their overall impact on incomes and employment may be greater than the amount of the investment itself - something our economists refer to as the multiplier effect.

But unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, not all investment is necessarily productive or contributes to real increases in our national incomes. In other words, it is not aid designed to raise productivity and hence incomes and employment, but in effect may be a straightforward commercial investment designed primarily to produce profits. Thus, in many instances, we have tended to confuse commercialism with development with the consequence that instead of raising our per capita incomes we find that income distribution may be even further distorted and consequently our development goals become frustrated. After all, this Organization has already gone on record as defining the development process as something more than mere raising of incomes of a small stratum of the populace but instead as one in which all sectors are allowed to benefit in an equitable manner. Yet, the statistics tell us that in spite of the millions that have been invested in our countries, for not a few of us the income gap between, say, the top 10 percent and the bottom 40 percent of the populace is progressively widening. Therefore, it behoves all of us to pay more care to the structuring of our investments to insure that they more fully meet our needs rather than those of the piper. After all, we are all aware that foreign aid in the form of investment, especially investment in agriculture, should be such as to lessen the need for further investment. In other words, the goal of aid should be to eliminate the need for further aid.

Unfortunately, as we know all too well, not all investment leads to development nor to a lessening of dependence on external financing. Indeed, in many instances it would appear that many of our countries are becoming increasingly dependent on external sources of capital and that our appetites for additional investment are insatiable. Obviously this is because a good part of our earlier investment was not development orientated but instead was directed to enhancing commercialism or was characterized by poorly thought-out programmes that in real development terms should never have been attempted in the first place.

Another very real problem facing us Third World countries, appreciative as we are of the foreign investment relative to the development of our agricultural sectors, is the relationship between the direction and terms of such investment on the one hand, and our ability to repay as well as service such debt on the other. After all, like Faust's infamous agreement, someday these debts have to be paid and then comes the real test of how useful the loans were in the first place in raising the wellbeing and productivity of our peoples. We are all aware of the problems affecting many of us in which interest charges and payments of principal are greater than the country's balance of payments,

and hence its ability to repay. We may even find that we are forced to borrow again in order to pay off our former debts, a process euphemistically referred to as "refinancing". In the case of many Third World countries the burden of debt repayment has increased to the point where nearly half of their current external assistance is used for debt repayment and I am informed that by 1980 some of our developing sister nations will have to earmark all their aid for repayment purposes so that the net inflow of external assistance will be zero. One can but imagine how much worse the situation can be if the original investments were non-self-liquidating or even when regarded as social-overheads were not adequate to enhance rural well-being and hence productivity so that the concomitant increase in the value of national productivity would at least match the original investment.

Of course, I am not attempting to place the blame for this dilemma solely on the doorsteps of our donors as it is in reality a joint responsibility. In the case of many of our sister nations that offer us bilateral assistance we may find that their economies have benefitted as much or more than ours - in other words, the donor may end up as the major beneficiary. I say this with no disrespect meant because we are grateful indeed for the assistance we are receiving from our donor friends and the phenomena just mentioned undoubtedly arise, more often than not, due to their democratic institutions and to the nature of their pluralistic society, which allow the manufacturers and suppliers of agricultural machinery, equipment and supplies to regard "foreign investment", ironically referred to as aid, as a clear-cut demand, or market, for their goods and services. Consequently, bilateral investment loans and grants are in the majority of cases tied, and as such the machinery and equipment will, as though by definition, be supplied by the donor, the money for which never leaves their shores. However, as is often the case, the agricultural machinery and equipment of the donor country may be highly capital intensive, characteristic of the donor country's needs, and as such is not geared to the specific objective conditions and needs of our developing countries characterized by under-employment and labour surpluses. By way of an aside, I should mention here that we are extremely grateful to those developed sister nations who, while wanting to play a more active role in our development process, reorganize the pitfalls inherent in bilateral assistance and consequently have no strings tied to their financing and in many cases channel it through international organizations such as FAO.

Now after saying all this, I hope that our donors will understand and appreciate more sympathetically our problems. I think they will agree that a closer look has to be taken of the quality as well as the quantity of bilateral investments, or assistance, to insure that in addition to economic and financial viability they are also culturally and socially feasible and are structured to achieve development goals as defined by ourselves. Of course this criterion should apply to investment from all sources - whether local, bilateral or multi-lateral.

I am not suggesting that we don't need or want bilateral loans and investment to help us develop our agriculture and rural sectors; in fact, the opposite is true and we Third World countries need their help and appreciate the assistance offered by our bilateral donor friends. What I am saying, though, is that perhaps in the long run multi-lateral investments, for a variety of reasons, are more beneficial both to the donors and recipients. I think it is widely accepted that, as a general principle, multi-lateral investment has a better chance of more fully meeting the needs of our developing economies. First and foremost we Third World countries are usually members of the multi-lateral financial and development agencies and as such have a greater possibility of shaping their investment programmes to meet our specific needs. Further, their investment loans and grants are seldom tied to a single country, and oftentimes the professionals and technicians who prepare the loan documentation and presentation are themselves from sister Third World countries and as such are more understanding of our peculiar needs and problems. I think most of us see the logic of what I have just said and are in general agreement - after all, we here have already opted for multi-lateralism as evidenced by our memberships in the United Nations and FAO. It is in this context that my Delegation appreciates and applauds the Director-General's emphasis on productive investment and in particular the greater role he has assigned to the FAO Investment Centre and its closer cooperation with IBRD and Regional Banks. After all, they are our banks just as FAO and the UN are our organizations. Therefore, through you, Mr. Chairman, we request the Director-General to continue to emphasize the role of investment in the development process as reflected in the Programme of Work of the Organization, and to pursue the close working relationship of the Organization with the multi-lateral financial agencies.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): Distinguished colleagues, before we adjourn this morning's session I wish to inform the Conference that the head of the delegation of Madagascar has asked that his statement be included in the verbatim report and that he is not going to deliver it. Therefore I would like to ask the Secretary-General to take into consideration that this statement be included in the record of the 14th Plenary meeting of the Conference.

J. ANDRIANADA (Madagascar): Prenant la parole pour la première fois devant cette auguste assemblée, je tiens, tout d'abord, au nom de ma délégation, à féliciter le Dr. Toyib Hadiwijaya d'avoir été élu à la Présidence de la dix-neuvième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Grâce à sa grande compétence, à sa sagesse et à son habileté pour diriger les débats, je suis certain que cette session sera couronnée de succès.

Je suis également heureux, Monsieur le Président, de vous annoncer que vous pouvez compter sur le soutien de la Délégation malgache afin que cette rencontre de haute importance se termine avec des conclusions favorables à l'amélioration de la nutrition et de l'alimentation dans le monde.

A cette occasion, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, d'exprimer aussi à Monsieur le Directeur général Edouard Saouma ma sincère reconnaissance pour avoir, en si peu de temps, mis en place les innovations que la Conférence et le Conseil ont décidées au cours de leurs dernières sessions.

Depuis son avènement, la Révolution Malagasy s'est fixée comme objectif fondamental, entre autres, la satisfaction des besoins de la population en produits de première nécessité. C'est ainsi que le Gouvernement de la République démocratique de Madagascar fait de l'agriculture et de l'élevage un secteur d'investissement prioritaire pour le développement du pays. Dans le cadre de cette option, nombreux sont les efforts déjà accomplis à Madagascar pour atteindre notre objectif d'autosuffisance en produits vivriers; et des résultats encourageants ont été obtenus tant dans la production de céréales que dans la promotion de l'élevage. Les nouvelles structures socio-économiques basées sur le Fokonolona et mises en place ces dernières années ont contribué grandement à l'obtention de ces résultats.

Par ailleurs, Madagascar a accompli un certain nombre de réalisations précieuses dans le cadre de sa coopération avec les pays amis et les organismes internationaux. Et si vous le permettez, M. le Président, la délégation malagasy voudrait exprimer ici la satisfaction de son gouvernement pour l'assistance reçue du Programme alimentaire mondial et de l'Action pour le développement de la FAO.

En effet, l'Action pour le développement de la-FAO apporte efficacement sa contribution à la réalisation des projets de développement rural et de promotion de notre pêche continentale. De même, l'assistance du PAM intervient actuellement dans nos actions de reboisement industriel et dans les secours d'urgence apportés aux sinistrés des calamités naturelles, sécheresse et cyclones, dont Madagascar est souvent victime.

En outre, notre pays dispose encore d'immenses étendues de terres non exploitées bien qu'ayant des possibilités agricoles certaines. La colonisation de ces terres se réalise dans le cadre de notre politique de migration interne à laquelle le PAM apporte également une contribution appréciée sous forme de dons alimentaires pour les migrants pendant la période de leur installation.

Sachant le travail fructueux effectué en collaboration avec notre Organisation, Madagascar soutient les heureuses initiatives prises par le Directeur général, notamment en ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, nouvellement mis en place, et la création future d'un fonds pour la prévention des pertes alimentaires. Ma délégation se félicite particulièrement de ces institutions, étant donné que les interventions effectuées à leur titre répondent entièrement aux besoins de nos collectivités villageoises, le Fokonolona que j'ai mentionné tantôt.

Le Gouvernement de la République démocratique de Madagascar a toujours recherché la coopération avec les autres pays en développement, car cela renforce le sentiment de solidarité des pays du tiers-monde et permet un échange fructueux d'expériences dans différents domaines, notamment en matière de techniques agricoles. C'est ainsi qu'une coopération saine et vigoureuse s'est instaurée entre Madagascar et plusieurs pays d'Afrique continentale, d'Asie et de l'océan Indien.

Et vous comprendrez aisément, M. le Président, le sentiment d'indignation ressenti par ma délégation après la déclaration de la délégation comorienne à l'occasion de l'admission de son pays au sein de notre Organisation, lorsqu'elle a évoqué une fois de plus et en la qualifiant de "massacre des Comoriens à Madagascar", l'affaire qui s'est passée à Majunga entre des ressortissants Comoriens et Malagasy.

Ma délégation regrette que le peuple frère comorien cherche toujours non seulement à vivifier, lors des rencontres internationales, le souvenir de cette douloureuse affaire, mais aussi à y insinuer la complicité coupable du peuple malagasy.

Vous n'ignorez pas, M. le Président, que cette séquence tragique de notre histoire a déjà fait l'objet de nombreuses mises au point, tant au niveau des deux pays qu'à l'échelon des organismes régionaux ou internationaux. Après de profondes analyses et enquêtes entreprises par les instances compétentes, une conclusion a été tirée, à laquelle doivent se référer les parties intéressées à cette affaire.

Aussi, la délégation malagasy voudrait-elle inviter fraternellement la délégation comorienne, et ce par votre intermédiaire, à mettre fin une fois pour toutes à ces insinuations provocantes, voire insultantes.

En effet, M. le Président, ma délégation ne voudrait pas commencer une polémique stérile à ce sujet, d'autant plus que les sessions de notre Organisation, essentiellement techniques, ne connaissent pas des discussions d'ordre purement politique

Quoi qu'il en soit, et pour terminer, la délégation malagasy adresse ses sincères félicitations aux nouveaux Etats qui viennent d'être admis en qualité de membres au sein de notre Organisation. Nous sommes sûrs qu'ils uniront leurs efforts aux nôtres pour combattre la pauvreté, l'insuffisance alimentaire et la malnutrition dans le monde.<sup>1/</sup>

The meeting rose at 12. 55 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 55 horas

<sup>1/</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUINZIEME SÉANCE PLENIERE 15ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

(19 November 1977)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 50 hours  
S. Essimengane, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quinzième seance plénière est ouvert à 14 h 50 sous  
la présidence de S. Essimengañe, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 14. 50 horas bajo la presidencia  
de S. Essimengañe, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Je déclare ouverte la 15e séance plénière de la Conférence. Le premier orateur est le Ministre de l'agriculture, du commerce et des coopératives du Lesotho. Je l'invite à venir à la tribune.

J. R. L. KOTSOKOANE (Lesotho): Please permit me, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate you and your Bureau on your election to your respective posts. We pledge our support to all of you in the execution of your duties.

We are delighted to have been able to participate in the admission of the eight new members of this Organization, namely, Angola, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles. We have noted with great satisfaction that all but one of the new members belong to the African region. This is symbolic of the interesting and challenging time through which we are living - the relentless onslaught against colonialism and the exploitation and humiliation of man by man.

Coming from southern Africa and, therefore, being particularly sensitive to developments in that part of our Continent, we are especially pleased about the admission of Namibia under the aegis of the Council for Namibia, which is the only legal authority for that unhappy country, whose people have been for so long denied the right to self-determination by legal acrobatics and diplomatic abracadabra.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the Director-General has so eloquently pointed out, the problems of food and agricultural development are continuous, in fact, timeless for they span the past, present and future. In trying to feed an increasing world population, we have to draw from past experience, understand the present situation and look into the future. Indeed, we are dealing with the most important element of the ecosystem, namely, man, whose activities affect both the living and non-living components of our world. Failure to meet man's basic needs and thus release him from fear and insecurity could spell the destruction of society as we know it.

In contributing to this discussion on the state of food and agriculture in the world, we shall select some of the points raised by the Director-General and indicate what we have done or are doing in our struggle for self-sufficiency in staple foods, better nutrition and integrated rural development. We shall also comment on some policy issues as well as on the role of donors and other Specialized Agencies of the United Nations.

On broad policy issues, we support the Director-General's views on the following points:

- 1)       FAO's commitment to the total elimination of hunger and poverty. This implies not only increased production but equitable distribution of available food.
- 2)       Decentralization of FAO's activities and reduction of bureaucratic procedures, meetings and paper work.
- 3)       Concrete action and flexibility at field level.
- 4)       Healthy relations with Governments. In his own words: "The international community must, for example, be careful to avoid paternalistic attitudes which ignore the responsibilities of Member Governments". Alas, too many donors and United Nations personnel tend to ignore this point which impinges on national sovereignty.
- 5)       The demand for a new international economic order is a demand for justice and equity. The existing economic order was designed by the few for the exploitation of the many. This is reality not politics.

6) In its relations with other Specialized Agencies, FAO must jealously guard its identity and functions. FAO must studiously avoid the kind of cooperation that exists between a tapeworm and its host - both survive for a while but, in the interim, one is more alive than the other.

7) On official development assistance, we wish to warn industrialized countries that their economic well-being is inextricably linked with that of economically developing countries. The signs are there for all to see but, alas, narrow economic interests tend to blur the real issue - economic interdependence based on mutual support and equitable sharing of advantages and profits. It is a case of live and let live. The alternative is the current international economic disorder based on the law of the jungle: eat or be eaten!

8) We fully support proposals for the establishment of national food reserves as well an International Emergency Food Reserve of 500 000 tons of cereals. Honourable delegates will recall that the issue of national food reserves occupied a substantial amount of time at the Ninth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in Sierra Leone a year ago and, in consequence, a paragraph was inserted in the Freetown Declaration to reflect the concern of African Member States on this matter. We have noted with deep concern the Director-General's comments on the lack of progress in food and agricultural production in Africa as a whole. In our view, this situation is a threat to Africa's independence and self-determination.

9) Plans for the reduction of food losses and the Technical Cooperation Programme have our full and unequivocal support.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we shall now proceed to show what we are trying to achieve within the broad policies of FAO and, of course, within the framework of our own socio-politico-economic policies.

1. International Fertilizer Supply Scheme

During the past two seasons, we have benefitted from FAO's International Fertilizers Supply Scheme to the tune of a total tonnage of 4 000 of three types of fertilizer, namely 10: 15: 0, 6: 21: 0 and C. A. N., which were sold to farmers. The NPK formulations were well received and wheat yields quadrupled.

We have therefore noted with satisfaction the Director-General's remark on further assistance in fertilizer supplies.

2. The FAO Seed Improvement and Development Programmes

We fully support this programme and would welcome technical and financial assistance for seed production and/or acquisition from reliable sources.

We are exploring the possibilities of seed potato production under our favourable climatic conditions and have recently held discussions with representatives of the International Potato Research Centre in Peru. We have an assured market in southern Africa.

3. Forestry

Lesotho is not a tree country but with financial and technical assistance from the Anglo-American Corporation, we have embarked on a 12-year project for the production of small poles and firewood. There is much scope for further development in this field.

4. Fisheries

According to preliminary results, there is wide scope for fish production in individual or communal ponds. Possibilities for expansion are being explored with assistance from the British Government, who pioneered the work.

5. Food Aid

Cooperation between my Government and the World Food Programme is excellent. Through the Ministry of Aural Development and in cooperation with several non-governmental organizations, including CARE, SCF and CRS, food aid is used mainly for development, that is, construction of roads, rural clinics, water supplies, tree planting and so on.

Only under exceptional circumstances is food ever given free.

6. Nutrition

A Nutrition Education Programme was started in 1962 by the British Government in collaboration with UNICEF and FAO.

As a result of the programme, which has had a lasting impact, the people of Lesotho have become nutrition conscious with beneficial results in terms of general health and productivity. An extensive school-feeding programme has been established with the cooperation of SCF and, consequently, cases of protein-calorie malnutrition are rare among school-going children.

A National Nutrition Council has been established to coordinate the activities of all governmental and non-governmental agencies engaged in nutritional activities.

7. Land Reform

Owing to heavy pressure on land, my Government has initiated action aimed at more equitable land allocation and more profitable use of arable and grazing areas within the framework of the traditional system of land tenure, which is not inflexible.

A nation-wide campaign has been launched to reclaim denuded and depleted land and to put it under more productive use such as afforestation.

On the uplands, the Mountain Development Project, initiated with assistance from the Canadian Government, is designed to increase the productivity and incomes of local people through an integrated strategy based on livestock production. Steady progress has already been made in better farming and infrastructural development.

8. Investment in Agriculture

In an effort to become self-sufficient in Staple cereal grains, that is, maize, sorghum and wheat, we are investing heavily in agriculture. Inter alia, the following action has been taken:

- a) 22.5 percent of the national capital budget has been allocated to agriculture;
- b) US \$2.3 million from our own resources has already been spent on wheat production under the Cooperative Crop Production Programme, a share-cropping scheme which has been enthusiastically accepted by farmers
- c) An amount of US \$2.7 million is to be spent on carefully selected agricultural machinery to be used in the Cooperative Crop Production Programme. Machinery is needed for timely ploughing and harvesting during limited growing seasons;
- d) An Agricultural Development Bank is to be established with assistance from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany;
- e) Over 40 students are pursuing agricultural studies at degree level in Canada and the United States. Many more are studying at lower levels at home and in several African countries: Malawi, Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, Liberia;
- f) With assistance from the European Economic Community, the Federal Republic of Germany, the British Government, USAID and the World Bank, we are about to launch a multi-million dollar Basic Agricultural Services Project which will cover feeder road construction, credit and marketing facilities, input supplies and the supply and maintenance of essential farm machinery, as well as an efficient advisory field service.

9. Food Security

With assistance from the World Food Programme, and UNEO my Government is in the process of establishing emergency food reserve depots in the mountain areas, which are reached with great difficulty and often experience heavy snowfalls.

A wheat-mill with a storage capacity of 30 000 metric tons of grain has been purchased and will soon be constructed and arrangements are underway for the construction of warehouses or silos to store 30 000 metric tons of maize grain.

The report of an FAO Food Security Commission which visited Lesotho this year is being studied and a national food management unit has been established to deal with all matters relating to food storage and distribution.



In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Sir, we wish to record our support for the proposed Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development scheduled for July 1979, for, like the Director-General, we believe that "There can be no economic development which can be called successful unless it improves the lot of the rural masses. Nor can success occur and take roots unless the masses participate in the formulation and implementation of the measures affecting their fate. How to involve them directly in the development process must be a primary concern in devising future strategies".

The message of these wise and profound words is particularly relevant to the African situation: how long must the rural masses wait to taste the fruits of independence and modern technology? When will there be enough food for all?

P. ISHPECOV (Bulgaria): Please allow me to subscribe to the delegates' speeches delivered from this high rostrum and to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as Chairman of the present General Conference, the most important event in the life and activities of our Organization. I am happy to welcome and congratulate, on behalf of the Bulgarian delegation, the new member countries of FAO and in the first place those who, arms in hand, protect the independence and peaceful attainments of their countrymen, decisively resisting the attempts of the neo-colonialist racist regimes to stop their political, social and economic development. I would like to express my deep conviction that their membership in FAO will contribute to easily overcoming the difficulties in their development and will help them take the place they deserve in the big family of actually free and prosperous nations.

Being a member of FAO for ten years, we highly appreciate the noble goals of the Organization to unite and direct the efforts of the member countries toward an adamant struggle against hunger and malnutrition all over the world for better living and the wellbeing of millions of farmers. Therefore we share both the satisfaction expressed by the Director-General with the world food supply -and replenishment improvement programme conducted in the last two years and his concern over the inadequate growth of agricultural production and still existing starvation in a number of developing countries.

Our conclusion is that the only way a country can improve the living conditions of its people is for the government to directly take this task upon itself. The good experience of the Socialist countries whose development is programme based and their primary task in their social and economic growth is the complete self-sufficiency by means of constant increase of agricultural and industrial production undoubtedly proves the feasibility of this concept. The constructive application of Lenin's cooperative plan and the experience of the Soviet Union in the successful development of the cooperative farms in Bulgaria where before 1944 more than one million farmer households lived hand-to-mouth changed profoundly the nature of production and the content of the rural population. In only 20 years the agricultural production has more than doubled and the mechanization introduced along with allocation of labour sources to industry helped the agriculture increase four times. The complex mechanization of production processes, the enlarged chemical industry and new technologies introduced have contributed to levelling the standard of living of rural populations to that of the workers engaged in industry. Thanks to the Government Decree the social insurance for both rural and industrial workers has levelled.

I beg to be excused for repeating these well-known features of the development of Bulgaria's agriculture but I am proud of the picture and conclusion made that when the goal of economic and social development becomes a nation-wide deed in the Government and the Government has a clear and complete programme for this development and the working people are organized for its implementation, then successes will undoubtedly come.

This is why our delegation welcomes the business-like and constructive approach of the Director-General to solving the most difficult problems of agriculture in the developing countries, striving to diminish bureaucracy, the constructive decentralization and to convey the FAO activities on the territory of the destitute countries. In our capacity as members of the Council we supported in 1976 and are supporting now too, the Technical Cooperation Programme suggested by the Conference which will be an efficient instrument for rendering urgent aid for acceleration, formulation and quick realization of agricultural development projects in these various countries, such as land reclamation, water resources utilization, animal husbandry development and training of personnel for the project materialization.

In accordance with her potentialities, on the basis of bilateral cooperation, Bulgaria has rendered assistance in this field to a number of countries in Asia, Africa and the Near East by means of her skilled experts.

A specialized organization on the problems of agriculture "Agrocomplex " was established under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of Bulgaria, which is in a position to take an integrated approach to all projects with respective agreements reached with these countries. Managing and personnel executives are trained in Bulgaria for the needs and purposes of the state and cooperative

farms. In the institutes established with the assistance of the UNDP and FAO there will be possibilities for training personnel from the developing countries in the sphere of land reclamation, agro-chemistry, erosion control, animal husbandry, etc. A closer cooperation between related institutes from those countries is also possible for working out agrarian problems.

Admitting the pressing necessity of taking concrete steps to avoid considerable losses of food stock production upon crop harvesting the Delegation of Bulgaria fully supports the timely initiative for a fund to be created for programming and minimizing these losses by means of proper storage bases.

While highly appreciative of the efforts made by the Director-General to involve actively international financial units in the implementation of the agricultural development programmes in the developing countries our Delegation would like to emphasize at the same time the necessity of concrete steps and actions for organizing the most efficient utilization of all labour resources in this development. We do believe that the prime task of the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Agricultural Development is to start mobilizing the great human resources in the process of agricultural and worldwide economic development in the spirit of the good recommendation suggested by the General Assembly of the United Nations and FAO Conferences.

As far as the working programme and the budget for 1978/79 suggested by the Conference concerned our Delegation is convinced that the Director-General has made great efforts for meeting the recommendations given at the Eighteenth General Conference and the following Sessions of the Council. This is a very well balanced programme and with priority given to the spheres to which the attention and efforts of the Organization should be concentrated. Praiseworthy are his efforts to decrease the unreasonable expenditures on sessions and conferences and the respective documentation, to lessen the administrative staff and to restrict the red tape, to emphasize the concrete steps to be taken in the countries badly needing them. In conditions of recession, inflation and unforecast fluctuation of the dollar/lire rate the establishment of a reserve fund is reasonable and acceptable and entirely supported by our Delegation.

In the end I would like to express my hope that the Director-General of FAO will continue with the same enthusiasm and eagerness the struggle of putting the programme to work.

K. SAYAKONE (Lao): C'est pour moi un grand honneur de conduire la première délégation de la République démocratique populaire Lao à une réunion de conférence mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, en cette 19ème Session de ladite conférence.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de transmettre les sentiments d'amitié, le respect et les congratulations du gouvernement et du peuple lao à Monsieur le Directeur Général Dr E. Saouma et à tous ses collaborateurs pour l'ensemble des dispositions qu'ils ont dû prendre pour permettre à cette conférence de se tenir solennellement.

Au nom de la délégation de la République Démocratique Populaire Lao, je voudrais, Monsieur le Président, m'associer aux autres délégations pour vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette conférence et vous assurer de notre pleine confiance. Nous sommes persuadés que grâce à votre direction efficace et à votre persévérance notre réunion remportera un vif succès.

Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer nos remerciements les plus sincères au gouvernement et au peuple italiens ainsi qu'aux membres de l'Organisation pour avoir accordé à notre délégation toutes les facilités et lui avoir réservé l'accueil le plus chaleureux.

Le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique Populaire Lao soutient et salue avec satisfaction les pays amis qui sont devenus récemment membres de la grande famille qu'est l'Organisation. Nous sommes persuadés que l'admission de ces pays renforcera le rôle de la FAO auprès des pays en voie de développement pour les aider à progresser plus rapidement.

Notre délégation a étudié avec attention les importants documents que l'organisation nous a transmis, ce qui nous a permis d'apprécier les programmes et les budgets prévus pour l'année à venir, lesquels visent pour la plus grande partie à assister les pays en proie à des difficultés d'ordre matériel et alimentaire pour qu'ils deviennent peu à peu autosuffisants en ces domaines. Notre délégation voudrait féliciter la Direction et le personnel de l'Organisation pour cet excellent travail de préparation.

La délégation de la République Démocratique Populaire Lao soutient sincèrement la candidature des pays amis à l'élection des membres du Conseil de la FAO car nous sommes persuadés qu'une fois élus les représentants de ces pays s'emploieront activement à servir la cause et l'intérêt légitime des populations des pays les plus déshérités parmi les pays en voie de développement afin que ces populations puissent mener une vie décente et heureuse à l'image des pays développés de par le monde.

La délégation Lao considère que la 19ème conférence de la FAO est un des événements de la plus haute importance en ce sens qu'elle fixera la politique générale et les budgets de l'Organisation pour la période à venir. Elle consacrera tout son temps à l'étude la plus complète que possible de la situation alimentaire et agricole dans le monde, et à l'identification des principaux problèmes ainsi que les contraintes et obstacles qui nuisent à la production alimentaire et agricoles, Ensuite la conférence aura à étudier les mesures appropriées pour remédier à ces difficultés et à ces obstacles, afin d'augmenter l'efficacité des activités de la FAO et d'améliorer davantage la situation alimentaire et agricole dans le monde.

Bien que la production alimentaire et agricole dans le monde se soit améliorée durant les 2-3 dernières années et développées d'une manière assez satisfaisante, cela n'empêche pas que dans plusieurs pays en voie de développement les populations manquent encore de certains aliments de base. Aussi, les tâches de la FAO dans le monde dans les années à venir resteront-elles encore lourdes et difficiles et la FAO devra-t-elle mobiliser toutes ses ressources pour coopérer avec les pays en voie de développement pour les aider à surmonter les difficultés et obstacles dans le développement de leur agriculture afin qu'ils puissent finalement se libérer de la pauvreté et du manque d'alimentation.

D'une manière générale, les pays qui connaissent encore aujourd'hui la faim et le manque d'alimentation parmi les pays en voie de développement sont ceux qui ont été longtemps colonisés et qui ont été l'objet de guerres de destructions menées contre eux par d'autres pays tels que les pays de la péninsule indochinoise et les pays actuellement en lutte pour l'indépendance nationale et pour la liberté en Asie, en Afrique et en Amérique latine. Ces pays ont besoin plus que d'autres du soutien et de l'assistance matérielle et technique de la FAO.

La République Démocratique Populaire Lao est l'un des pays qui se trouve dans cette situation. Notre pays possède les particularités suivantes: c'est un pays à population clairsemée avec de nombreuses ressources naturelles, le sol et le climat sont propices à l'agriculture et à l'élevage, des rivières et cours d'eau qui sillonnent du Nord au Sud sont la plupart favorables à l'installation d'un vaste réseau d'irrigation et de centrales hydro-électriques. Les différentes sortes de minerais, et la forêt étendue pleine de bois précieux constituent autant de conditions favorables à l'édification économique du pays et à l'amélioration progressive de la vie de la population lao des différentes ethnies. Mais si ces dernières souffrent encore de la misère c'est parce que le pays a été longtemps une colonie et qu'il a traversé une guerre de destruction menée contre lui par l'étranger durant près de 30 années. Cette guerre de destruction a causé à notre peuple d'innombrables et d'indescriptibles pertes.

En vérité, cette guerre a détruit et anéanti d'une manière extrêmement inhumaine des villages, des hôpitaux, écoles, temples religieux, ponts, routes ainsi que les travaux d'irrigation et les terres de culture de la population. Des pertes en vies humaines sont considérables et il reste un très grand nombre de veuves, d'orphelins et des infirmes qui sont extrêmement déplorable. Ce sont là des destructions et des anéantisments des plus sauvages de droits et de la vie de l'homme.

Actuellement, bien que la guerre de destruction ait pris fin et que la paix soit revenue dans notre pays depuis près de deux ans, des gens et des animaux de la population de notre pays meurent encore à cause des bombes et des explosifs enfouis sous terre qui les tuent alors qu'ils travaillent dans les champs pour gagner leur subsistance.

Depuis plus d'une année, bien que ce soit un temps bien court, grâce à la justesse de la ligne politique du Parti, grâce à la haute détermination de notre peuple de consacrer tous ses efforts pour l'édification du pays en temps de paix, et grâce au soutien et l'aide de la part des pays amis socialistes, des pays épris de paix ainsi que des organisations internationales et privées et en particulier de la FAO qui s'emploie activement à nous aider en ce moment, notre population lao a pu surmonter les premières difficultés et améliorer légèrement sa vie.

Quoi qu'il en soit, les difficultés et les obstacles au développement et à l'édification économique de notre pays sont encore nombreux, en particulier dans le domaine de l'agriculture que notre parti et notre gouvernement prennent comme base pour le développement futur de l'industrie. Ainsi, alors que dans les pays développés de par le monde on utilise la science et la technologie les plus modernes dans l'agriculture, notre population lao doit encore s'employer à combler les cratères de bombes ou déterrer les explosifs enfouis sous terre pour rendre cette dernière cultivable. En même temps elle doit déployer des efforts pour restaurer les ouvrages d'irrigation détruits pendant la guerre pour qu'ils servent à nouveau l'agriculture. La reconstruction des maisons d'habitation, des hôpitaux pour les malades, afin d'y soigner les infirmes de guerre, l'édification des écoles, des orphelinats, la restauration des ponts, des routes. . . ce sont autant de lourdes charges pour notre peuple lao, des facteurs qui maintiennent encore dans la pauvreté la population de toutes les ethnies lao. Ajoutons à ces difficultés les activités des milieux hostiles au nouveau régime lao qui recourent à tous les moyens et manœuvres pour détruire sans cesse l'économie de la République Démocratique Populaire Lao.

Après le retour de la paix dans notre pays, les pays socialistes ainsi que les pays amis et les organisations tant internationales que privées, parmi lesquelles la FAO ont, par tous les moyens soutenu et assisté notre jeune République. En ce même moment, certains pays parmi nos voisins lui manifeste son attitude hostile. En fait, ce pays voisin a utilisé tous les moyens pour isoler et mener des restrictions économiques contre le notre en fermant unilatéralement la frontière, empêchant ainsi les équipements et les marchandises provenant d'aide humanitaire de la part des pays amis et des organisations internationales et privées éprises de paix et de justice de traverser le Mékong jusqu'à notre pays conformément aux intentions des donateurs.

Malgré tous ces énormes difficultés et obstacles, grâce à la direction éclairée du Parti Populaire révolutionnaire Lao, notre peuple a fait preuve de la ferme solidarité, de persévérance et de sacrifice, développé son esprit d'indépendance, de compter sur ses propres forces pour appliquer la politique du Parti et du Gouvernement afin de panser les blessures de la guerre, restaurer et édifier l'économie nationale pour faire du Laos un pays authentiquement pacifique, indépendant, démocratique, unifié et prospère.

En plus des difficultés précitées durant ces deux dernières années la production des populations a été affectée par de graves calamités naturelles. En 1976, bien que les conditions climatiques eussent été relativement favorables, les récoltes n'ont pas atteint les résultats escomptés par suite de grands ravages d'insectes en particulier dans les 6 provinces dans le Nord du pays. C'est pourquoi, avec les mauvaises récoltes, les populations qui ont déjà des difficultés, dans leur subsistance en connaissent encore de pires.

Pour cette année 1977, les conditions climatiques sont encore plus défavorables à la culture. La sécheresse, des inondations et des parasites ont fait des ravages dans tout le pays. Cette année, les pluies sont exceptionnellement insuffisantes et tardives. C'est pourquoi les travaux des cultures n'ont pu être effectués partout suivant la saison. Malgré tout, en application des directives du Parti et du Gouvernement, la population de toutes les ethnies a fait preuve d'initiative et recouru à tous les moyens pour faire activement face à la sécheresse et est parvenue à cultiver environ 70% des terres cultivables. Cependant les plantes ne se développent pas aussi bien que d'ordinaire à cause de la culture tardive. Après le repiquage de riz, des inondations sont survenues dans plusieurs provinces qui étaient des greniers de riz du pays en particulier celle de Savannakhet, Khammouane, Vientiane et certaines provinces du Nord du pays, causant la perte de plusieurs milliers d'hectares de culture. Les ravages causés par des prédateurs tels que des chenilles, des sauterelles, des rats. . . sont également considérables en particulier dans les provinces du Nord du pays.

En somme des calamités naturelles ont causé d'innombrables dégâts à la culture de la population. Selon les premières estimations, la récolte dans tout le pays pour cette année 1977 sera inférieure au niveau normal. La vie de la population en 1978 rencontrera des difficultés plus grandes que les années précédentes.

Pour parer à ces difficultés, notre Parti et notre Gouvernement ont arrêté la politique agricole pour l'année à venir qui peut se résumer comme suit:

- établir des bases matérielles et techniques, créer des conditions favorables au développement et au progrès rapide de l'agriculture, en particulier, mettre l'accent sur:
  - la mobilisation de toutes les forces pour construire et étendre partout les systèmes d'irrigation; les ouvrages seront réalisés conjointement par l'Etat et la population, par le gouvernement et les autorités régionales; ce sont les ouvrages de moyennes et de petites dimensions qui seront les premiers! à être réalisés, tandis que les grands ouvrages le seront dans les lieux où les conditions le permettent.
- Réduire graduellement la pratique de cultures sur brûlis et augmenter les superficies des rizières par la remise en culture des terres laissées en jachères et le défrichement de nouvelles;
- Apporter des innovations aux outils agricoles pour en élever l'efficacité et augmenter le nombre des outils perfectionnés tout en améliorant l'organisation du travail afin qu'il soit plus productif
- Appliquer la science et la technologie moderne dans l'agriculture et l'élevage, augmenter le rendement à l'hectare multiplier les cultures durant l'année. Actuellement notre Parti et notre Gouvernement s'emploient à encourager la population de tout le pays à cultiver en supplément des céréales secondaires, tubercules et autres féculents, ceci afin, d'une part, de remédier au manque de vivres et d'autre part, de servir d'aliments pour le bétail. Cette pratique doit être appliquée pendant un temps assez long encore.

Ce sont là les objectifs que s'est fixé notre peuple lao pour plusieurs années à venir afin de parvenir à l'auto-suffisance en matière alimentaire. Quoiqu'il en soit, pour notre République Démocratique Populaire Lao qui n'a que 2 ans d'existence, un pays en voie de développement qui a subi 30 années de guerre, la destruction, la solution de ce problème constitue une très lourde tâche, les difficultés sont inévitables et nous ne pouvons pas ne pas recourir à l'assistance des pays et des organisations internationales et des organisations privées éprises de paix. En ce domaine, dans le passé, mon pays a pu bénéficier d'un volume relativement substantiel d'aide de leur part. Ces aides ont contribué judicieusement à panser les blessures de la guerre et à soulager la misère et améliorer pour une certaine part la vie de la population lao. Aussi, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour exprimer au nom du Gouvernement et du Peuple lao de toutes les ethnies notre profonde gratitude et nos remerciements sincères aux pays socialistes, aux pays amis, aux organisations tant internationales que privées, et en particulier à la FAO pour leur aide précieuse. Nous sommes également persuadés que ces pays amis et ces organisations continueront à nous apporter leur assistance et espérons que nous recevrons des témoignages des sentiments amicaux et humanitaires de la part d'autres pays et organisations qui se traduiraient par leurs précieuses contributions au pansement des blessures de la guerre et à l'édification économique du Laos afin de lui permettre de sortir de son état de pays sous-développé.

En vue de faciliter et développer la coopération entre la FAO et la République Démocratique Populaire Lao, le Gouvernement de la République Démocratique Populaire Lao a le plaisir de proposer que la FAO installe une Représentation à Vientiane, à la date qui lui conviendra. Notre Gouvernement accordera toutes les facilités pour que cette Représentation puisse fonctionner fructueusement.

En outre, nous serions très heureux d'avoir l'occasion d'accueillir dans notre jeune République Monsieur le Directeur Général Dr E. Saouma pour qu'il puisse se rendre compte par lui-même de la vie de la population et de la situation réelle dans notre pays, ce qui lui permettrait de nous assister d'une manière plus efficace et conforme à nos besoins réels.

Pour terminer, notre délégation voudrait souhaiter à cette 19ème conférence plein succès et à vous tous, Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, bonne santé et beaux succès dans votre travail.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Je suis heureux, au nom de la délégation libanaise, de vous présenter, Monsieur le Président, toutes nos félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de la Conférence. Je suis certain que la réussite couronnera nos travaux, car nous connaissons votre compétence et vos qualifications dans le domaine du développement agricole, ainsi que votre habileté et vos capacités dans la direction des séances de notre Conférence.

La Délégation de mon pays accueille favorablement l'admission, en tant que Membre de cette organisation, de l'Angola, de la République démocratique de Corée, des Comores, des Seychelles, de Sao Tomé-et Príncipe, de Djibouti, de la Namibie et du Mozambique. Ceci est conforme au caractère international de notre institution, élargit ses assises et facilite la noble mission pour laquelle elle a été créée: la réalisation de l'objectif du développement dans les pays en voie de développement.

La période qui s'est écoulée depuis la dernière session de la Conférence a été caractérisée par deux facteurs positifs encourageants. D'une part, une amélioration tangible dans le niveau de la production agricole du monde, et particulièrement dans les pays en voie de développement. Le taux moyen de la production agricole a atteint en effet une augmentation de 4 pour cent par année. D'autre part, il y a eu une amélioration dans l'offre mondiale des produits alimentaires et dans les stocks de céréales.

En même temps, un développement immense est intervenu à la FAO. Depuis que notre Conférence, il y a deux ans, a élu à l'unanimité le Directeur général actuel, Monsieur E. SAOUMA, cette organisation a pris une dimension nouvelle qui l'a rendue encore beaucoup plus dynamique. Elle oeuvre avec rapidité et souplesse et répond aux besoins des pays en voie de développement en leur aidant à faire face aux nécessités de leur situation agricole et alimentaire.

Dans sa nouvelle forme, l'organisation vise à faire face au défi auquel sont confrontés les pays en voie de développement et les autres pays membres: réaliser les exigences du système économique mondial nouveau instauré par l'ONU, système qui se fonde sur l'égalité et la justice entre les peuples, afin de trouver un cadre nouveau aux relations économiques entre tous les peuples, quels qu'ils soient, développés ou en voie de développement, sur la base des principes de la dignité et de l'égalité dans la souveraineté, de manière que ce système se substitue à la loi de la jungle.

Permettez-moi également de présenter toutes nos félicitations au Directeur général et de lui exprimer notre appréciation des réalisations qu'il a faites, ainsi que de rendre hommage aux méthodes qu'il a employées pour diriger les travaux de cette organisation, qui sont caractérisés par la fermeté, la

capacité et l'abnégation dans le travail. Au cours de cette très courte période, il a orienté la marche de l'organisation dans une direction bien précise, avec des objectifs très clairs. Nous sentons tous qu'un nouvel esprit règne dans l'organisation et que cette pulsion lui injecte un sang nouveau.

Cependant, malgré l'apparition de certains facteurs encourageants au cours des deux dernières années, le fossé est encore très grand entre les réalisations et les besoins essentiels et urgents des peuples des pays en voie de développement. De grands efforts seront encore nécessaires pour surmonter la faim et la malnutrition dont souffrent des centaines de millions de personnes.

L'ordre du jour de la Conférence comprend un certain nombre de sujets que notre Délégation a étudiés de façon approfondie. Elle a participé à la discussion de ces divers points au cours des réunions du Conseil de l'organisation, et elle a adopté une position claire et bien définie.

En ce qui concerne le Programme d'action et budget pour les deux prochaines années, nous estimons qu'il est réaliste et bien équilibré en général et qu'il reflète une nouvelle stratégie de l'Organisation, qui a adopté des priorités, parmi lesquelles se trouve surtout le programme de coopération technique. Nous insistons sur les programmes concernant l'augmentation de la production alimentaire, la décentralisation au niveau national, la formation au niveau de la base dans les régions rurales. Nous considérons que cette stratégie permettra à l'organisation de jouer un rôle encore plus positif dans le développement agricole du monde.

En ce qui concerne le budget, la Délégation de mon pays appuie le montant proposé qui s'élève environ à 212 millions de dollars. Ce budget minimum permettra à l'organisation de répondre à ces engagements.

En ce qui concerne le programme de travail relatif à la prévention des pertes après la récolte, notre Délégation a étudié le rapport de la Commission agricole concernant le volume des pertes alimentaires et du gaspillage, et les mesures à prendre durant les périodes qui s'écoulent entre la moisson et la consommation.

Ma Délégation appuie entièrement la proposition de créer un Fonds spécial à cet égard, financé par le transfert de 8 millions de dollars pour la période 1976-1977, comme première participation, en y ajoutant les contributions bénévoles des pays membres.

En ce qui concerne le programme de coopération technique, notre Délégation considère qu'il s'agit d'une des réalisations les plus importantes de la FAO dans le cadre de sa nouvelle politique. Ce programme a déjà eu des résultats tangibles, qui ont été ressentis par les pays membres nécessiteux, en matière d'aide d'urgence, de formation, d'investissements et autres prestations à court terme.

L'aide que ces pays ont obtenue, même si elle est proportionnellement modeste, a joué un rôle de stimulant et a eu des effets multiplicateurs qui ont facilité la création de ressources supplémentaires. C'est pourquoi nous rendons hommage à son efficacité en répondant rapidement aux besoins de peuples dans la misère.

En ce qui concerne le programme mondial d'exportation des denrées, notre Délégation insiste sur son importance et sur les profits qu'il garantit à certains pays en voie de développement. Elle appuie également la recommandation de la Commission des engrais d'assurer à celle-ci un caractère de permanence et des ressources financières suffisantes pour lui permettre de poursuivre son travail. Elle devrait stabiliser les prix et assurer la quantité nécessaire d'engrais aux pays en voie de développement car l'utilisation de ces derniers est essentielle pour l'accroissement de la productivité.

En ce qui concerne le programme alimentaire mondial, ma Délégation exprime sa gratitude et son appréciation pour l'aide accordée aux pays nécessiteux.

Nous invitons la Conférence à appuyer les propositions de la Commission politique et du programme d'assistance alimentaire qui précise le montant des contributions volontaires, c'est-à-dire 950 millions de dollars pour 1979 et 1980. Nous appelons les pays riches à augmenter leur participation en ce qui concerne l'aide d'urgence et à adopter de nouveaux critères à cet égard.

En ce qui concerne les investissements dans le domaine agricole, nous sommes d'accord avec le Directeur général qu'une augmentation et des investissements dans les projets agricoles, ainsi que l'encouragement de l'afflux de capitaux dans des projets utiles et rentables économiquement sont des éléments essentiels de l'augmentation de la production agricole.

Nous appuyons aussi l'initiative prise par le Directeur général d'organiser un stage de formation en janvier prochain à Rome et à Tunis, stage auquel ont été appelés des fonctionnaires responsables dans les pays du Proche-Orient et d'Afrique du Nord, en vue de préparer des projets agricoles. Nous sommes sûrs que ce stage sera utile pour former les responsables et les fonctionnaires pour la préparation des projets d'investissements agricoles, et qu'ils seront rentables économiquement en facilitant l'accord des prêts nécessaires.

Notre Delegation accueille favorablement la création du FIDA. Celui-ci va constituer un facteur positif nouveau très efficace dans l'augmentation des investissements dans le domaine du développement agricole. Nous sommes très heureux de l'esprit de coopération qui règne dans les relations entre le Fonds et l'Organisation, qui a soumis les expertises nécessaires dans le domaine des investissements, et nous espérons que ces relations seront toujours plus étroites. Je saisis cette occasion pour dire le plaisir avec lequel je parle des efforts déployés par le Directeur du FIDA, l'Ambassadeur de l'Arabie Saoudite, Mr. Abdel Mohsen Soudairi. Nous lui souhaitons plein succès dans sa nouvelle tâche.

En insistant sur l'importance des investissements dans le secteur agricole, ma Délégation est heureuse de parler de la coopération étroite qui existe entre l'Organisation et les différents fonds de financement, entre autres la Banque mondiale, le Fonds islamique pour le développement, le Fonds QUAKER, le Fonds arabe pour le développement économique et social, la Banque afro-américaine, le Fonds arabe pour le développement économique en Afrique.

En ce qui concerne l'utilisation de la langue arabe dans l'organisation, la Délégation du Liban a eu l'honneur de présenter la proposition qui vise à amender l'article 41 du Règlement intérieur de l'Organisation, lequel stipule que les langues arabe, chinoise, française, anglaise, espagnole, sont des langues officielles de l'Organisation, que les langues française, anglaise et espagnole sont des langues de travail et que la langue arabe est une langue de travail à utilisation limitée. Après que nous ayons présenté cette proposition, la treizième Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient l'a acceptée et a recommandé cet article. Nous sommes heureux que notre recommandation ait été acceptée et que les mesures nécessaires aient été prises à cet égard. Nous remercions également le Conseil exécutif qui a adopté la résolution prise par la Commission juridique tendant à amender cet article et à le présenter à la Conférence afin que les langues arabe, chinoise, française, anglaise et espagnole soient les langues officielles de l'Organisation, Nous souhaitons donc que la Conférence adopte également cette proposition.

En ce qui concerne les amendements à la Constitution de l'Organisation, notre Délégation, qui a participé aux travaux du groupe de travail créé par le Conseil, appuie l'augmentation du nombre des membres du Conseil de 42 à 49, afin d'améliorer la représentation géographique résultant de l'augmentation du nombre des membres de l'Organisation,

Nous appuyons également la décision du Conseil, prise à l'unanimité au cours de sa session du mois de juin dernier, tendant à autoriser une réélection du Directeur général de l'Organisation, ceci conformément aux règles et à la pratique utilisées dans les autres Organisations de la famille des Nations Unies, et pour éviter la discrimination et ne pas priver les Etats Membres de la liberté de réélire le Directeur général s'ils sont d'avis que celui-ci sert bien les intérêts de l'Organisation et l'exécution de ses programmes.

Notre Délégation ne pourra cette fois-ci, et avec beaucoup de regrets, énumérer nos réalisations dans le domaine du développement agricole qui sont intervenus depuis la dernière Conférence, car mon pays a vécu, au cours des deux années passées, une très dure épreuve. Il a été le théâtre d'événements sanglants et je ne pense pas que vous ignoriez l'importance des séquelles de cette situation et du résultat des épreuves que nous avons traversées.

La plupart des secteurs économiques ont subi d'immenses revers, et les destructions ont atteint l'infrastructure agricole, et le secteur agricole a subi des pertes allant jusqu'à 90 pour cent. Les secteurs des fruits, des légumes, des céréales et de l'élevage ont dû également faire face à des coups très durs qui ont entraîné un abaissement de plus de la moitié de la production. Les pertes ont été également très grandes dans le domaine de la recherche scientifique agricole, étant donné que notre centre de recherches a été complètement détruit.

Un grand nombre d'agriculteurs ont dû quitter leurs terres et chercher refuge vers des régions plus sûres. Ils n'ont pas pu obtenir les facteurs de production nécessaires tels que les graines, les engrais, les médicaments et autres. L'épreuve dont nous souffrons se poursuit. La région du sud est devenue le théâtre d'événements sanglants, qui ont entraîné de grandes destructions. Les champs de tabac, les jardins d'agrumes, les plantations d'oliviers et de bananes, etc., ont été désertés par les travailleurs de régions agricoles, qui viennent grossir le problème des réfugiés qui vivent dans une situation de misère.

Nos pertes sont très importantes. Malgré tout ce qui nous a atteint, malgré tout ce que nous avons subi comme épreuves, nous ne nous soumettrons pas à la dépression, au pessimisme et au désespoir, mais nous ferons face à cette Épreuve avec ténacité et force. Notre devise sera l'optimisme pour construire le Liban nouveau, un Liban meilleur. Ce qui augmente notre optimisme est l'apparition d'une ère nouvelle, l'ère de S. E. le Président E. SARKIS, qui inaugure le bien. Nous avons commencé sous sa sage direction la bataille de la reconstruction; nous sommes sûrs qu'il nous faut absolument compter sur nous-mêmes en premier lieu et surtout, car nous avons dû faire face dans le passé à des épreuves similaires et avons pu grâce à notre détermination et à la volonté de notre peuple surmonter ces épreuves et sortir de ce cauchemar.

Notre peuple, malgré sa petite superficie et ses ressources naturelles infimes, a pu réaliser un modèle agricole. L'agriculture libanaise est une réalisation modèle de ce que peut réaliser l'homme qui a pu transformer les vallées, les montagnes et les terres arides en des jardins, en des pâturages et sommets verdoyants. Cependant, nous ne pouvons pas restructurer notre secteur agricole seulement par nos capacités personnelles, nous aspirons à l'appui et à l'aide des pays frères et amis, à l'appui des Organisations internationales, et nous disons du haut de cette tribune que nous remercions la FAO, nous remercions son Directeur général le Docteur E. SAOUMA, de l'aide d'urgence qu'il nous a accordée.

Cette Organisation est la première qui ait répondu à notre appel, qui nous ait aidés à alléger notre épreuve.

Je voudrais également exprimer nos remerciements au Programme mondial de l'alimentation, qui a répondu à l'appel de la FAO pour venir à notre secours.

Nous présentons également nos remerciements et notre approbation totale aux états frères et amis, et surtout après l'appel lancé par le Directeur général Edouard SAOUMA, qui ont sympathisé avec nous et qui continuent à le faire au cours de cette étape sensible et délicate de notre Histoire.

Nos besoins sont grands et importants, notre espoir est profond d'obtenir votre appui et votre aide, de façon à ce que nous puissions sortir rapidement de notre situation pour que le Liban poursuive la tâche humanitaire dont il porte le flambeau depuis l'aube de l'Histoire.

Z. ASFAW (Ethiopia): We extend our sincere congratulations to our sister countries upon their admission to FAO, to Angola, Comoros, the Democratic Peoples'Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, and the Seychelles. I would like also to congratulate H. E. Mr. Hadiwijaya, Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia on his election as Chairman of the 19th Conference of FAO. The Ethiopian delegation puts a full trust in the leadership of the Chairman in his successful conduct of the Conference, The Ethiopian has full confidence in the member nations represented here that they would sincerely examine measures adopted and implemented during the last biennium to improve agricultural development in general and food production and supply in particular. We also sincerely look forward to making the next two years a stepping stone for real achievements in the years ahead with a view to a realization of a New International Economic Order for which all member nations aspire. We ascribe to the concern of all member nations that adequate measures are prerequisites for guaranteeing sufficient food production and supply, and equitable distribution of the fruits of man without which world peace and stability would remain Utopian at best.

Examining the achievements in agricultural development on a world scale during the last two years of the plan period, as documented by FAO, indicates not a happy but a gloomy situation ahead, unless some very real and decisive actions are taken to counter and eventually improve the situation. Agriculture in developing countries grew barely 1 percent p. a. during the period 1970-1976 as compared to the planned growth rate of at least 4 percent p. a. The growth rate in individual countries is reported even worse. The 18th FAO session in 1975 deplored and appeared determined to drastically change this unhappy situation. The august body of member nations who met at that session accepted transfer to developing nations of resources in the order of US\$ 8. 3 billion p. a. at 1975 prices, if agriculture is to grow at the bare minimum of 4 percent p. a. A preliminary estimate by the FAO of official resource commitment to agriculture in 1976 was US\$ 4. 7 billion thus falling short of the desired target by over 43 percent. Hence the alarming 1 percent growth of the agriculture sector.

Relatively poor performance also prevailed in the food aid programme, emergency reserve stock of cereals and in the terms of development assistance. In the area of trade, in spite of the dependence of developing countries for their economic development on external trade of agricultural and other commodities, the terms of trade deteriorated during the last biennium. Moreover external assistance declined in 1976 below the previous year's level, thus, in the words of the Director-General, and I quote, 'worsening the already big gap between commitment and requirement in external assistance for accelerating the rate of increase in agricultural production in developing countries. There is thus no cause for complacency or undue optimism', unquote.

Let me briefly take you to the situation in my own country as it relates to agricultural production during the outgoing biennium. As you very well know, my country is still, as she was in November 1975 when we met last, undergoing a revolution which is radically changing the old feudo-bourgeois socioeconomic system for a more progressive system which exalts human dignity, equality, and welfare. Following the overthrow of the feudal regime, and the subsequent announcement by the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Socialism as the country's future direction and socio-economic system, one of the first and most important steps in the reconstruction of a new society took place with a land reform proclamation. This land reform altered irrevocably the agricultural system by



making all rural land public property and guaranteeing usufruct rights to all who are willing to cultivate land. Following this in May 1976 a National Democratic Revolution Programme (NDRP) was announced with the explicit intention of building, after waging a successful struggle between the exploited masses and the exploiting few and their accomplices, an Ethiopian People's Democratic Republic, a society in which human dignity, equality, welfare, and peace prevail.

The NDRP emphasizes rural development and agriculture as a foundation and industry as the engine of growth in the reconstruction of the new society, thus giving impetus to the practical application of the land reform proclamation.

To facilitate the application of the NDRP and the land reform proclamation agricultural extension, training and educational programmes have been, albeit still modestly, expanded in depth and over greater areas with the aim of increasing the capacity of the agricultural system to produce efficiently and at higher levels.

Central to this programme of agrarian reconstruction is the organization of the peasantry into peasant associations and cooperatives, of which there are now approximately 32 000 throughout the country having a total membership of 6.8 million families. The purpose of these associations is the organization of the masses for local government, that is for political participation, land administration, conflict resolution through their judicial tribunals, tax collection, and organizing for rural development endeavours such as for school and clinic construction projects, for rural road construction, and for the distribution of agricultural development inputs.

More recently, peasant associations at the local community levels and the lower levels of administration have been organized into an All-Ethiopian Farmers' Association at the national level.

The purpose of this national organization is to create the channels and institutions through which the rural population can participate more effectively with the working class and other progressive forces in the governing of the country, and especially:

- 1) to forge a common front with workers against feudalism, imperialism, and bureaucratic capitalism;
- 2) to implement the land reform effectively;
- 3) to increase production through collective efforts; and
- 4) to strengthen the organizational linkages between local government and farmers and to encourage the concept of rural self-help.

Just now local peasant communities are democratically electing their regional and national representatives to the All-Ethiopian Farmers' Association.

At the same time that peasants have been organized into associations around the issues concerning land, production, distribution, rural development, and self-governance in general, considerable emphasis has been given to organizing women into women's associations to increase economic opportunities available to women, to make them more independent within their households, and to allow them to participate more fully in community affairs.

Complementing the organization of peasants into multi-purpose associations has been the launching of a national programme for setting up rural cooperatives of various kinds, now numbering 1 650, in order to spread the use of higher yielding inputs and new techniques. Also, their aim is to lay a more effective market structure for sale of small farmer produce, and to utilize the land more efficiently through producers co-operatives, especially in those areas where man/land ratios are unfavourable.

To further enhance the government's efforts towards agrarian reconstruction and rural development, rural institutions and programmes have been restructured to meet the needs of the broad masses. To this end the previous Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has been reorganized and merged with what was the Ministry of Land Reform and Administration. The new Ministry of Agriculture and Settlement is organized into eight departments, two agencies and seven authorities to make it more efficient in mounting the required resources, personnel, and programmes necessary for the twin objectives of rural development and agrarian reconstruction. The departments of the Ministry basically render services to the agricultural sector of the economy as a whole while the agencies and authorities are autonomous bodies geared toward development and business orientation in specialized fields.

Pursuant to this reorganization, a land settlement programme has been initiated, specifically to settle the landless and rural poor on newly developed lands or on lands freed-up by the land reform effort. This programme has brought approximately 11 000 hectares of newly irrigated and rainfed lands under

cultivation, and it has settled over 14 000 families. In addition, many families have been settled by state farms and by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission on an additional 16, 000 hectares of rainfed and irrigated land. Also, a State Farm Development Authority has been set up to manage the larger commercial farms in order to guarantee adequate supplies of commodities and foodstuffs nationally, and to fulfil export requirements, thus earning foreign exchange.

Similarly, a Valleys Agricultural Development Authority has been created to carry out basic resource surveys in ten principal valley regions, and to develop lands in these valleys for the more efficient use of both land and water resources.

Therefore, land reform and land development, settlement, organization of peasants into associations and cooperatives, a greatly expanded extension service and training programme, and reorganization of the agricultural institutions are some of the first steps Ethiopia has taken in the agricultural sector to meet the challenge mentioned above.

With these modest but important steps forward, it is hoped:

- 1) to reduce Ethiopia's present dependence on food imports for relief and rehabilitation programmes;
- 2) to take our rightful place in the world as a net exporter of foodstuffs, given our natural endowments of land, population, diversified climatic conditions, the proximity of foreign markets, and especially to take advantage of our potential for livestock development;
- 3) to lay the foundations of a productive agricultural sector based on socialism; and
- 4) to increase alternative employment opportunities in the agro-industrial and service sectors.

In order to achieve these objectives and to put the above new programmes into effect it has been necessary to greatly increase the flow of national resources into rural development programmes and projects. The combined national budgets in Ethiopia for implementing the land reform proclamation, settlement, and agricultural and rural development programme (including extension, training, education, and research) amounted on the average to US\$ 125 000 000 p. a. for 1976 and 1977. This is over 300 percent more than the US\$ 38 000 000 that was budgeted annually by the previous regime for the years 1973 and 1974, the two years before the Ethiopian Revolution.

This increase in the flow of national resources into development of the rural sector has taken place, not because of any new-found wealth or increased earnings of foreign exchange, but because the Government and the people are determined to do so. This is only one of several indications of the people's will to develop their agricultural sector more rapidly. This newly-found will and capacity to develop are important because Ethiopia is an overwhelmingly agricultural country, with a large majority of its population directly depending on the land for its income. For this reason, the question of land has been central in Ethiopia's history and in its recent past. How man relates to man to obtain access to land, and thus to earn a living, determined other social and economic relationships, as well as the efficiency of the agricultural sector itself. Because of this, Ethiopia has chosen to follow a socialist path to development, in order to redress many of the demeaning and exploitative relationships which arose in the previous feudo-capitalist system of development, previously followed by Ethiopia.

While the changes noted above were taking place, Ethiopia has been assisted, among others, by an on-going FAO/UNDP Programme in Ethiopia. During the years 1976 and 1977 this programme included the following major components: technical assistance, training, equipment and others.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to FAO, to UNDP in particular, and to the other United Nations bodies in general for this continued assistance, and especially for the confidence this assistance demonstrates in our programmes.

Ethiopia's support of FAO's programmes and policies is based on the conviction that progress in agricultural development the world over can be achieved only if international cooperation can be brought together to quickly respond to and strengthen national development efforts. For that reason Ethiopia fully supports FAO's new initiatives: the recently inaugurated Technical Cooperation Programme; and the nascent programme to spur technical cooperation amongst developing countries.

Ethiopia also supports FAO's efforts in strengthening national institutions, its proposed emphasis and direction focused on training, and its recognition of the need for a strong rural development effort. We also believe FAO can play an important role in the dialogue between the developing and developed countries. This dialogue is especially important to developing countries which must depend

to a large extent on the export of raw materials and agricultural commodities. As I noted earlier, the outgoing biennium saw a fall in the export earnings of these countries due primarily to declining world prices and, to some extent, a fall in production. This dialogue therefore can be used to focus the world's attention on two major areas: one, on the very low prices received by developing countries for their exports, and on the need to stabilize certain commodity prices; and two, on the need for changing agricultural structures to make agricultural systems more productive through increasing the participation of the masses in rural development.

In relation to this last point, Ethiopia applauds FAO's sponsorship and initiation of the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development scheduled for July 1979. We look forward to participating in that Conference.

As many of you are aware, Ethiopia, along with other African countries, recently suffered one of the most severe and devastating droughts in its history. This was followed by wide-spread famine in many regions. Substantial national and international resources were brought to focus on this disaster in Ethiopia, leading to a national relief and rehabilitation programme which has benefited many hundreds of thousands of families. With the worst of this experience largely behind us, our immediate concern is to strengthen our development efforts in drought-prone areas so that the possibility is averted of another disaster occurring of the order of magnitude as we have experienced it. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), along with other multilateral financial institutions such as IBRD/IDA, ADB, offer the hope to developing countries that investment in the agricultural sector can be greatly increased so that agricultural production, and more particularly food production, can be developed to a satisfactory level in order to decrease the probability of drought-induced famine.

This, I believe, can be realized only if the multilateral financial organizations and rich nations commit themselves to transfer resources to developing countries of the order of US \$10 billion annually as proposed by the World Food Conference and the UN General Assembly. If this is achieved it will be possible to produce adequate food and maintain buffer stocks at strategically located places throughout the world, so that populations in currently vulnerable areas will be able to survive in the face of such disasters. In this regard note should be taken of the responsibility which rests with FAO. It is a matter of great encouragement that FAO's technical competence and experience will be utilized in assisting the efforts of developing countries in this field.

The FAO Council asked the country delegations to this Conference to address some remarks specifically to the topic of Investment in Agriculture: Implications at the National and International Levels. This is why many of the points above have dwelt on the dual issues of investment in agriculture and rural reconstruction at the national level, and on the transfer of resources by developed countries to the developing regions of the world. Obviously, the remarks offered by this delegation come from our national experience, one characterized by recent revolution and land reform. They may not be appropriate to other countries. However, as certain important lessons have been learned, permit me to briefly address myself to these.

How was it possible for a country like Ethiopia, with a low per caput income largely derived from agriculture, to increase the flow of national resources for agricultural and rural development in each of 1975 and 1976 by over three times the level preceding the revolution in 1974? We submit that if there is a national will to channel increased resources into these areas then it will be done. In the case of Ethiopia this will materialize when the interests of the exploited rural masses, the working class, and progressive elements in the urban sector came together to form an alliance which was able to overthrow the previous feudal regime. Therefore, in this respect the Ethiopian case may be considered different. However, the lesson to be learned is that once a coalition of the majority of the population is obtained, how quickly changes can be translated into new, effective programmes directly benefiting elements of the population at large, and the rural population in particular, leading to a greater participation in local self-governance than had ever been realized before. We think that a combination of: progressive land reform; a higher level of national resources channelled into rural development; and a more effective participation of the rural population in rural development projects and programmes, is a necessary first step to realize a greater self-sufficiency in food production as well as to accumulate the capital necessary for a rapid development of the agricultural and other sectors of the economy.

The second inspiring lesson which has been learned in Ethiopia's recent experience is the enthusiasm and facility with which peasant farmers are willing to take on the responsibilities associated with land reform and its implementation, and also the responsibilities attendant to other aspects of rural development. This is so impressive to me that I cannot help but ask if, perhaps, we are not remiss as a group in underestimating this enthusiasm and capacity. The Ethiopian experience would indicate that **we** have been.

It is also impressive to note how, once a process of change focusing on more rapid rural development and institutional change has been set in motion, many new opportunities arise. At this time in Ethiopia it is difficult to meet these opportunities with the required resources, especially of trained personnel at various levels of operation and the desired capital investment. Therefore, I have undertaken, with others, a review of the various departments, agencies, and authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Settlement with the aim of identifying bottlenecks and priorities.

Of greatest importance to us at this time are the following: The need to increase the capacity of the Ministry's Department of Training and Education for training; the need for the expansion of a national programme of farmers' training projects; the need for a dairy production training centre and trypanosomiasis officer's training centre; the need for strengthening of the School of Animal Health Assistance; the need for the continuation of the national JP-15 campaign; the need to build a strong State Farm Development Authority for the management, planning and implementation of State Farm activities; the need for obtaining, over a longer term, a substantial input of expert assistance to the Valley's Agricultural Development Authority; the need to finalize assistance towards fishery, soil and water conservation; and training assistance is also required in the area of land use studies and planning; the need for continued assistance to the Relief and Rehabilitation Programme to continue programmes aimed at helping the many families displaced by drought.

Given this present momentum, and its continuation, we can foresee that within the relatively brief period of one generation, substantial progress can be made in Ethiopia.

Coming to the close of my speech I would like to express that the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia and its Delegation here trust in the willingness, ability, commitment and determination of the member nations of FAO, of whom we are representatives, to make the 19th FAO Conference successful to an extent unheard of before. The plan and programme of action which will be drawn during this Conference should focus on rural development and on greatly increasing peasant participation in development and in the production of adequate food for the ever-increasing world population, and on bringing about a truly New International Economic Order which guarantees an equitable distribution of the toils of man, without which the gap between developed and developing nations will grow wider and, perhaps, lead to man's doom.

We believe, therefore, that every member nation will do its utmost to contribute to the achievement of the planned target by facilitating FAO's efforts to implement the plan and programme of action for the next two years.

J. A. ALMURAZA (Oman) (interpretation from Arabic): In the name of God the Merciful and the Compassionate, Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: I thank you for providing me with an opportunity of making this statement. We wish to present to you, Mr. Chairman, our congratulations for having been unanimously elected as Chairman at this Session. We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the States that have appeared at this Organization; we wish them much success.

Oman shares with the international community the feeling of responsibility concerning the dearth of foodstuffs which threatens humanity as a whole and does all it can in order to produce more with our limited resources in the best way possible. At the same time we wish to thank the Organization for the very great effort it is making in order to meet this very grave problem. The Ministry of Agriculture, for Fisheries, for Oil and Mineral resources of Oman under the wise direction of Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Bin Taimur has established agricultural policies for certain priority.

The policies are as follows: firstly, in order to develop agriculture and animal production at high rates must be larger than the growth of the population. Secondly, we also want to develop the agricultural sector so that it should meet most of the needs of the Sultanate, especially in the field of vegetables, fruit, meat and dairy products. Thirdly, we are concerned with increasing agricultural products in order to establish a communication between the centres of production to the centres of the community. We will also deal with hydrological resources and we must also find additional water resources. Fourthly, we need information in order to increase the capacity of the agricultural sector. Fifthly, we wish to implement agricultural integration of the agricultural region and in order to do so we have set up a five-year plan for 1976-1980, the cost of which is 60 million dollars.

What is even more important is the plan to develop the cattle herds of the Sultanate and improving a further 2 000 hectares. We also want to improve the experimental cattle centres so that we should finally have improved races -bovine and cattle line. Also veterinary centres for the diagnosis of animal diseases and to protect the health of animals and to prevent the spread of diseases.

We also want to open canals in the southern part of the Sultanate which would be about a thousand hectares and we also want to improve the centre for agricultural research and guidance. Sixthly, we have a project for a sanitary quarantine for plant protection. The Oman Sultanate is setting up an agricultural institute which is to train agronomists and they also have grant students. Training cycles are being created inside and outside of the country. I have only mentioned some of the efforts made by the Oman Sultanate in order to achieve full agricultural development. We have national participation in order to meet the dearth of animal production.

Now there are other countries that have similar problems and make similar efforts but these are always very small and individual efforts which are hardly ever able to meet the needs. It seems clear for most international organizations and small independent agricultural development for financing and investment and also the implementation at national and international levels. Despite the existence of very many funds and international banks there are very many gaps still wanting someone to finance agriculture; we don't know what the reason is. Many countries suffer from the lack of rain, proteins, etc., and this problem requires the rapid mobilization of organization so that it might produce rapid and efficient remedies.

The Sultanate suggests that a commission be set up to study this problem and also to see whether it is possible to spend some of its funds for such development. No doubt we need expertise and we need qualified personnel, as far as developing countries are concerned they need some time in order to reach that stage. However, the rhythm of development should not be slowed down. Broadening of our training programme at national and regional levels is quite indispensable. The expertise of the Organization must help towards implementing such programmes. It is the duty of the Organization to put such plans forward.

We agree to create, to have a Conference of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and we also support the Programme for Preventing Post-harvest Losses. This does not mean to say we have no interest in the other activities of the Organization. I wish to pay tribute to the cooperation between the Organization and the Sultanate of Oman and we hope this will lead to important results, while we implement our five-year plan for agricultural development.

R. TSAGANHOO (Mongolia) (interpretation from Mongolian): On behalf of the Mongolian delegation I would like to congratulate you on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of the 19th Session of the FAO Conference. I am sure that your able guidance will ensure the success of this Session. I wish to extend to the new members Dem. People's Rep. Korea, Angola, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Djibouti, Namibia, Comoros my delegation's warm welcome and sincere congratulations on the occasion of their admission to FAO which is the main organization of the UN system in the field of agriculture and food.

During the last two years the world food production has in general risen rapidly in comparison with the annual increase of the previous years and even it is estimated that in some developing countries its annual rate has reached that of their population. It is clear that the main factor behind the large annual rise in production in most of world regions was the favourable weather and improved power supply. However, the world food situation still remains far from satisfactory and a large number of peoples in various developing regions suffers from poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Moreover, the 4 percent growth of agricultural production called for in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade is still to be achieved in most parts of the developing world.

My delegation holds the view that the old capitalist systems of the international economic relations, inherited from the colonial period, as well as the policy of neocolonialism of the imperialist powers produce the main difficulty for the achievement by the developing countries of their economic independence in general and of self-sufficiency in food production in particular.

Proceeding from the above, the Mongolian People's Republic always supports the legitimate struggle of the developing countries for the establishment of a new international economic order on the basis of just, equal and democratic principles and for carrying out far-reaching economic and social reforms in their countries for the benefit of their peoples. We consider that while a new international economic order is essential for accelerating the development of the developing countries, the process of the latter will depend primarily on the efforts they make to assume control of their internal resources and to ensure economic independence.

It is also my delegation's firm belief that the international political détente creates a favourable condition for the solution of main problems of mankind since the political and economic questions are interrelated. In this connexion I should like to point out that the process of détente, which has been achieved by the constant efforts of the USSR and other countries of the socialist community as well as the peace-loving countries, has contributed to the intensification of the efforts, directed to the democratization of the old international economic order.

The delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic believes that the realization of FAO's aims and principles could be achieved only under peaceful conditions throughout the world.

My delegation considers also that the most pressing problem of today is the cessation of arms race and attainment of real disarmament. You are aware, Mr. Chairman, that the arms race not only threatens the international peace and security but also absorbs huge amounts of resources so necessary for economic development including food and agriculture. It is, therefore, clear that the restriction of the arms race will contribute to the increase of investments in economic development in general and in expansion of food and agricultural production in particular. In this regard I would like to emphasize that our Organization's prestige and authority would be increased if it could actively work in the interest of disarmament.

Since the last session of the Conference some substantial changes have been undertaken in the structure and policy of FAO which resulted in the improvement of efficiency of its activities, and in strengthening the influence and position of the developing countries. My delegation hopes that the "new policy", which has been developed by the Director-General of the FAO, will serve the legitimate interest of the entire membership of our Organization as a whole and of the developing countries, in particular. In this connexion I would like to express in a general way our support of the new trends in the policy and structure of FAO.

The Mongolian People's Republic is of the opinion that it is important to establish strict and clearcut priorities in the whole set of the activities of FAO and its different bodies in order to concentrate efforts and resources of our Organization on the key issues and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

We see one of the primary tasks of our Organization in encouraging and supporting the efforts of the developing countries to carry out progressive land reform in the interest of the poorest strata of their population and to introduce planning methods on a nation-wide basis into agriculture and food production. In this regard the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic attaches great importance to the proposed World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

Allow me now to make a very brief observation on the main tasks of Mongolian agriculture and how we are solving the problem.

Agriculture is one of the main branches of the national economy and produces a considerable part of GNP and national income. Moreover, our agriculture is fully devoted to producing food for the population and providing raw materials for the light and food industries. At the present our agriculture consists of state and collective farms.

Since the socialist production relationship won a victory in our agriculture in 1959 considerable progress has been achieved and our agriculture has become more effective and stronger. Crop-raising has been developed into a new independent branch of our agriculture and up-to-date methods of management have been introduced into livestock breeding. Compared with 1960, in 1975 the gross agricultural production increased by 1.4 fold, including crop raising production which increased twofold.

Since the triumph of the socialist production relationship in the agriculture not only the volume of production has increased but also the size of socialist production units has become larger and developed into independent and high-income farms. For example, the average volume of production of one agricultural cooperative has gone up by 1975 nearly 2 times, as against 1960. The number of tractors throughout the nation rose 5.1 fold. Besides that crop raising and haymaking work are basically mechanized and mechanization of sheep-shearing and cow-milking is being successfully introduced. Specialized farms are completely mechanized. During this period power supply in agriculture increased 2.3 fold. The profound socioeconomic changes and faster growth of agricultural development in our country are the main result of the liquidation of backward form of landownership, of the establishment of state agricultural units and of the broader collectivization of peasants. The present basic task for developing the agricultural production is to ensure its stable growth by means of intensifying of livestock breeding and crop-raising of reducing the dependence on unfavourable weather conditions and on this basis to supply to the fullest extent possible the continuously expanding needs of the population with food, as well as the light and food industries with raw materials. Presently my Government has been directing its activity at ensuring the fulfilment of this task.

In order to fulfil this task we have established a close relationship between, increase of the livestock population and conquest of virgin land on the one hand and measures for the intensification of the agricultural production on the other hand. At the present time, when the international socialist labour division is deepening and the socialist economic integration is steadily developing, the heavy industry of the fraternal socialist countries, especially of the USSR serves as a firm basis for the intensification and development of our agriculture.

During the current 6th five-year plan period 20 percent of the national capital investment will be allocated to agriculture. It means that the volume of capital investment in agriculture will increase by 30 percent as against that of the previous five years. The number of tractors, lorries and agricultural equipment will increase by 1.4-1.7 fold. Besides this the average annual volume of agricultural production is to be increased by 26-39 percent as against that of the previous five-year period, including meat production by 20-24 percent, milk by 26-30 percent, cream by 25-28 percent, eggs by 2.5 fold, grain by 1.3 fold, potatoes and vegetables by 1.8-2.2 fold. The results of the first two years show that the above-mentioned tasks are successfully being carried out.

The present achievements of our agriculture allow us to foresee that during the forthcoming 15 years remarkable concrete steps will be taken in securing the fullest supply of our population with food and of the light and food industry by raw materials as a result of the increase in volume and efficiency of the agricultural production, as well as of the further strengthening of the position of agriculture in the national economy. In this connexion I would like also to inform the Conference that a long-term plan of the development of our agriculture up to 1990 has been worked out and we have already begun to carry it out. The main direction of this plan is to ensure the stable growth of our agricultural production and intensify it by means of strengthening of the material and technical base of livestock breeding and crop-raising on the basis of scientific and technological progress and expansion of the all-round cooperation with the socialist countries.

It is estimated that in 1980-1990 the annual average rate of the agricultural production growth will be higher than the one in 1970-1980, and a significant part of this growth will be achieved by intensification of the agricultural production. For instance, during the above-indicated period it is planned to increase the growth of meat production by 60 percent, wool by 80 percent and milk by 85 percent through the method of intensification.

According to the long-term plan, the necessary conditions for introducing industrial methods will be provided, where it is possible, into producing and processing agricultural produce, particularly livestock. While the total number of livestock will increase, particular attention will be paid to the increase of high-yield productive livestock, as well as herds of sheep and cattle which are the most productive in our animal husbandry.

In order to provide a stable growth of the livestock husbandry and to increase its production, gross fodder production is to be increased in 1990 by four times as compared with 1975. Measures will be taken to secure priority rates of development of the production of forage crops and of industrially-produced feeds, and all pasture land will be watered.

During that period the total cultivated area should be increased by 30 percent and special attention should be paid to the increased use of chemicals in agriculture, including fertilizers and chemicals against weeds. As a result, crop-raising production will be intensified and the staple farm production will be increased by 1.4 to 2.5 times - grain by 37.9 percent, potatoes by 137.1 percent, and vegetables by 155.0 percent.

These are the top priorities of today's Mongolian agriculture, and present achievements leave no doubt that the devoted efforts of the Mongolian people will ensure the successful fulfilment of the assignments for the development of farming in the near future.

In conclusion, I should like to stress that my government attaches special attention to the FAO and always appreciates the fruitful cooperation between the Mongolian People's Republic and FAO. From the rostrum, I reassure the Conference that the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic will continue to support the efforts of our Organization directed towards the effective solution of the world food problems and expansion of peaceful and mutual advantageous cooperation among nations in the field of agriculture and food, as well as to participate actively in the activities of FAO.

R. MBAINDOLOUMAL (Tchad): Il m'est particulièrement agréable de joindre au nom de ma délégation et en mon nom personnel, ma voix à celles qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter M. Toyib Hadiwigaya, Ministre de l'Agriculture de l'Indonésie, pour sa brillante élection à la présidence de la 19ème session de la Conférence générale de notre Organisation. J'ai la ferme conviction que, sous sa présidence, nos travaux aboutiront à des résultats satisfaisants.

J'adresse, par la même occasion, mes félicitations au Directeur général de la FAO, M. Edouard Saouma, qui n'a ménagé aucun effort depuis son élection à la tête de notre Organisation en 1975, pour mettre en place des structures adaptées aux réalités nouvelles du développement et de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition. Nous approuvons entièrement le programme de travail contenu dans sa

déclaration faite ici en plénière. Le Tchad apportera sa contribution aussi modeste soit-elle à la réalisation de ce programme qui vise à l'accroissement de la production agricole et à l'élimination de la faim dans le monde.

Je faillirais à mon devoir, si je ne félicitais d'avance le Dr. Boukar Chaïb du Nigeria, dont nous soutenons la candidature au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO. Nous espérons qu'il sera brillamment élu à cette fonction.

Le Dr. Boukar Chaïb a déjà fait preuve dans son pays, et dans différentes organisations internationales, de ses qualités d'homme et de responsable. Nous sommes sûrs qu'il assumera sa nouvelle fonction avec compétence et dévouement.

Notre Organisation vient d'accueillir 8 nouveaux états membres: l'Angola, les Comores, la République populaire démocratique de Corée, Djibouti, le Mozambique, la Namibie, Sao Tomé et Príncipe, les Seychelles. Nous leur souhaitons la bienvenue parmi nous. Nous comptons sur eux et nous sommes certains qu'ils seront nos compagnons de lutte pour l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial.

Monsieur le Président, la présente session a une importance capitale quant aux objectifs fixés par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation.

En effet, elle peut nous permettre d'évaluer les résultats des décisions prises en **1974**, à la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation et de mesurer nos chances d'atteindre les objectifs fixés pour la deuxième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement.

A ce propos, il est encourageant de constater, à la lecture des documents soumis à l'examen de la présente Conférence, que l'accroissement de la production agricole de la région africaine qui compte le plus grand nombre des pays prioritaires au point de vue de l'alimentation, a atteint 4 pour cent en 1975-76 et qu'un chiffre voisin est prévu pour la campagne 1976-77. Ceci constitue une amélioration par rapport aux années précédentes. Mais il s'agit là d'une situation conjoncturelle et les pays africains ne sont pas encore suffisamment armés pour s'assurer un accroissement régulier de 4 pour cent par an quelles que soient les conditions météorologiques.

Ces chiffres marquent en fait les réalités actuelles de la production agricole dans certains pays africains. En effet, cette manière de présenter les chiffres ne pourrait avoir un intérêt que si les échanges internationaux se faisaient de façon satisfaisante, ce qui est loin d'être le cas malgré les recommandations formulées dans ce sens et les divers mécanismes mis en place dans ce but.

Si nous donnions par région le pourcentage des pays ayant atteint au moins le taux de croissance objectif, nous nous rendrions compte que la situation mondiale de l'agriculture est beaucoup plus alarmante qu'on ne le pense.

En ce qui concerne mon pays, une analyse de la situation des dix dernières années et des moyens que nous pouvons effectivement mobiliser nous a fait adopter un objectif plus modeste pour les quatre années à venir: celui des premiers pas qui conduisent à l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Aussi manquerais-je à mon devoir si je ne vous parlais des efforts que fait mon pays dans le domaine agricole.

Le Tchad fait partie, comme vous le savez, des pays les plus pauvres de la planète et les plus gravement touchés par la sécheresse.

Bien que les premiers résultats des prospections du sous-sol soient prometteurs, notre économie est encore basée sur l'agriculture, l'élevage et la pêche.

Nos faibles ressources intérieures ne nous permettent pas de faire de grands investissements dans le domaine agricole.

Par exemple, en 1976, la participation de l'Etat dans l'investissement dans le domaine agricole est de 2 pour cent tandis que l'aide extérieure (subventions, prêts) s'élève à 73 pour cent.

Pour cette même année, l'investissement global agricole représente 13 pour cent du budget, soit 8, 5 pour cent du Produit intérieur brut.

Cet investissement est destiné à l'équipement des paysans en matériel agricole, au développement de l'élevage et à l'encadrement des agriculteurs.

Malheureusement, nos efforts sont contrariés par les effets de la dernière vague de sécheresse.



Par exemple, dans le domaine de l'élevage, les séquelles de la sécheresse se font encore sentir.

D'après les spécialistes, il faudrait 15 à 18 ans pour reconstituer notre cheptel et atteindre son niveau d'avant 1972, à condition qu'aucune autre calamité naturelle ne se produise.

La production piscicole de nos fleuves et lacs est gravement amoindrie.

Dans le domaine de la foresterie, la désertification prend des proportions inquiétantes.

Cette année encore, nous avons enregistré des précipitations déficitaires par rapport à la normale, irrégulières et mal réparties. Cela est loin de contribuer à la solution de nos problèmes.

Le point de la situation agricole au mois d'octobre a révélé un déficit en produits vivriers estimé provisoirement à 52 000 tonnes de céréales (mil, sorgho, riz). Aussi n'avons nous pas manqué de demander au CILSS une mission d'évaluation du déficit vivrier.

Les leçons tirées de la dernière sécheresse orientent nos actions vers les aménagements hydro-agricoles et sylvo-pastoraux. Notre pays possède d'importantes ressources en eaux souterraines et de surface. Faute de moyens financiers, elles sont inexploitées et notre production agricole est soumise aux aléas météorologiques. Les pâturages sont abondants et de bonne qualité, mais ils ne sont pas exploités rationnellement car il faut les préserver des feux de brousse et implanter un réseau de points d'eau convenable.

Nous accordons une attention particulière à l'amélioration des conditions sociales des masses rurales. L'éducation et la santé constituent les priorités pour le nouveau régime. Ces deux secteurs ont un impact très important sur la productivité des ruraux qui représentent près de 90 pour cent de la population totale de notre pays.

Au nom du Gouvernement de mon pays, j'adresse mes très sincères remerciements à tous les pays amis et aux organismes internationaux qui nous apportent un soutien dans notre effort constant en vue d'accroître notre production agricole et assurer la sécurité alimentaire de notre peuple.

Je mentionnerai spécialement l'action efficace entreprise récemment par votre nouveau Groupe de la Sécurité alimentaire qui en étroite collaboration avec le PAM nous a soutenu dans nos efforts en vue de constituer un stock de réserve. En outre, je tiens à préciser que les pertes après récolte sont importantes dans notre pays. Aussi les actions que vous comptez entreprendre ont notre appui total.

Je tiens néanmoins à souligner un fait. Au moment où les pays en voie de développement doivent plus que jamais concentrer leurs efforts pour la juste satisfaction des besoins alimentaires de leurs populations, l'attention de la communauté internationale est sournoisement détournée par certains pays qui jouent aux nouveaux riches en semant des troubles à caractère politico-religieux chez leurs voisins.

Cette action a pour conséquence (de dévier les maigres moyens dont nous disposons pour les besoins de sécurité de l'Etat.

Puisse la raison un jour l'emporter sur la haine et la myopie politique de certains de nos dirigeants.

Permettez-moi enfin de me réjouir de la création effective du Fonds international de développement agricole dont l'accord a été tout dernièrement ratifié par mon pays.

Je souhaite que la dix-neuvième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO fasse des travaux fructueux pour le développement de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Je vous remercie.

R. NIMAR (STET!! pour l'Organisation de Libération de la Palestine (interprétation de l'arabe): Au nom de l'Organisation de Libération de la Palestine qui est le représentant unique légitime du Peuple Palestinien, et au nom de son Comité exécutif, j'ai l'honneur de participer aux travaux de votre dix-neuvième session.

J'aimerais féliciter le Président de son élection à son poste. Je voudrais aussi féliciter les pays qui ont été admis à l'Organisation cette fois-ci, j'aimerais surtout faire allusion ici à la Namibie, pays avec lequel nous avons une cause commune, c'est-à-dire la libération de la terre afin de pouvoir exercer notre souveraineté nationale.

Malgré les nombreux progrès humains, le problème de l'alimentation est toujours l'un des grands problèmes auxquels nous avons à faire face, car l'alimentation est sans doute l'élément clé de la survie de l'homme. Je crois que je n'exagérerais pas si je disais que l'homme ne peut ni créer ni se développer sans avoir la sécurité de l'alimentation. Ce problème est important au niveau de tous les peuples, mais malgré ceci nous n'avons pas encore trouvé de solution, surtout en ce qui concerne la majorité des pays du Tiers monde, et nous devons ici réaffirmer que la cause principale de la non-solution de ce problème émane de l'oeuvre coloniale en Afrique et en Amérique latine. C'est ce qui a donné naissance à des relations économiques faussées entre les divers peuples, et si les peuples du Tiers monde ont pu respirer dès qu'ils ont eu leur indépendance politique, ils ont trouvé les portes fermées après ceci, car ils ne peuvent pas commencer à se développer, surtout en ce qui concerne le problème alimentaire mondial. La raison principale en est le régime actuel de relations économiques et du néo-colonialisme.

Le peuple palestinien, malgré toutes les conditions politiques et socio-économiques difficiles, essaie de participer, par l'intermédiaire de ses fils qualifiés, surtout les agronomes, à la solution du problème de l'alimentation dans de nombreux pays, car il y a des milliers de Palestiniens qui travaillent dans des pays amis et frères. En outre, il y en a qui travaillent en Europe Occidentale, aux Etats-Unis, en Amérique latine, et d'autres qui travaillent ici dans cette Organisation,

A l'OLP, nous pensons que, malgré les nombreux problèmes qui ont été surmontés par le progrès humain, le problème de l'alimentation est toujours l'un des plus importants devant l'homme d'aujourd'hui. Encore une fois, je répète qu'il n'est pas possible à l'homme de créer, de se développer, ou de progresser, s'il n'a pas la liberté de sécuriser son alimentation. Mais cette question, malgré son importance, est restée sans solution, surtout dans les pays du Tiers monde, par suite des séquelles de la colonisation et de l'ordre économique mondial qui existent de nos jours.

L'expérience amère des pays du Tiers monde a prouvé que l'indépendance politique n'est pas suffisante pour résoudre les problèmes de l'alimentation qui menacent des centaines de millions de personnes, tant que l'ordre économique reste le même et que le pillage économique continue par l'intermédiaire de prix extrêmement bas pour les produits de base et extrêmement hauts et qui augmentent continuellement pour les produits manufacturés, pour la technologie et que cette réalité ne tend qu'à enrichir les riches et appauvrir les pauvres.

Monsieur le Président, les raisons que nous venons de présenter sur la profondeur du problème de l'alimentation dans les pays du Tiers monde, ne sont qu'une traduction de ce qui se passe dans les pays arabes et surtout en Palestine. Il suffit de voir le peuple Palestinien, que ce soit en Palestine occupée ou dans les camps de réfugiés, et le manque de l'aliment auquel il a à faire face, et de voir le pillage de ses terres, il nous suffit de voir ceci pour comprendre que la malnutrition et la sous-alimentation du peuple palestinien ont pour cause l'occupation sioniste raciste qui est appuyée par l'impérialisme mondial.

Vous pouvez tous, Messieurs qui venez pour la plupart de pays du Tiers monde, qui ont eu à souffrir pendant de très longues décennies, de très longs siècles, de l'impérialisme et du colonialisme, vous pouvez imaginer ce que peuvent rencontrer trois millions et demi de Palestiniens dont la moitié vit dans des camps de réfugiés dispersés dans le monde et l'autre moitié sous l'occupation; vous pouvez imaginer ce qui peut arriver lorsqu'ils ne peuvent plus travailler leurs terres qu'ils ont développées au long des siècles. La Palestine n'a jamais été un désert qui a été transformé par les Sionistes en Paradis, c'est au contraire un paradis qui a été créé par le paysan palestinien qui a creusé la terre de ses ongles, et les agrumes de Palestine sont connus depuis bien avant 1948.

Monsieur le Président, j'aurais bien aimé, moi aussi, vous citer des chiffres sur la situation agricole en Palestine. Mais comment n'importe quel Palestinien peut-il parler de chiffres abstraits et oublier les réalités politiques dans son pays qui est sous l'occupation et qui doit faire face à tous les problèmes socio-économiques qui ont pour raison l'élément politique dans les méandres duquel je ne voudrais pas entraîner votre Conférence. Vous connaissez tous les données du problème,

C'est pour ceci, Monsieur le Président, que je voudrais me permettre de **vous** donner une idée de la situation de nos paysans et de notre agriculture en Cisjordanie, en Galilée, dans la Bande de Gaza et dans la terre occupée depuis 1948, et en même temps demandât votre aide et votre appui en prenant des résolutions qui contribueraient à trouver une solution à ces problèmes, dans l'objectif de notre Organisation, tendant à procurer de l'alimentation à tout le monde.

Les autorités d'occupation sionistes ont passé des lois et pris des mesures qui contraignent le paysan, palestinien à abandonner l'agriculture, à abandonner sa terre, et même à abandonner son pays, et tout ceci bien sûr vise à détruire l'agriculture et le cheptel palestiniens.

Parmi ces mesures, il y a les impôts très hauts sur les territoires dont les Arabes sont les propriétaires, et parmi elles aussi il y a les prix très bas qui sont imposés aux paysans pour l'achat de leurs récoltes, alors qu'ils achètent les semences à des prix extrêmement élevés.

Vous serez d'accord avec moi sûrement, que ce peuple, qui vit à moitié en exil et à moitié sous l'occupation, ne peut pas développer son agriculture dans de telles conditions. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous vous demandons, de cette tribune, d'approuver les propositions suivantes en ce qui concerne l'agriculture et les paysans dans notre territoire occupé.

1. En ce qui concerne la situation difficile dans laquelle se trouvent les paysans palestiniens, et en ce qui concerne la politique qui vise à les appauvrir davantage par les autorités d'occupation, nous demandons l'envoi d'une mission d'enquête de votre Organisation, pour étudier cette question sur place,

2. Nous demandons la condamnation de l'installation de nouvelles colonies à des fins militaires sur nos terres arables, ce qui tend à transformer des terres arables en terres arides, et ceci en plus de tous les autres dangers que représentent ces colonies. L'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a déjà condamné l'installation de ces colonies, ainsi que de nombreux Chefs d'Etats. Nous pensons que votre Organisation devrait émettre une Résolution dans sa compétence.

3. Le paysan palestinien, malgré toutes les difficultés auxquelles il doit faire face, tient à sa terre et essaie de la développer, mais il a besoin d'assistance technique, sur un pied d'égalité avec tous les autres peuples qui sont membres de cette Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, Messieurs, nous espérons que ces trois propositions auront l'approbation de votre Conférence, étant donné que la Conférence régionale des pays du Proche-Orient a pris des recommandations à ce sujet à Tunis. Nous espérons que l'Organisation donnera l'importance qui lui convient à notre peuple palestinien, afin d'éliminer les difficultés auxquelles il a à faire face.

Je souhaite grand succès à votre Conférence et je veux ici faire part de mon appréciation à Monsieur le Directeur général pour la démonstration qu'il a faite de l'importance des causes du Tiers monde, et nous espérons ici, Monsieur le Président, que la Palestine sera le prochain membre à part entière de cette Organisation. Nous sommes optimistes à ce sujet, car chaque fois que nous regardons les sièges des Observateurs autour de nous, nous voyons qu'ils diminuent, et je tenais à dire ici que nous avons vu ceci au cours de cette session par les huit pays qui viennent de s'associer à notre Organisation,

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de votre attention, je vous remercie de m'avoir donné cette opportunité de parler devant votre Conférence. Je tiens à vous assurer que le peuple palestinien continue à collaborer pour le bien-être de l'humanité partout et à tous les niveaux.

A. BARO (Mauritanie): Au nom de ma délégation, je voudrais vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, à l'occasion de votre brillante élection à la tête de notre Conférence. Nous pouvons vous assurer de notre concours pour la réussite de nos travaux que tout le monde reconnaît être très importants dans la recherche solidaire de tous d'une plus grande production agricole et d'une meilleure sécurité alimentaire mondiales.

Je voudrais aussi, comme beaucoup d'autres, dire toute l'appréciation de ma délégation pour la qualité des travaux qui nous ont été présentés, travaux qui nous permettront de travailler et de prendre les décisions dans la clarté et en toute connaissance de cause.

Le mérite en revient au Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, homme du Tiers monde et militant convaincu de la cause humanitaire dans le monde, pour un ordre économique mondial plus équitable. La déclaration qu'il a faite devant la Conférence nous en apporte la preuve. C'est pourquoi il doit être soutenu et aidé. La délégation mauritanienne en conséquence de cela lui apporte son soutien résolu et ferme.

La dix-neuvième session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture doit examiner, des problèmes complexes mais fondamentaux relatifs à la politique de promotion agricole par les investissements aux activités et programmes de la FAO pour le biennium 1978/79, à des modifications constitutionnelles et juridiques et à ses rapports avec d'autres organisations internationales. Au terme de cette session, et après un large mais franc et fructueux dialogue, nous espérons que seront prises des décisions qui rendront notre organisation plus dynamique et plus utile. La délégation de la République Islamique de Mauritanie, pour sa part, y apportera sa modeste contribution.

Le Programme de travail pour 1978/79 que le Directeur général a présenté de façon si concise vise à orienter pour l'essentiel les actions de la FAO sur le terrain donc vers les Etats Membres, et plus particulièrement vers ceux d'entre eux qui sont les plus défavorisés. Ce programme de travail innove de manière heureuse car il veut insuffler à notre organisation un nouvel esprit et un dynamisme si nécessaires si elle veut s'adapter aux besoins des pays en voie de développement dans le domaine rural.

Ces pays ont besoin, dans ce domaine, des investissements, mais aussi de la formation des hommes, des études et des conseils. C'est pourquoi il faut inventer de nouvelles méthodes, aussi simples que possible, et de nouvelles procédures simplifiées aux fins d'une meilleure aide au développement.

Notre pays, qui connaît un déficit céréalier structurel, malgré des potentialités réelles et identifiées, soutient fermement la nouvelle politique mondiale en matière d'alimentation et de production agricole. et est convaincu que la FAO. et ses organisations connexes sont à même d'aider à résoudre à terme ces problèmes pour peu que tous les pays leur apportent un soutien par les moyens d'une action planifiée et soutenue. Il va sans dire que pour atteindre ses objectifs en matière de sécurité alimentaire, la Communauté mondiale devra porter ses efforts vers les pays qui connaissent le plus grand déficit céréalier, principalement vers les pays en développement. Mais comme l'a si bien souligné le document, qui dit production accrue dit nécessairement investissement financier, technique et humain. Nous sommes satisfaits d'avoir la confirmation que notre institution a les mains moins liées et est maintenant mieux en mesure de répondre d'elle-même aux demandes des pays qui désirent une assistance pour préparer et formuler des projets à soumettre aux organismes de financement, et pour former le personnel national afin d'assurer un autodéveloppement soutenu. Tout en étant convaincu du sérieux indispensable et de la technicité requise dans la préparation des projets, nous voudrions quand même attirer l'attention des délégués sur la nécessité de rechercher des méthodes qui permettent d'écourter le temps que prennent les études généralement très paperassières. Les méthodologies proposées dans le cadre de la réalisation de chaque programme, pourraient prendre en considération cet aspect de la question.

En ce qui concerne l'élevage et la protection de la nature, et compte tenu de notre expérience en tant que pays essentiellement saharien, il importe d'entreprendre et de soutenir des actions intégrées pour résoudre les problèmes de santé animale, de protection de la végétation naturelle, de gestion des parcours, d'hydraulique pastorale.

La République Islamique de Mauritanie approuve la stratégie et les six priorités inscrites aux activités du département de l'Agriculture dans sa nouvelle organisation, cela d'autant plus qu'une place non négligeable est accordée à la formation, à l'éducation, à la vulgarisation, et au rôle de la femme dans ces diverses activités. Elle approuve également la tenue en juillet 1979 de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Il est hautement utile que les mesures entreprises et les acquis enregistrés dans le monde dans ces domaines à la lumière des expériences de chaque Etat fassent l'objet d'un bilan exhaustif et orienté vers l'action; cette Conférence donnera l'occasion de mettre en exergue les contraintes et difficultés majeures que rencontre le développement de l'agriculture mais aussi de dégager les principes directeurs généraux pour créer l'initiative, mobiliser les ressources et mieux orienter les actions devant assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Néanmoins, sans vouloir briser cet élan, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de recommander la prudence car, quelle que soit notre volonté de trouver un consensus, il ne peut y avoir de recettes applicables à tous les Etats et à tous les peuples.

Monsieur le Président, la réduction des pertes de denrées alimentaires est un problème qui doit également retenir notre attention. Ces dernières années l'accent a été mis sur la protection des cultures contre les déprédateurs. Il s'agit maintenant, toujours dans l'optique d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, de lancer une campagne mondiale contre les pertes après récolte. La Mauritanie soutient les propositions budgétaires tendant à prendre des mesures pratiques contre ce gaspillage de ressources vitales.

Parmi les nouvelles initiatives fondamentales et heureuses que l'on est en devoir de mettre à l'actif de Monsieur le Directeur général, il importe de souligner le Programme de Coopération Technique. C'est là l'illustration de l'orientation de notre institution vers le concret, l'utile. C'est une innovation qui, de par son esprit et son caractère, doit être poursuivie et élargie. Elle ne manquera pas, je l'espère, de susciter l'attention souhaitée de la part de toutes les institutions d'assistance au développement.

Je me plais à féliciter ici tous les pays qui ont bien voulu contribuer à la constitution du Fonds International de Développement Agricole (FIDA) parmi lesquels je voudrais citer les pays arabes membres de l'OPEP. Il est à espérer que les nouvelles ressources du FIDA et les nouvelles décisions de la Banque Mondiale en faveur du monde rural renforceront l'assistance en matière d'investissements dans la production alimentaire et agricole.

Mais les exigences du développement agricole dans les pays pauvres incitent à redéfinir ou à assouplir les critères de choix et de rentabilité économique des projets.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture, de par son champ d'action, a acquis au fil des années l'expérience dans tous les domaines du développement agricole et rural, expérience dont chaque Etat Membre est en droit de tirer profit.

La nouvelle décentralisation se justifie pleinement et a même mis du temps pour se faire car c'est là une manière de rendre l'organisation plus dynamique, plus présente, plus concrète et plus souple dans ses interventions sur le terrain, dans son assistance aux pays qui en expriment le désir. La représentation de la FAO auprès des Etats membres est donc une mesure fort utile.

Si vous le permettez, j'aimerais faire une remarque que certainement le Directeur général a déjà prise en considération, je veux parler de la mission à assigner aux représentants de la FAO auprès des Etats Membres comme mon pays, c'est-à-dire connaissant une insuffisance notoire de cadres. Assurément ces représentants doivent bénéficier de tous les avantages que leur confère leur statut, mais ils ne devraient pas perdre de vue qu'ils sont aussi et avant tout des assistants, des conseillers techniques dans tous les domaines liés à la production alimentaire et agricole.

Voilà les quelques commentaires et remarques que la délégation de la République Islamique de Mauritanie voulait porter à la connaissance de l'Assemblée. Il importe cependant de rappeler que ces commentaires et remarques ne doivent pas cacher les aspects hautement positifs des propositions qui nous sont faites.

Je voudrais maintenant, en quelques mots, vous présenter la politique agricole définie par mon Gouvernement.

La République Islamique de Mauritanie est un vaste territoire dont une grande partie est désertique. C'est un pays d'éleveurs, c'est aussi un pays d'agriculteurs surtout dans sa partie sud. Bref, plus de 85 pour cent des populations mauritaniennes sont rurales. Le Gouvernement mauritanien fort conscient des potentialités agro-pastorales que recèle le monde rural et de la nécessité d'assister les éleveurs et les agriculteurs pour augmenter leurs revenus et améliorer leur productivité, a donné dès 1966, la priorité au développement rural, en fixant comme objectif principal l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Il s'attache depuis lors à mobiliser tous les moyens disponibles afin que cette option politique devienne réalité. Mais l'insuffisance des moyens techniques, financiers et humains et les conditions écologiques spécifiques ont limité les actions entreprises. La politique agricole mauritanienne, malgré ces contraintes importantes mais passagères se réalise progressivement grâce à notre détermination de développer le secteur rural, mais grâce aussi à la fructueuse coopération bilatérale, régionale dans le cadre de l'OMVS et du CILSS et internationale. Seule la maîtrise de l'eau dans le cadre des programmes régionaux et nationaux nous permettra de nous en sortir à terme,

Le rapport sur la situation 1977 fait ressortir que grâce au temps favorable et à l'intensification de la production agricole, la situation alimentaire mondiale s'est améliorée. Cette tendance globale, bien que réconfortante, ne doit pas nous cacher les importantes diversités de situations entre les pays et à l'intérieur d'un même pays, En effet, la sécheresse vient de frapper de nouveau le Sahel, Plus particulièrement, la situation de mon pays mérite d'être citée. Les cumuls pluviométriques (juin/juillet/août) avec le rapport à la normale correspondance calculée sur trente ans (1941/1970) pour les principales zones de production montrent que le déficit général pour cette période est nettement supérieur à 50 pour cent et a atteint 96 pour cent dans le centre-ouest. En plus du retard et de l'insuffisance des pluies, la mauvaise répartition de celles-ci dans l'espace et dans le temps est venue aggraver la situation.

Le retard et l'insuffisance des crues ont perturbé le calendrier cultural des périmètres irrigués et réduiront de beaucoup les cultures de décrue.

Il résultera de cette situation une longue et difficile période de soudure pour les hommes et pour le cheptel, qui a déjà commencé à se concentrer dans la zone du sud-est, si toutefois les feux de brousse ne viennent pas détruire prématurément les pâturages déjà existants.

Le retard, l'irrégularité et l'insuffisance des pluies et des crues ont entraîné une diminution des superficies mises en cultures et une baisse sensible des rendements. L'hypothèse la plus optimiste fait ressortir un déficit vivrier à combler de 150 000 tonnes si l'on considère que les besoins vivriers nationaux sont de 180 000 tonnes, besoins supplémentaires pour lesquels mon pays est disposé à importer plus de la moitié pour ses besoins propres.

Telles sont les conclusions de la mission mixte RIM/pays donateurs qui a eu à évaluer la situation agro-pastorale de mon pays en octobre dernier. Il importe cependant de rappeler que la Mauritanie connaît depuis 1969 la sécheresse. Depuis lors, celle-ci, après avoir culminé en 1972/73, s'est toujours manifestée sous des formes différentes et de façon inégale entraînant chaque fois la perte de cheptel, la réduction des récoltes, l'avance du désert et l'exode rural. Les effets de 1977/78 doivent être vus en connexion avec la situation qui prévalait avant, pour mieux se rendre compte du sinistré qui frappe les 4/5 du territoire mauritanien.

Pour atténuer les effets de la sécheresse, il importera d'entreprendre dans l'immédiat des mesures consistant en des secours d'urgence, la protection des quelques pâturages existants contre les feux de brousse, la réalisation de puits pastoraux permettant d'exploiter ces fourrages qui sont à compléter par les aliments de bétail, l'exécution d'un programme maraîcher.

La sécheresse, comme le prouve l'expérience sahélienne, constitue une donnée qu'il s'agit de prendre "sérieusement en considération dans les actions de développement dans le Sahel. La sécurisation des revenus des paysans et l'autosuffisance alimentaire impliquent nécessairement: la lutte contre la sécheresse, la désertification. Il est vrai que c'est sur les pays concernés que pèse la responsabilité de chercher les voies et moyens pour résoudre ces problèmes, mais cela ne dégage nullement la responsabilité des autres pays, car il s'agit de lutter contre la faim, la malnutrition, les calamités naturelles dans le monde pour assurer la survie de l'homme, qui vit pourtant chez nous dans des conditions normales très dures.

Je ne voudrais terminer sans souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux Etats membres de notre Organisation, en particulier aux pays africains: l'Angola, les Comores, Djibouti, le Mozambique, la Namibie, Sao Tomé-et-Principe et les Seychelles. Je suis certain qu'ils enrichiront de leur expérience et de leur contribution les débats de notre actuelle session. Je me dois de dire aussi le soutien que la Mauritanie apporte à la candidature du Niger au poste de Président indépendant de notre Organisation.

Je voudrais enfin dire combien nous avons apprécié l'accueil cordial du Gouvernement et du peuple italien.

TEPATONDELE ZAMBITE (Zaïre): Avant d'entrer dans le vif du sujet, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de m'acquitter d'un agréable devoir, celui de vous présenter, au nom du Conseil Exécutif de la République du Zaïre et de la délégation qui m'accompagne, nos chaleureuses félicitations pour votre brillante élection au poste de Président de la Conférence des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture.

Nos félicitations s'adressent également à tous les membres du bureau dont la principale mission se veut de mettre à profit vos éminentes qualités en vue d'une conclusion positive des travaux en cours.

Nous avons tous suivi avec une attention particulière l'enrichissante déclaration du Directeur General, laquelle a réuni la quasi-unanimité des membres de cet Aéropage. Pour tout cela ainsi que pour son inlassable dévouement et sa détermination de rendre plus dynamique notre Organisation, la République du Zaïre lui dit simplement merci et bonne continuation!

Nos remerciements s'adressent également à l'Italie, Pays hôte, ainsi qu'à tous ceux qui, de près ou de loin, ont contribué aux préparatifs de ces assises.

Bien que cette session de la Conférence ait lieu en un moment particulièrement pénible pour la République du Zaïre, à la suite du décès de sa première Citoyenne, mon Pays a tenu à y participer pour manifester tout l'intérêt que le peuple zaïrois et son Chef, le Président-Fondateur MOBUTU SESE SEKO, attachent aux objectifs et aux activités de notre Organisation.

Au Zaïre, l'Agriculture qui a été proclamée "PRIORITE DES PRIORITES" occupe une place de premier plan parmi les préoccupations des responsables du Pays. C'est ainsi que les travaux qui se dérouleront du 23 au 26 de ce mois à Kinshasa, dans le cadre du 2ème Congrès ordinaire du Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution "M. P. R. ", notre Parti National, auront pour thème principal: "l'effort spécial de développement axé sur l'Agriculture". C'est également pour cette raison qu'au cours d'un symposium organisé en avril 1976, d'importantes résolutions ont été adoptées pour trouver des solutions concrètes aux problèmes relatifs au développement harmonieux de l'Agriculture zaïroise.

L'importance de ce Congrès, qui est le premier de cinq Organes du M. P. R., notre Mouvement des masses, n'a donc pas pu permettre au responsable du Département de l'Agriculture de conduire personnellement la délégation zaïroise. Cela ne diminue en rien l'intérêt que mon pays attache aux travaux de l'actuelle session de cette Conférence. Voilà pourquoi il a désigné son Représentant ad intérim auprès du Gouvernement italien et de la FAO pour diriger la délégation du Zaïre.

La politique agricole du Zaïre est définie de façon constante par de grandes orientations qui peuvent être regroupées en trois objectifs.

Le premier des objectifs découle tout naturellement de l'analyse de la situation générale de l'Agriculture. A cet effet, considérant la charge croissante que représentent les importations des produits comme le maïs, le riz, le sucre, la viande et le poisson et tenant compte des possibilités offertes par le Pays pour chacune de ces spéculations, le Zaïre se doit d'abord d'assurer la satisfaction de ses besoins alimentaires pour qu'ensuite il devienne exportateur de certains de ces produits.

Le second objectif a trait à l'accroissement et à la diversification des exportations afin de permettre au secteur agricole d'être une source appréciable de recettes en devises et de participer plus activement à l'équilibre de la balance des paiements et à l'équilibre de la balance alimentaire du pays. On sait à quel point est fragile l'économie d'un pays basée essentiellement sur l'exportation de 1 ou 2 produits. Le Zaïre jouit en ce domaine d'une situation favorable par suite de la grande richesse de son sous-sol. Mais force est de constater que les prix des produits miniers ne sont pas à l'abri des périodes de dépression et de stagnation liées à la conjoncture économique mondiale. Il en résulte que l'indépendance qui est recherchée vis-à-vis de l'extérieur ne saura et ne pourra être assurée qu'à travers une diversification et une augmentation des exportations et particulièrement des exportations des produits agricoles.

Enfin, le troisième objectif est de créer une forte industrie de transformation des produits agricoles judicieusement répartie en fonction des potentialités et capacités économiques et techniques locales. Ce faisant, on transforme sur place des produits de peu de valeur unitaire, ce qui constitue à la fois un facteur de développement pour la région et aussi une ébauche de solution au problème des transports dans un pays aussi vaste que le Zaïre. Par ailleurs, la liaison et l'intégration de l'agriculture et de l'industrie permettent par action réciproque le développement accéléré de chacun de ces deux secteurs.

Bien que les résultats obtenus soient satisfaisants, ils sont cependant loin de couvrir tous les besoins alimentaires du pays. Compte tenu des efforts engagés pour accroître la production du riz et du maïs et si nous pouvons disposer de tous les facteurs de production nécessaires, nous pourrions supprimer les importations de ces deux produits avant 1985. Notre grand problème restera pour plusieurs années la production de la viande, en raison du temps nécessaire et des moyens financiers considérables pour développer l'élevage. Nous entendons ainsi poursuivre l'effort entrepris pour développer l'élevage bovin sans négliger celui du porc et du petit bétail.

Les difficultés à la réalisation des objectifs ainsi définis sont constituées par des coûts extrêmement élevés des facteurs de production tels que les engrais, les pesticides, le carburant nécessaire pour la mécanisation des labours et le fonctionnement des agro-industries ainsi que l'insuffisance des semences et matériels agricoles améliorés. La faiblesse de la capacité de financement des investissements productifs est aussi un des facteurs limitants. Si, grâce aux programmes RIZ, MAÏS, et MANIOC, nous pouvons progressivement mettre à la disposition de nos paysans du matériel de qualité, un grand obstacle reste cependant à surmonter; c'est celui des prix des facteurs de production importés dont nous craignons qu'ils demeureront encore longtemps très élevés d'autant plus qu'ils échappent souvent à notre contrôle.

Compte tenu de son importance pour la majeure partie de la population zaïroise dont il est le principal aliment de base, le manioc nous pose des problèmes supplémentaires par suite des maladies qui l'attaquent et affectent sa production. Des moyens de lutte ont été mis sur pied et un programme national MANIOC est en cours d'exécution en vue d'y faire face et de créer de nouvelles variétés de manioc plus résistantes.

Le souci des Responsables Zaïrois pour hâter la réalisation des tâches assignées à la production a conduit à une répartition du travail qui s'est traduite par la création de trois Départements.

Ainsi, le Département de l'Agriculture est chargé d'assurer la production alimentaire et agricole. Celui du Développement rural est, quant à lui, chargé de créer de meilleures conditions de vie et de travail en milieux ruraux ainsi que les infrastructures pour favoriser la production. Enfin la troisième, appelé Département de l'Environnement et de la Conservation de la Nature, s'occupe pour sa part de la pêche et des forêts.

Avant de fermer ce chapitre consacré à la situation alimentaire de mon Pays, je tiens à signaler l'importance des voies de communication et la capacité des transports qui constituent en fait un véritable goulot d'étranglement au processus de l'évacuation de différents produits.

Si la situation alimentaire mondiale a été assez satisfaisante ces deux dernières années, nous devons toutefois rester très attentifs au sujet des conditions climatiques qui ne cessent de se détériorer et font poser de graves menaces sur de nombreux pays de la région africaine pour les deux prochaines années; étant entendu qu'une lutte acharnée devra également être menée en vue de diminuer sensiblement non seulement les pertes importantes après-récoltes, mais aussi les maladies dont sont victimes de nombreuses cultures.

A cet effet, ma délégation appuie la proposition de Monsieur le Directeur général tendant à créer un fonds spécial en vue de prévenir les pertes des produits alimentaires et souhaite vivement que la Conférence l'approuve.

Le programme de travail et budget pour la prochaine période biennale nous paraît bien présenté et mérite d'être approuvé par la Conférence; d'autant plus qu'il constitue un minimum de ce que l'Organisation, avec ses moyens réduits, peut réaliser. Nous disons bien "moyens réduits" car ma délégation aurait souhaité voir des fonds plus consistants affectés au Programme de Coopération technique. '

Au sujet des objectifs à moyen terme, nous apprécions l'approche suivie par Monsieur le Directeur général et appuyons la politique qu'il préconise en accordant priorité aux activités de terrain directement profitables aux Pays membres. Par la même occasion nous tenons à appuyer de façon solennelle sa politique de décentralisation en faveur des Pays membres et le recours à des institutions nationales, ce qui aura pour effet de réduire la part des salaires payés aux experts étrangers, laquelle représentait jusqu'ici près de 80 pour cent du coût des projets.

S'il n'est pas encore possible d'harmoniser la planification à moyen terme des actions de toutes les organisations de la famille des Nations Unies, nous souhaitons que l'on s'efforce de réaliser la meilleure coordination possible au niveau des pays afin d'assurer une bonne utilisation des ressources disponibles en intégrant les actions des organisations qui ne font pas partie du système des Nations Unies. Cela évitera, nous en sommes certains, des doubles emplois et gaspillages des ressources qui sont, de surcroît, limitées.

Le Programme Alimentaire Mondial a fait les preuves de sa nécessité et de son efficacité. Mon pays souhaite que tout soit mis en oeuvre pour que l'objectif de 950 millions de dollars USA, approuvé par le Comité ad hoc, puisse être atteint étant donné son impact sur le développement et l'accroissement de la production alimentaire dans les pays bénéficiaires.

Avant de clore mon intervention, je voudrais demander à Monsieur le Directeur général de tout mettre en oeuvre pour obtenir que le nouvel ordre économique mondial que l'on s'efforce de mettre sur pied, se préoccupe de garantir aux pays sous-équipés non seulement le droit à une alimentation suffisante et équilibrée, mais aussi le droit à des prix justes pour leurs produits en vue de la stabilisation de leurs recettes d'exportation, conditions indispensables au financement de leur développement économique et social.

Enfin, ma délégation saisit l'occasion qui lui est donnée pour féliciter très sincèrement les huit nouveaux Etats Membres qui viennent de faire leur entrée dans cette grande Communauté et espère que leur présence parmi nous constituera un apport positif aux efforts que, des années durant, nous déployons pour essayer de juguler la faim, la malnutrition et la misère qui sévissent dans plusieurs coins de notre planète.

The meeting rose at 18. 00 hours

La séance est levée à 18heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 00 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 16° SESION PLENARÍA

(22 November 1977)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9·45 hours

T. Hadiwiaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 16° sesión plenaria a las 9. 45 horas

bajo la presidencia de T. Hadiwi-java, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continuación)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS IE LEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I now declare open the Sixteenth Plenary meeting.

M. S. NASSER (Yemen, People's Dem. Rep. of) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman. Director-General, Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen: I should like to convey to you the best wishes of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. I hope that this Conference will be successful in putting an end to poverty and hunger in the world.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to congratulate you and your associates, the Vice-Chairmen and the Chairmen of Commissions, on your election and for the confidence that the Conference has placed in you.

The world food problem and the problem of agricultural development have become a source of major concern for all countries desirous of having international conferences to reach positive results and practical decisions which in turn will be capable of contributing to the development process and providing food to a large number of people in the world who are suffering from hunger. The problem of malnutrition, which affects almost half of the world's inhabitants, is of equal importance. The tremendous tasks that our Conference is involved in relate directly to the health and security of the world's population. This should encourage all countries of the world to become members of our Organization.

We welcome the new Member States - Angola, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe and the Seychelles. We congratulate them and we express the hope that they will contribute to bring about an atmosphere of cooperation, collaboration and understanding with other members in order to solve the crucial problems which are an obstacle to happiness and stability in the world. We also hope that they will play an effective role in bridging the gap that separates the industrialized countries from the developing countries and that separates the privileged classes and the deprived classes because of the present economic situation and the complication of the world trade system. It is quite clear that all members of the Organizations are fully aware of the need to step up their efforts if we are to overcome the problems of ignorance and underdevelopment, problems which only aggravate the problem of malnutrition which is such a dangerous scourge.

At the time of this meeting my country is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its independence, ten years of struggle in the service of the people, 80 per cent of whom are working in agriculture and fisheries. All of the achievements made by the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen during the course of this period are marked by the serious manner in which we have dealt with the crucial problems of agrarian reform. Our country has to solve the problem of land and agrarian reform, basing itself on giving the peasant what is legitimately due to him from the production of the land. Our country has given full support to these peasants and has given them modern means of production as well as the appropriate agricultural inputs at subsidized prices. During the course of the past years we have built ten dams in order to channel and distribute rainwaters and we have built drainage canals. We have reclaimed 50 000 feddans of land through irrigation. We have also introduced agricultural mechanisation in order to develop agricultural techniques, in addition to introducing new varieties of fruits, vegetables and grains of high yield.

With respect to fisheries and livestock we have, thanks to our own efforts, improved the species of dairy cattle, goats and sheep.

With respect to our three-year and five-year plans we have in this area made investments of 40 million dinars - that is, the equivalent of \$120 million.

As you will have observed, the investments in the field of agriculture and fisheries have been focussed on the purchase of fishing gear, farm machines, irrigation systems, and other necessary agricultural inputs.

The priority given to these various factors clearly reflects the input of our Government in this sector. Following our independence we saw that these elements were a weak point in the developing process, and in the past they were completely neglected. But despite all the efforts made by my country in respect of investment in agriculture and fisheries a great deal remains to be done by the various financial resources in order to avoid wastage of time and effort so as to introduce and implement these various development projects.

We would like to express the hope that the Member States hasten to implement the development projects which were approved in the various FAO programmes. It is our hope that this will not be jeopardized by routine procedures which are not linked to the fundamental problems, this in order to service millions of people who are suffering and to whom the Director-General referred in his opening address. We hope that other specialized agencies will follow along this path in their relationships with those countries which most certainly require assistance.

We have placed a great deal of hope in IFAD. It is our hope that IFAD will be able to overcome the difficulties that were experienced by other financing institutions and specialized agencies that preceded it and that IFAD will be able to benefit from experience in order to avail itself of the tremendous possibilities now existing.

The efforts made by FAO to hold the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development warrant the support of all member countries. It is my pleasure to inform you here that we have already begun preparations for this conference in order to ensure our participation.

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen has unique experience despite its small size. This experience was born from our own traditions and was carried out by the toiling masses of our country.

We try to improve the standard of living of the rural population, which constitutes the vast majority of our country's population. This experience has certainly proved to be valid in view of the fact that it succeeded in raising the economic and social standards of living in the rural areas, more particularly of women, who also participated in the development process.

In view of the considerable importance in our country of agriculture and fisheries we have taken special interests in these sectors and have mobilized all financial and human resources in this area.

Let us not forget the role played by FAO in the development of this important sector either by giving direct assistance or by providing assistance for the implementation of projects financed by various financial institutions. Here we should like to express our thanks to our Organization, to the Director-General, to the World Food Programme and its Executive Director for their assistance during the drought that we suffered in the last agricultural season. We also stress the importance of the assistance that FAO will grant us in the future with respect to hydraulic resources in view of the fact that the major harvest in our country depends on rainfall, which varies considerably from one season to another.

We would like to confirm our support for the Programme of Work and Budget submitted by the Director-General, more particularly with respect to natural resources and animal production in the Middle East. We should also like to remind the Director-General that despite the importance of animal production, which is a very valuable contribution to the increase in agricultural production as a whole, and despite the first attempts made by FAO in 1967 to bring assistance to this sector, nothing has been achieved thus far. In view of this we have counted entirely upon ourselves and the limited possibilities at our disposal, as well as on bilateral assistance prompted by a number of countries. Consequently it is our hope that the guidelines in the Programme of Work and Budget mentioned by the Director-General in his address will be translated into concrete action for the development of animal production in the countries suffering from shortage of natural and technical resources. It is inconceivable, therefore, to set a number of limits with respect to the financial contributions made to these countries that require such aid.

The fisheries and fishery resources in general are of great importance in our country. We appreciate the role of FAO within the framework of the technical cooperation programme for the utilization of these resources and training programmes in this connexion. It is my pleasure to inform you that we have recently established a new Ministry which is devoted to fisheries so as to guarantee the satisfactory management of this sector.

In conclusion I would like to express my Government's support for the new strategy followed by the Director-General which he announced at the beginning of his term of office. This strategy relates first to decentralization and strengthening of FAO at the national level; secondly, flexibility designed to give rapid satisfaction to the needs of the member countries; and thirdly, the adjustment

of FAO projects to the national development programmes, stressing applied studies rather than academic or theoretical studies and theoretical planning. It is our hope also that the promotions and appointments to the major posts of the Organization be based on the services rendered in the interests of member countries.

B. MANSARAY (Sierra Leone): Please permit me, Mr. Chairman, in the first place to join the other delegations in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this 19th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference, and for the very able manner in which you have conducted the affairs of this Assembly.

Although I have already welcomed the new Member States to this august assembly, as Chairman of the African Region, nonetheless I wish to extend to these nations namely, Angola, Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe as well as Seychelles my sincere felicitations and those of my delegation and Government, on their admission as full members to the FAO Community.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the provisions made by the Director-General in his Programme of Work and Budget, and the medium-term objectives in tackling the world food problem in a realistic and pragmatic manner, particularly the institutional and operational changes, with a view to streamlining the work of the Organization and making it more effective. It is indeed gratifying to note that the aspirations of Member Nations of this Organization over the years are being fulfilled through the Director-General's policy of decentralisation, aimed at dismantling the heavy bureaucratic system that had plagued the effective operation of the Organization since its inception. In particular, my delegation sees the establishment of FAO Country Representatives, who will be intimately involved in the agricultural development processes at the grass-roots level, and work in close collaboration with the nationals of the Member States, as a clear demonstration of the decentralisation policy. Furthermore, we welcome the initiative taken by the Director-General to reduce to a minimum post-harvest losses now experienced by farmers. This is an area that particularly appeals to my delegation, and we hope that the measures contemplated will be speedily implemented.

May I point out, Mr. Chairman, that the need for determining fertilizer blends to suit the various soil types and crops is recognised by my country. The Land Resources Survey Unit of my Ministry has carried out aerial photographic surveys of the entire country; and the Unit is now conducting detailed soil surveys which demand a review of the limited range of compound fertilizer formulations currently in use. For this and for financial reasons it has been thought more appropriate to establish a fertilizer-blending and bagging plant which would be used to mix fertilizer ingredients locally, to suit our various soil types and crops. Whilst we welcome the continuation of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, we would hope that the necessary financial support and technical assistance will be offered by the international community in our efforts to establish a fertilizer industry at the level indicated.

Sierra Leone, like many other developing countries, is basically an agricultural country. Over 70 percent of its population derives its livelihood from peasant farming. Unfortunately, however, these people are often the most underprivileged, and the most neglected members of the community. As a result, there is a steady movement of young people from the rural to the urban areas, thus creating socio-economic problems within the country. Consequently, my country has embarked on a vigorous rural development programme, with special emphasis on the integrated approach to agricultural development. It is for this reason that my country appreciates the initiative taken for planning a world conference on Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in 1979. Agricultural development, however, is an expensive and time consuming process which often requires resources far beyond the capacity of most developing countries. With the escalating cost of farm inputs including fertilizer, pesticides, farm machines, etc, it has become increasingly difficult for my country to achieve the minimum annual growth rate of 4 percent in agriculture and food production as called for by the international development strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade with external assistance. My delegation hence associates itself with the other speakers in the plea for more rational distribution of financial resources, especially for increased credit and investments in agriculture for the developing countries which still suffer from the stages of food due to lack of capital.

My delegation therefore appreciates the activities of the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment (CGFPI) in developing countries, in assisting four of the 43 food priority countries in preparing their national food plans and agricultural development strategies which have been presented to bilateral and multilateral funding agencies for investment purposes. We ourselves look forward in the near future to similar assistance from the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment.

Whilst we pledge on our part to do all that lies in our power to adopt policies and measures designed to increase our agricultural output, we are indeed delighted at the Director-General's willingness to assist us achieve these objectives, as well as act as an intermediary between the developed and the developing countries for the necessary assistance in agricultural development.

The economies of most developing countries are largely dependent upon agricultural exports for earning foreign exchange. The fluctuations in the agricultural commodity prices on the world market have proved a negative incentive to increased agricultural production. However, the bold initiative of the World Bank in lending funds for rural development and the establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), if supported by corresponding measures to stabilize the prices of agricultural commodities, will make the concept of the new international economic order more meaningful and relevant. In this connection we are eagerly looking forward to the negotiations currently going on in Geneva under the sponsorship of UNCTAD, aimed at establishing a Common Fund that will be used to stabilize the prices of commodities.

Mr. Chairman, at the end of this Conference, resolutions will no doubt be passed for the consideration of either FAO or the respective governments of the Member Nations of this Organization. My delegation would like to make a passing reference to the 9th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, which we hosted in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in November, 1976. At that Conference, distinguished delegates highlighted significant agricultural development issues, most of which have already been referred to by earlier speakers at this 19th Session of the FAO Conference. These issues were embodied in the Freetown Declaration which focused attention on the following issues among others:

- “(i) disappointed that two years after the resolutions of the World Food Conference, the pace of international action to increase food production has been distressingly slow;
- (ii) that FAO should give greater support to member countries' efforts for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. ”

It is very heartening to learn that the Governing Council of IFAD will be meeting soon and that the lending operations for financing agricultural projects aimed at expressly increasing food production in the developing countries will start early in the new year. As already expressed earlier by heads of delegations, we look forward to very fruitful co-operation between the Chairman of IFAD and the Director-General of FAO in attacking the universal problem of hunger, malnutrition and poverty which are so rampant in the developing countries.

Let me now turn my attention away from the global scene to the "home front, if only to demonstrate our efforts, modest as they may be, for increasing food production in Sierra Leone. The country has steadily reduced the importation of rice, the staple food of the country, by the adoption of improved methods of production with progressive increases of output ranging from 7.7 percent in 1975/76 to 5.4 percent in 1976/77. My Government wishes to record its gratitude for the assistance provided under the World Food Programme of FAO for various activities associated with agriculture, especially, for swamp rice cultivation and forestry development under its Technical Cooperation Programme.

In the field of forestry, my Government has revised its policies of forest exploitation. Both existing and future forest industries will henceforth be required to contribute sufficient funds to supplement Government's expenditure on the investment required for replanting the exploited areas. A planting programme has been adopted not only to replant the exploited areas but also to increase the productivity of the unstocked forest estates by afforestation, using fast growing forest tree species. Already a target of 1,000 acres per annum has been exceeded over the last two years.

The formation of the Sierra Leone Timber Industry and Plantation Company in which Government holds a 50 percent share capital has brought the number of sawmills in the country to four. This has considerably increased timber production in the country.

Recognising the importance of combining the use of fertilizers with improved crop varieties, a Seed Multiplication project has been established through technical assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany. The programme coordinates its activities with those of Rokupr Rice Research Station and Njala University College which hitherto were the only research institutions concerned with crop variety improvement. Also, a Regional Rice Research Programme under the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) is being conducted in Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone spends a considerable amount of foreign exchange on the importation of sugar. It is to alleviate this position that Government has embarked upon the development of a sugar cane and mill complex through the assistance of the Government of the People's Republic of China. The complex ranges from the planting of sugar cane to the manufacture of sugar and ancillary products. As the Chinese-supported sugar cane project will not meet all the country's sugar requirements, a number of other sites have been identified as being suitable for the crop; but sources for funding these development activities are yet to be determined.

Bearing in mind the importance of protein, especially animal protein in the diet of the people, efforts to increase animal production have continued to receive Government's attention especially in the area of genetic improvement and animal health. A crossbreeding programme to upgrade the local N'dama breed of

cattle utilising the Sahiwal breed is in progress and the results so far are encouraging. At the same time, prophylactic measures continue to be taken to provide protection against the major diseases of livestock in the country, with considerable success. We however, look forward to the follow-up measures after the initial attempts to respond to Resolution XI of the World Food Conference of 1974 for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis bearing in mind the role played by the tsetse fly in limiting animal production in Africa.

In keeping with our policy of encouraging joint ventures for fisheries development we have established a few enterprises with partners from developed countries. At present these enterprises are concerned with industrial fishery but it is hoped that joint venture activities will in the future include storage and processing. Equal importance is being given to the development of small scale fishery which is a major contributor to our total fish landing. Mechanization is being intensified, the fishermen are organized as a base for cooperative activities so that credit facilities could be properly utilized. The Oyster Culture Project jointly financed by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and the Government of Sierra Leone has yielded good results. We can now achieve a growth of 9 centimeters over a period of 8, 9 months by the raft culture method.

We are still faced with severe constraints such as the lack of trained manpower, equipment and capital which seriously handicap our efforts in developing our fisheries. Collection of statistics is another area for concern. We note the efforts being made by the FAO in trying to solve some of these issues, for which we are grateful. But these are far from being adequate if any meaningful development is to be achieved. We would urge the FAO to assume a more active role in the field.

Mr. Chairman, targets and forecasts in any human endeavour are largely dependent on a number of prevailing factors which are often outside the control of human influence - indeed, man proposes and God disposes. It is with dismay that I have to inform this assembly of a recent flood disaster in my country which led to considerable damage to property including agricultural produce. The affected area is estimated at 60, 000 acres, mainly of cultivated rice fields. These figures are provisional and the final figures will be made available as soon as possible for a formal request for relief to be made in due course.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, from this year's deliberations at the General Assembly of the United Nations it seems quite clear that this world body is now actively mobilizing all its forces in order to attack the scourges which have faced the human race over the centuries and which today are the greatest barriers to human progress, namely, hunger, malnutrition, inequality of social opportunities, -leading to abject rural poverty for millions of the world's population. Even United Nations bodies such as the United Nations' University and the United Nations' Institute for Training and Research have identified these scourges as some of the most pressing problems facing the human race.

As we are all gathered here at this 19th Biennial Conference of the FAO, and having discussed these problems at some length, we cannot help but feel the tremendous burden that rests on the shoulders of each and every one of us in terms of responsibilities for their solution; but the greatest burden of all, I am sure rests on the shoulders of the Director-General and his staff. We in Sierra Leone have no doubt that with the initiatives already taken by FAO and the inspiration demonstrated from the top executive of this Organization, given the resources, they will with the cooperation of all member states accomplish the objectives which we have set ourselves. The Director-General has demonstrated his will and ability to help the countries of the Third World solve some of their food problems. During this period also, I feel sure that he has gained the admiration and the respect of the countries of the developed world. With the faith and the hope of the developing world, and the assistance which we expect will be forthcoming from the industrially developed countries of the world to provide the necessary funds that will enable the Director-General and his able colleagues to implement the very many projects aimed at the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in the world, the FAO will go a long way in enhancing a new international economic order by the turn of the century.

Finally, my delegation wishes the Director-General good health and strength and the continued courage and vision in the execution of his very difficult responsibilities.

Y. A. OSMAN (Somalia): Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: On behalf of my delegation it gives me great pleasure to address this august Conference.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, allow me to congratulate you for your election as Chairman of this Nineteenth Session, which, no doubt, you deserve.

We would like also to wholeheartedly welcome and congratulate the new members to our Organization, namely: Angola, Comoros, Djibouti, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Principe and Seychelles. We in particular congratulate about with whom we share common historical bonds.

We take this opportunity to extend our appreciation and acknowledgement for the valuable services the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma, has rendered this international Organization. During his stay in office, which is barely two years, he has been able to inject new dynamism into this institution.

It is true that in the last two years a rise in agricultural and food production has been witnessed all over the world and that the threat of hunger has been temporarily delayed. But let us not be deceived and be led into complacency since at this very hour millions of people, especially in the third world, suffer from hunger and malnutrition. The FAO, as has been acknowledged by many distinguished delegates, has in the last two years accomplished great achievements in the fields of agricultural and food development. My country, Somalia, could be taken as a characteristic example.

My country has been, in the period between 1973 and 1975, affected by the easterly extension of the Sahelian zone drought. This natural calamity has adversely affected the over-all development strategy of the country in that it necessitated the reallocation of relatively huge state resources which were financial, material and labour in order to render effective assistance to the people most affected by the drought.

It is important to note that the thinking of the Somali Government in saving the hundreds of thousands hit by the severe drought was far from being static. It did not see the problem as one soluble by just feeding the people and keeping them in the emergency camps until the situation becomes favourable again for the nomads to go back to their traditional habitat. Today, the Somali people are convinced that the drought is not only to be seen as an absolute catastrophe but, ironically enough, also as a blessing.

It is so because the traditional Somali economy was distorted as it was mainly based upon pastoralism. Around 70 percent of the Somali people are engaged in a nomadic way of life dependent upon the vagaries of nature. This lop-sided development resulted in over-stocking, overgrazing and soil erosion which were contributory factors to the severe consequences of the drought. The Somali Government decided to exploit the drought-created emergency situation by killing two birds with one stone, so to speak.

Only 9 percent of the land suitable for cultivation is under the plough, the bulk of which is under dry farming and 160 000 hectares are irrigated, both controlled and inundated. Moreover, the fishery riches of 3 300 km coast-line of Somalia remain unexploited. In order to give impetus to the exploitation of this idle productive capacity and to relieve the land threatened by exhaustion through over-use, the Somali Government launched a daring programme of settling the drought-stricken nomads in the land along the two rivers that Somalia possesses and along three major points on the coast-line. Three agricultural settlement areas accommodating 110 000 of the evacuated nomads have been established. Besides the Ministry of Agriculture and other related national institutions, many international specialized agencies and governments contributed generously to the equipment and training of the new farmers and to the creation of the necessary infrastructure. The area occupied by the settlements comprises a total of 34 000 hectares of irrigated land. This ambitious project is expected to be in full swing by 1980. Of course, the resources needed for coping with the situation, both at the initial emergency stage and at the settlement and production stage, were beyond the national capability. Many friendly countries and international organizations such as WFP assisted in the realization of the Government Programme.

Out of the 350 000 hectares believed to be permanently accommodated by the two rivers, only 50 000 hectares are presently under controlled irrigation. That shows that there is a great potentiality to be tapped for development and enormous increase in food and agricultural production. However, in the last three years the agricultural sector of the country has registered huge increases in investment in the necessary infrastructure for the ultimate goal of more rational and more modern agriculture.

Between 1975 and 1976, 10 000 to 15 000 hectares of newly irrigated land have been put under cultivation. The results of this effort have been successful in the spring season of this year when the grain production exceeded the planned 80 000 tons. Around 55 000 tons more of grain are expected to be harvested in the autumn season. This makes a total of 135 000 tons of grain and falls 45 000 tons short of the total 180 000 tons of grain required for domestic consumption.

The development strategy of the Somali Government sets 1980 as the target year for self-sufficiency in major food crops. This strategy emphasizes among other things the following points:

To increase grain and oil seed crop production to meet domestic demand and reduce imports sharply.

To raise the quality and quantity of banana production in order to meet the increased market demand, both internal and external.

To develop the irrigation potential of the country in order to have more secured production.

To increase production of agro-industrial crops such as: sugar, textiles, vegetable oil and flour.

To intensify the cooperative movements started in 1974. 277 agricultural cooperatives with a membership of 22. 114 farmers have already been established putting under cultivation a total of 42, 608 hectares both in irrigated and dry farming areas.

To intensify and reorganize with the cooperation of FAO and other international and national organizations, research, extension and training facilities in order to overcome lack of innovation and the acute shortage of trained manpower supply and to make the strategy of self-sufficiency a reality.

Livestock husbandry is the main economic occupation of the Somali people. Around 70 percent of the Somali population are engaged in pastoralism, and 70 percent of the foreign currency earnings also come from this sector. The national livestock wealth is estimated at a total of 22 million heads.

The main portion of the livestock production is export oriented. The industrially processed animal products play a minimal part of the exports. By far the larger part of the exports of this sector is in the form of animals on the hoof. Livestock production for the local market, though less than that of export, is significant and it includes: meat, dairy products, hides and skins and poultry. Poultry farming, though newly introduced, is growing rather rapidly. Two poultry projects are now functioning and a third project financed by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait is under construction. All the three projects are supposed to produce a total of 25 000 000. eggs a year.

The local breed of cattle (Zebu) has a very low production capacity of 2-3 litres of milk a day; with good feed and husbandry this production capacity could be increased to a maximum of 5 litres a day. In order to alleviate the milk shortage in the capital and to create a breed of high milk productivity a major cross-breeding project and an artificial insemination station have been established.

The fattening trials have demonstrated that a weight gain of one kg per day could easily be achieved. The results of the experiment have already been extended to the producers.

Disease control and eradication schemes are among the most important programmes given high priority in the development strategy. The schemes include activities in the tse-tse control, control and eradication of infectious and parasitic diseases and establishment of disease-free zones.

A rinderpest eradication programme (JB-15 project) started in 1969 under German technical assistance resulted in the eradication of the disease with no cases reported in 1977.

Trypanosomiasis, which is the most widespread disease in the country, is common in the fertile areas. About three-quarters of the cattle population are distributed in tse-tse areas but regular prophylactic and curative treatments are given to the animals grazing in this area. Because of the large expenses incurred by the Government due to the purchases of trypanocidal drugs and the great losses to the national wealth caused by trypanosomiasis, the Somali Government was compelled to establish a tse-tse eradication project. The Somali Government has several times invited some international organizations, among which were FAO and UNDP, to participate in this project. Unfortunately, however, no positive reaction has been received so far.

My delegation welcomes the projected programme to be launched by FAO against trypanosomiasis and we promise our full cooperation.

Basic investigations are currently being carried out in the southern part of the country with a view to the possible establishment of a disease-free zone. If this is realized there could be a great boost to our export of livestock.

To supplement development efforts in the animal sector important programmes such as grazing reserves, reclamation of deteriorated areas, fodder crop production and water preservation schemes are being implemented under the auspices of the newly created National Range Agency. A major portion of the funds at the disposal of this Agency has been provided by the Kuwait Government.

Successful work is also underway in projects pertaining to afforestation, rehabilitation of the overgrazed land and desertification.

The 1974-78 five-year development programme gave top priority to the development of fisheries. Around US \$60 million from both internal and external sources have been allocated for this purpose. It is interesting to note that it is for the first time before our national independence and hence that such importance has been attached to fishing. Though the amount of investment is small in the face of the known potentialities of our seas, it shows the recognition granted the exploitation of this immense national resource.



The Ministry of Fisheries has taken important steps in the following areas:

- 1) The organization of the small impoverished subsistence fishermen into 23 cooperatives along the 3 300 km coast-line.
- 2) The provision of boats and fishing gear, better fish-processing methods and training to the fishermen.
- 3) The establishment of three fishing settlements composed of 12 000 former nomads evacuated from the 1973-75 drought-stricken areas. The Ministry of Fisheries, besides providing these settlements with the necessary fishing equipment and training, made it possible for them to get bank credits with nominal interest rates.

Due to the shortage of investment resources in this huge field the Somali Government encourages foreign investment. There are already two joint-stock companies.

The Swedish Government has been helpful in establishing the first fibreglass plant for the production of fishing boats. The plant started operation in October 1977.

The FAO has actively participated in the effective provision of training to the fishermen, most of whom were nomads foreign to fishing.

In order to enlarge the internal market the Somali Government has taken steps in the encouragement of fish consumption in the capital, where the slaughtering of livestock, is forbidden two days a week. The Ministry of Fisheries will shortly import refrigerated transport facilities to provide fish to the countryside.

Among the most immediate objectives of the Government are the completion of the on-going stock assessment survey and the creation of the necessary infrastructure with a view to facilitating the mobility of manpower and resources.

Allow me to state confidently that the Somali Government and the people did not spare any effort in promoting production, both economically and technically. But the nation has faced many financial and technical problems that are beyond the country's capability. Although the state of food and agriculture in the world has been reported improving in the last two years, this encouraging news has been offset by the fact that bilateral and multilateral aid in agriculture has fallen. Although fertilizer prices have fallen sharply from their high level of 1973 and 1974, high prices in insecticides and farm machinery still persist, a fact that does not favour production expansion.

If Somalia, like many other developing countries, does not get these indispensable farm inputs at favourable terms, its efforts will be minimized and its role in freeing man from hunger will not be realized. Therefore, I appeal to the Conference on behalf of my delegation that a special consideration be given to those countries faced with problems similar to ours.

Finally, my delegation sincerely hopes that this Nineteenth Session will be instrumental in bringing about a better-fed world population.

J. VANIN TELLO (Colombia): Señor Presidente. señor Director General, señores ministros y señores delegados:

En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, para mí es altamente honroso presentar un atento y cordial saludo a usted, señor Presidente, a los Vicepresidentes, al señor Director General de la FAO y a todos los delegados y observadores que asisten a esta Conferencia.

La importancia de esta reunión deriva no sólo de la prestancia de las delegaciones acreditadas por los distintos gobiernos sino también de los temas que se están debatiendo en ella y que van a orientar en el futuro las actividades de esta Organización, que tanta significación tiene para los pueblos pobres del mundo y que tanto ha hecho y puede hacer para ayudarlos a resolver los problemas de su desarrollo agropecuario y del hambre que se enseñoorea con agudos caracteres en la mayor parte de ellos.

Porque compartimos plenamente su filosofía humanitaria, porque su línea de acción ha estado enderezada, sin desviaciones, a la consecución de sus trascendentales propósitos y porque consideramos que su tarea ha sido benéfica para la humanidad, especialmente para los países en desarrollo, durante los años de su fecunda existencia le hemos ofrecido apoyo decidido y permaneceremos fieles a esa constante de cooperación con esta Organización y de respaldo a su política.

En esta oportunidad queremos reafirmar una vez más nuestra fe en la misión de la FAO y en los resultados de su acción al servicio de los pueblos en desarrollo y especialmente de aquellos flagelados por el hambre, la desnutrición y sinnúmero de carencias que desmejoran la calidad de sus vidas y los mantienen sumidos en el atraso y la miseria.

Seguimos creyendo que la FAO podrá contribuir en forma cada día más sustancial a la solución de los problemas agrícolas y alimentarios del mundo y que con su asistencia a los países que los padecen podrán ellos redoblar sus esfuerzos para salir del círculo agobiante del subdesarrollo que abre una profunda y amplia brecha entre los pueblos que forman la gran familia humana.

Compartimos y apoyamos la nueva orientación política del señor Director General de la FAO, manifiestarnos nuestra convicción acerca de la bondad y acierto de sus propuestas y le auguramos el mejor de los éxitos en su empeño de convertirlas en respuestas prácticas a la necesidad de más y mejores alimentos para la humanidad.

El Gobierno colombiano reitera su pleno apoyo a uno de los principios de la política del señor Director General de la FAO, que consiste en "atribuir mayor importancia a la prestación de asistencia a los Estados Miembros en sus esfuerzos por obtener recursos financieros para la inversión en la producción agrícola y alimentaria".

La insuficiencia de esta clase de recursos ha sido una de las principales limitaciones para el incremento de la producción en el ramo de la agricultura y la alimentación. Si bien es cierto que el acrecimiento de la producción y el mejoramiento de la productividad dependen de diversos factores, verbi gratia, de la tecnología con sus investigaciones y transferencia de resultados, la realización de prácticas culturales y la aplicación de insumos modernos, también es verdad que no se pueden adquirir tales elementos ni ejecutar dichas actividades si no se tienen los recursos financieros necesarios.

Las labores propias de la producción y de la comercialización demandan a nivel de productores la inversión de grandes sumas de dinero, con las cuales, por lo general, no cuentan y exigen la disponibilidad de cuantiosos recursos financieros por parte del Estado para responder a las crecientes solicitudes de crédito.

Y también, por lo general, los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo no disponen de tales recursos y deben, por consiguiente, acudir al mercado externo de capitales en busca del crédito necesario para el incremento de la producción agrícola y alimentaria, si no quieren ver estancado su progreso y al pueblo sometido a los padecimientos del hambre, y la desnutrición.

Muchas veces la falta de proyectos adecuadamente preparados para justificar la inversión, demostrar su rentabilidad y las posibilidades de retorno de aquélla hace extremadamente difícil el acceso a las fuentes internacionales del crédito. Razón esta que demanda de la FAO la extensión e intensificación de su asistencia a los gobiernos en la identificación y preparación de proyectos que los organismos crediticios internacionales puedan considerar viables y merecedores de su aprobación.

La situación de acceso a las fuentes internacionales del crédito ha mejorado progresivamente; pero aún no es satisfactoria. Por tal razón es necesario que aumenten las facilidades para ese acceso, a fin de que una mayor asistencia crediticia internacional complemente los esfuerzos nacionales con cantidades más significativas de recursos financieros, en mejores condiciones y con procedimientos más expeditos que acorten la excesiva distancia que media entre la solicitud y su aprobación.

El Gobierno colombiano ha venido siguiendo con la mayor atención el proceso que habrá de culminar, esperamos que muy pronto, en la creación del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola - PIDA - el cual, indudablemente, contribuirá a aliviar la escasez de recursos financieros externos para inversiones en actividades relacionadas con la agricultura y la producción de alimentos. Este Fondo, por su carácter netamente especializado en el sector, podrá introducir modalidades de préstamos más convenientes que las usuales en la órbita de los organismos crediticios internacionales.

En este campo la asistencia técnica de la FAO a los gobiernos para la identificación y preparación de proyectos con miras a obtener del Fondo su financiación, adquiere especial importancia para los países en desarrollo. En ese caso específico la FAO podrá prestar un buen servicio a los fines del desarrollo de los programas agrícolas y alimentarios que tracen aquellos países. Motivo suficiente para que mi gobierno considere conveniente la aplicación del "Acuerdo entre el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola y la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación".

El interés particular de mi país en el funcionamiento del Fondo lo sustenta el hecho de que existen proyectos de inversión en el sector agropecuario que, a pesar de los beneficios que traerían para su desarrollo, no se han podido ejecutar por falta de recursos.

En diversos foros los representantes del Gobierno colombiano han apoyado la creación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica porque consideramos que constituye una afortunada innovación que dota a la FAO de medios y recursos propios para ofrecer inmediata y eficaz asistencia a los gobiernos.

Reiteramos nuestro respaldo a esa iniciativa de tanta significación en la vida de la FAO y en sus relaciones con los países que requieren su ayuda, y esperamos verla en el futuro más fortalecida y que siga figurando como un capítulo importante del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización, con una creciente asignación de fondos.

Merece nuestro aplauso la trascendental iniciativa del señor Director. General relacionada con la prevención de la pérdida de alimentos. Abrigamos la esperanza de que ella se convierta en una realidad y que el Fondo Especial que al efecto se cree, habrá de contribuir a solucionar uno de los graves problemas que afectan a la situación alimentaria del mundo.

El Gobierno colombiano apoya igualmente la política de descentralización de la FAO. En marzo pasado firmamos el acuerdo mediante el cual se estableció en nuestro país la primera Oficina propia y permanente de esta Organización en América Latina. Consideramos que la presencia directa y activa de la FAO en Colombia, a través de su representante, contribuirá a incrementar y mejorar las buenas relaciones que hemos tenido siempre con ella. Mediante el diálogo constructivo y ese sistema de mutua cooperación podremos utilizar mejor sus servicios en pro de un más moderno y dinámico desarrollo de la agricultura colombiana.

Pero los países en desarrollo, los pueblos pobres del mundo no sólo necesitan asistencia crediticia y técnica, sino, y principalmente, trato justo en sus relaciones comerciales con las naciones ricas, que se encuentran en el estadio de la producción industrial. De poco sirve el apoyo de la técnica y del crédito internacionales si los productos, principalmente agropecuarios, se pagan a precios excesivamente bajos que significan la ruina para los productores y sus respectivos países. Ciertamente, una mayor producción y una mejor productividad incrementan el abastecimiento de productos agropecuarios y especialmente de alimentos en el interior de esos países, pero el desarrollo se estanca y no van a mejorar a la larga las condiciones de vida de la población si son injustos y ruinosos los precios de lo que ellos exportan al mercado mundial.

Los países en desarrollo exigen relaciones justas de mercado que los saquen de esa condición de vendedores de materias primas y alimentos baratos a los países industrializados y de compradores de los productos caros que sobre ellos arroja el desarrollo industrial de las naciones ricas.

Tienen que establecerse mecanismos que impidan que los efectos benéficos del crédito y de la asistencia técnica a nivel internacional sean contrarrestados y superados por las inequitativas condiciones del mercado mundial que hace que los países pobres subsidien a las naciones más ricas del mundo.

Lo incomprensible es que los países pobres no expresan su inconformidad cuando sube el precio de los productos de los países industrializados y en éstos se levanta inmensa protesta y se acude a procedimientos tendientes a contraer el consumo y por lo tanto la compra de ciertos productos agropecuarios procedentes de los primeros cuando el precio de ellos alcanza niveles remunerativos, es decir, cuando llega a niveles de justicia.

Ciertamente la visión del mundo ofrece un panorama de desequilibrios: países pobres y países ricos, naciones desarrolladas y naciones postergadas en la vía al desarrollo, pueblos que sufren de carencias y pueblos a quienes la abundancia abruma. El cierre de la brecha, el acortamiento de las actuales distancias abismales entre unos y otros es condición de paz y de progreso de la humanidad. Es hacer posible la justicia y elevar al hombre, a todos los hombres, a la plenitud de su vida material y espiritual, a su auténtica condición humana y a la total realización de sus valores estéticos y morales. Por eso los pueblos pobres del mundo no asisten a los foros internacionales en actitud mendicante, sino en demanda de justicia.

Pero si miramos en el interior de muchos países podríamos comprobar que los desequilibrios que se dan en el orden internacional se reproducen también dentro del marco de sus fronteras. Es que el subdesarrollo tiene sus propios desequilibrios y la vía al desarrollo en los países retrasados ofrece un abrupto panorama de desigualdades. El contraste resulta no sólo de comparar la situación de diversos sectores humanos, sino también de realidades geográficamente diferenciadas: ciudad y campo, unas zonas rurales con otras, barrios de una misma ciudad, diversas regiones de un país.

En los países atrasados la vía al desarrollo es un camino que recorren desigualmente las distintas regiones y los diversos estratos sociales: colocados unos en situación de avanzada y postergados otros relativamente fácil y acelerado el tránsito para algunos, lento y difícil para los demás; sectores de la población que se acercan a las condiciones de comodidad y bienestar de aquellos que disponen de mayor riqueza en los países más desarrollados del mundo y otros que encuentran su equivalente de miseria sólo en las regiones más deprimidas del orbe.

Dentro de esa situación de contraste, de desequilibrio, en que unos tienen más de lo necesario y otros menos de lo indispensable, la condición privilegiada de los menos impide el avance de los más. La existencia de regiones y sectores de la población intensamente pobres se constituye en una rémora para el desarrollo general del respectivo país. La prosperidad de zonas minoritarias no constituye una dinámica de desarrollo que arrastre al conjunto de la población. En otros términos, es condición ineludible para el desarrollo general de un país el mejoramiento de los niveles de vida económicos y sociales de sus clases paupérrimas. Por eso la ayuda externa a tales países debe encaminarse primero hacia las zonas de menor desarrollo y de mayor pobreza.

Esta situación de desequilibrio, de pobreza y marginamiento se produce en condiciones de mayor agudeza y acritud en las zonas rurales de nuestros países. La brecha tecnológica y la disponibilidad de recursos financieros que se da entre los países desarrollados y aquellos que se encuentran en vía de desarrollo se reproduce en el interior de éstos, entre la agricultura modernizada o dinámica y la agricultura tradicional o estática. De ahí por qué todo programa y toda acción que tiendan a impulsar el desarrollo de tales países tienen que contemplar como cuestión prioritaria la elevación del nivel de vida de la población campesina y el mejoramiento de los pequeños productores.

(illegible) Por ello, el Gobierno colombiano apoya la iniciativa de la FAO de celebrar en julio de 1979 una Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. En muchos países la reforma agraria y los servicios de desarrollo rural constituya factores esenciales para mejorar la calidad de la vida de los campesinos y elevar el conjunto de la población a metas de progreso.

(illegible) La situación de mi patria corresponde, en ge oral, al diagnóstico que se puede hacer respecto de los países en desarrollo. Su base económica es agropecuaria, existen en ella fenómenos de desequilibrio, de pobreza, de marginamiento de grandes zonas de la población; las áreas rurales permanecen, en un alto porcentaje, económicamente deprimidas y estancadas en su desarrollo; los esfuerzos dirigidos a una mayor producción agropecuaria se ven frenados por la escasez de recursos financieros y por la dificultad para hacer llegar las innovaciones tecnológicas a la mayor parte de los productores, como también por la baja capacidad adquisitiva de amplios sectores humanos y el tratamiento inequitativo que recibe nuestro país en los mercados internacionales.

La política agropecuaria del actual gobierno se dirige principalmente a fomentar la producción, aumentar los niveles de empleo, conseguir el incremento de los ingresos y su redistribución, dar acceso al campesino a los recursos productivos e impulsar el desarrollo rural. Con las medidas encaminadas a conseguir estos y otros objetivos de desarrollo integral el Gobierno colombiano busca el bienestar de la población como meta central de toda su política y de toda su acción en beneficio del país.

Podríamos decir que se trata de aumentar la producción y el consumo para derrotar el hambre y la pobreza.

Desde el año de 1951 la FAO ha venido adelantando en Colombia programas de asistencia técnica, que el país reconoce como una positiva contribución a su desarrollo. Hemos logrado un importante avance en el orden tecnológico y contamos con un número considerable de expertos nacionales que inclusive están prestando asistencia técnica en diversos países latinoamericanos. Ello ha implicado un cambio de orientación en el suministro de asistencia técnica de la FAO a nuestro país, la cual se está enfocando hacia proyectos integrados y complejos, con miras a inversiones futuras en campos muy especializados, tales como los de índole forestal, pesquera, de tecnología de alimentos y de agroindustrialización. Esperamos que este último se pueda poner en marcha en un futuro próximo, puesto que corresponde a la urgente necesidad que tiene el país de incrementar los niveles de empleo y de ingreso en las zonas rurales.

Los cambios que vienen operándose en la presentación de los problemas exigen enfoques nuevos y dinámicos, criterios pragmáticos y medidas más concretas. Se trata de reexaminar, a la luz de nuevos conceptos, la situación de la agricultura y de la alimentación en el mundo, imprimir más energía y dinamismo a la acción de la FAO, con la firme convicción de que los pueblos que miran hacia ella y confían en ella esperan que cada día se descienda más de la elevada cima de las formulaciones teóricas al terreno llano de las soluciones prácticas.

La renovación de criterios y de métodos de trabajo de nuestra Organización asegurará su vigencia permanente en los campos específicos que le corresponden y donde quiere verla actuar siempre la comunidad de naciones.

Con la aplicación de los principios que habrán de guiar su acción en el futuro, la FAO consolidará el prestigio de que goza en la comunidad internacional y mantendrá la apertura de los países pobres hacia la esperanza.

Por mi conducto, el Gobierno de Colombia transmite al Director General de la FAO, Doctor Saouma, y a los dignos representantes de los gobiernos que han participado en esta Conferencia, sus mejores votos por el progreso y el bienestar que deseamos a todos los pueblos del mundo.

La FAO habrá de estimular nuestro propósito de avanzar cada día más en la tarea común de aumentar la producción agrícola para que el espectro del hambre desaparezca hasta de los más remotos confines del universo. Por último, deseo hacer una declaración.

Con gran satisfacción registramos el ingreso de 8 nuevos países en la Organización y el hecho de que dentro de una semana esta Conferencia elegirá al Doctor Bukar Shaib, de Nigeria, como Presidente Independiente del Consejo de la FAO. Será un merecido homenaje a esa distinguida personalidad y a todo el continente africano.

El Gobierno de Colombia agradece a los países miembros de la FAO la confianza otorgada a nuestro compatriota Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, al habersele elegido Presidente Independiente del Consejo para dos períodos consecutivos. Mil gracias a los distinguidos-ministros y a las delegaciones en general que han expresado su reconocimiento a la labor del Sr. Bula Hoyos. Me complace en anunciar que él continuará al servicio de la FAO como representante de Colombia.

R. Y. MIRANDA LUPONE (El Salvador): Señor Presidente, señor Director General, señores delegados, distinguida concurrencia: Como jefe de la Delegación de El Salvador me siento complacido de ser el portavoz para sumar nuestras sinceras felicitaciones a las ya escuchadas en este recinto, por su acertada elección como Presidente de esta 19ª Conferencia de la Organización, felicitaciones que hacemos extensivas al resto de los distinguidos miembros de la Mesa de la Conferencia, y presidentes de las distintas comisiones y comités que contribuyen activamente a la realización de la misma. Mención especial merece el distinguido colombiano señor Buya Hoyos, jefe de la delegación de su país durante los cuatro últimos años, por la magnífica labor realizada al frente de la misma. Igualmente le es a mi delegación muy grato dar una cordial bienvenida a los nuevos Estados Miembros de la FAO recién admitidos en esta Conferencia: Angola, Comoras, República Democrática Popular de Corea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Santo Tomé y Príncipe, y Seychelles, a cuyos delegados hemos escuchado con atención durante sus alocuciones respectivas. Bienvenida que conlleva por nuestra parte la expresión de que el ingreso de los mismos contribuirá indudablemente a cimentar la esencia universalista de la FAO, al igual que dé sus principales objetivos y fines, entre los cuales se encuentra la lucha contra el hambre, la desnutrición y la miseria, que lamentable y dolorosamente existe en el mundo actual y aflige a decenas de millones de seres humanos.

En virtud de la constante preocupación y colaboración de El Salvador por los problemas agrícolas y alimentarios, nuestra delegación participó en los trabajos de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación celebrada en 1974 en esta acogedora ciudad de Roma, y a esta fecha con pena tiene que admitir que muchos de los graves problemas entonces planteados en relación al hambre y la malnutrición aún se encuentran en vías de resolverse. Al respecto debe llevarnos a profunda reflexión el que el incremento medio anual de la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo durante la década de 1970 es de 2, 6 por ciento, porcentaje muy por debajo al 4 por ciento establecido en la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo para el Segundo Decenio de las Naciones Unidas, y sustentado por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación. El Director General, señor Edouard Saouma, en su discurso de apertura al presente período de sesiones señaló que "la meta del cuatro por ciento fijada para la tasa anual mínima de crecimiento de la producción agrícola y alimentaria en los países en desarrollo sólo puede alcanzarse si, además de los esfuerzos que despliegan los propios países en desarrollo, proporcionan los países desarrollados y las instituciones internacionales ayuda y recursos suficientes".

Es bien importante recordar a los honorables participantes en esta Conferencia ciertos aspectos y datos relevantes sobre la realidad socio-económica de mi país. El Salvador, con una población actual de 4 500 000 habitantes y 2, 1 millones de hectáreas, que da una densidad de 214 habitantes por kilómetro cuadrado, es el país territorialmente más pequeño de la América continental y el más densamente poblado de la misma; y de este territorio tan pequeño y no rico de recursos naturales dedica el 67, 6 por ciento de su superficie a las actividades agropecuarias y forestales. Desde luego, esta situación requiere por parte nuestra, entre otras actividades y esfuerzos, un hábil manejo de los recursos naturales renovables, la exigencia de un uso intensivo de los suelos, un alto grado de aplicación de insumos destinados a la producción agropecuaria, una cuidadosa planificación de los servicios de crédito y asistencia técnica y comercialización, ya que es cada día mayor la demanda de los productos alimentarios y las naturales actividades e inversiones agropecuarias de un país en desarrollo; en la realización de lo cual interviene un apoyo institucional que día a día aumenta en intensidad, gana en experiencia y establece los correctivos necesarios.

Sin embargo, las contingencias inevitables que en todos los países afectan la actividad agrícola, se han hecho presentes una vez más en El Salvador, obligando en 1976 al Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería a poner en práctica una serie de programas tendientes al cumplimiento de las metas de producción agropecuaria para ese año mediante un fortalecimiento de la comercialización de granos básicos, aumento de la capacidad instalada de almacenamiento, apoyo a la actividad pecuaria, y conservación y desarrollo de los recursos naturales renovables. Para que todo este esfuerzo pudiera expresarse racionalmente con voluntad resolutive y permanencia en el tiempo, se elaboró el Plan Quinquenal de Desarrollo Agropecuario 1978-82 cuya aprobación definitiva es un hecho y sobre el cual hacemos las siguientes apreciaciones:

Como resultado del análisis de la problemática del sector agropecuario, se ha llegado a establecer como principio fundamental para el desarrollo del sector, proporcionar bienestar a la población del país. Para alcanzar tal propósito se han definido los siguientes objetivos:

i) Elevar el ingreso generado por el sector a través de una mayor productividad y mejorar su distribución; ii) ampliar la capacidad de empleo en el sector agropecuario; iii) lograr un mayor dinamismo de las exportaciones agropecuarias, tanto de los productos tradicionales como de los no tradicionales; iv) promover la sustitución de importaciones, principalmente de los alimentos básicos; v) promover la movilidad social de los distintos grupos insertos en el medio rural y contribuir a solucionar los problemas existentes; vi) propender al desarrollo equilibrado de las distintas regiones del país; vii) conservar y desarrollar los recursos naturales renovables; · viii) apoyar el proceso de integración centroamericana.

Dichos objetivos están en concordancia con los señalados para la economía nacional en su conjunto. De lo expuesto podemos asegurar que el sector agropecuario tendrá una participación dinámica en el desarrollo integral, que permitirá a mediano plazo superar muchos de los serios problemas que han frenado el desarrollo del país. Existiendo concordancia a tal grado en nuestros planes de desarrollo integral, que dentro de nuestros principales objetivos sectoriales para la política exterior de El Salvador, se encuentra bien determinada nuestra contribución para obtener un nuevo orden económico internacional más justo y equitativo para los países pobres y en vías de desarrollo.

La consecución de los objetivos señalados anteriormente implica contar con una estrategia fundamentada en elementos tales como el desarrollo del sector agropecuario en función de la demanda; mejora en la combinación de los recursos y factores productivos; la estructura empresarial; el desarrollo regional; el desarrollo agroindustrial y un papel más dinámico del sector público agropecuario.

Dentro de las políticas de desarrollo agropecuario, como instrumentos del Plan Quinquenal 1978-82 cabe destacar la importancia de la política de transformación agraria, la cual persigue los siguientes objetivos: a) promover tipos y dimensiones de explotación agropecuaria que conjuguen variables agroeconómicas y sociales, tendiendo a una mayor eficiencia productiva b) facilitar el acceso a la función empresarial agropecuaria a través de una posibilidad de adquisición y uso de la tierra; c) incrementar el ingreso sectorial a través de una mayor producción y productividad.

Esta política cubre con sus acciones todo el ámbito agrario nacional y sus beneficiarios son los campesinos sin tierras y aquellos que la poseen en tal cantidad que no les es suficiente para satisfacer sus necesidades básicas. Inicialmente esta cobertura debe ceñirse a las tierras propiedad del Estado, y a las adquiridas actualmente o a breve plazo dentro del área del primer proyecto de transformación agraria. De acuerdo a la experiencia y los resultados obtenidos, podrá ampliarse el ámbito de aplicación de la misma, en aquellas áreas que eventualmente y de acuerdo a las normas establecidas se ofrezcan en venta al Instituto Salvadoreño de Transformación Agraria. El Instituto Salvadoreño de Transformación Agraria (ISTA) es el organismo ejecutor, quien para la consecución de sus fines debe mantener estrecha colaboración con el resto de instituciones del Estado que desplieguen acciones complementarias y de apoyo a la transformación agraria.

Lo anterior es uno de los esfuerzos más importantes que el país está desarrollando; sin embargo, paralelamente también se están realizando acciones tendientes a la dotación de la infraestructura física requerida para una mejor comercialización, una mayor asistencia técnica, mayor capacitación y mayor productividad agrícola (vía utilización de, entre otros, mejores variedades de semillas y la puesta en riego de nuevas áreas. )

Ante el anuncio de la próxima Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural Integrado, nos complace manifestar que El Salvador está vivamente interesado en la realización de la misma, por cuanto será un foro que, sin lugar a dudas, nos permitirá el intercambio de experiencias alcanzadas en este proceso de superación, especialmente del hombre del campo, sus necesidades y bienestar.

En base a los objetivos, estrategia e instrumentos de desarrollo, el sector público agropecuario de mi país demandará durante el quinquenio recursos financieros por un monto de US\$ 389, 9 millones; correspondiendo a los gastos de funcionamiento US\$ 173, 8 millones y a inversiones US\$216, 1 millones, equivalentes a 45 y 55 por ciento respectivamente.

Los recursos de funcionamiento estarán orientados a financiar la eficiente prestación de servicios que el sector otorga a los productores especialmente los destinados a mejorar el nivel tecnológico de la actividad agropecuaria, a través de la creación y adopción de tecnología que conlleven a la utilización racional de los factores productivos disponibles; así como también, y por medio de la asistencia técnica y la capacitación, a lograr cambios en las actitudes que permitan no sólo la obtención de altos niveles de productividad, sino que también promuevan la superación de la familia rural; asimismo aquellos servicios de apoyo como control y prevención sanitarios, abastecimiento de insumos, y estabilización de precios.

Los recursos de inversión estarán orientados principalmente a la ampliación y creación de la infraestructura requerida, tales como las de comercialización dirigidas a que el Estado pueda incidir en mejor medida en la regulación de precios de los productos de primera necesidad; las de riego y drenaje, con el objeto de lograr un uso intensivo del suelo y la diversificación de la producción agropecuaria, y las encaminadas a dotar al subsector pesquero de facilidades portuarias, para mejorar la explotación del recurso marino.

Asimismo se propenderá: a) al fortalecimiento económico y social de los productores agrarios mediante el otorgamiento de créditos en condiciones financieras razonables; b) a la conservación y desarrollo integral de los recursos naturales renovables, a través de la recuperación y conservación del suelo; del manejo y repoblación de bosques; del establecimiento, manejo y protección de parques nacionales y reservas biológicas; a la formulación de un plan para su uso de acuerdo a las necesidades potenciales de las distintas actividades de la economía en las diversas regiones del país; c) y finalmente al fomento y desarrollo de la ganadería, pesca, granos básicos y cultivos agroindustriales.

Merece especial atención a nuestra delegación el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado por el Director General de la FAO para el bienio 1978-79, que se inspira en las políticas aprobadas durante la celebración del 69° período de sesiones del Consejo de la Organización (julio 1976), que encuentran así una expresión presupuestaria planteada en términos de puesta en marcha. No se trata, pues, solamente de una mejora en la presentación del presupuesto, ya de por sí satisfactoria, sino que tiene un contenido visionario que constituye un peldaño indispensable para el largo camino que han de recorrer los países del tercer mundo en su continua lucha para obtener el desarrollo.

Perfectamente comprendemos la preocupación del Director General, señor Edouard Saouma, de solicitar un aumento al nivel propuesto de US\$ 206, 8 millones de dólares, que en su oportunidad contó con el apoyo del Consejo en su 71° período de sesiones. Posteriormente dos situaciones se habían presentado: la necesidad de disponer fondos adecuados para la celebración de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en 1979, y las fluctuaciones monetarias circunstanciales, ya que este presupuesto se formuló al tipo de cambio de 900 libras por dólar EE. UU. y posteriormente la fluctuación en dicho tipo de cambio le ocasionó una considerable merma al total del mismo. Al respecto, nuestra delegación acoge la sugerencia del Grupo de los 77 que recomendó al Consejo que en analogía a Conferencias anteriores se adoptara el tipo de cambio prevaleciente en el día de la aprobación del presupuesto. En consecuencia, damos nuestro apoyo al proyecto de resolución para su respectiva aprobación por la Conferencia, que conlleva consignaciones presupuestarias para 1978-79 al nivel de US\$ 211, 35 millones.

El actual Programa de Labores presentado por el señor Saouma contempla la descentralización de las actividades de la Sede y una acción efectiva hacia los países, y el nombramiento a tal efecto de representantes de la Organización altamente calificados. A este respecto cabe decir que en nuestro país, en los asuntos agropecuarios, conformamos una centralización en los aspectos relacionados con la formulación, orientación y decisión de la política de desarrollo agropecuario y una descentralización en la ejecución de la misma, tal como la plantea actualmente la FAO.

Por lo tanto, mi delegación ve con mucho agrado esta acertada iniciativa, a la cual damos nuestro pleno apoyo.

La crisis financiera que afectó al PNUD en 1976 y cuyos efectos no han sido totalmente superados, constituye motivo de preocupación constante para los países en vías de desarrollo. En contraste con una entrega de más de 120 millones de dólares en 1975, la cifra correspondiente a 1977 no superará los 85 millones de dólares, lo que afectó sensiblemente el programa de campo de la Organización. Tal hecho tuvo significación negativa para nuestro país. Como ejemplo, un proyecto muy importante denominado "Determinación del uso potencial del suelo", debió contar con un aporte del PNUD del orden de \$700 000 de los EUA., dicha ayuda no llegó y consecuentemente con fondos nacionales se comenzó, dentro de nuestros alcances financieros, porque estábamos convencidos de la importancia del proyecto, el cual incluía, dentro de los usuarios los planificadores nacionales que acrecían de información básica a escala nacional que tuviera aplicación práctica para la formulación de proyectos. Por ello resulta alentador que la FAO aumentará aun más su participación en las actividades financiadas con fuentes extrapresupuestarias ajenas al PNUD, nos referimos a los fondos fiduciarios dentro de los cuales se encuentra comprendido el Plan Internacional de Suministro de Fertilizantes (PIF) del cual El Salvador

ha recibido una donación de 20 590 toneladas métricas durante el período 1974-76, aportación que fue vital para nuestra agricultura, ya que El Salvador es el mayor consumidor de fertilizantes en el área centroamericana, a pesar de su pequenez, al grado que nuestro consumo significa en términos absolutos una cantidad mayor que la de los restantes países del área, plan para el cual nuestro país tiene el mejor de los conceptos y una sincera gratitud. Y en cuanto a las actividades del PNUD en los diversos países donde actúa, nos complace ver el satisfactorio grado de entendimiento a que se ha llegado para coordinar las relaciones con los representantes de la FAO.

La proximidad de la reunión del Consejo de Gobernadores del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) a celebrarse del 13-16 de diciembre del presente año, representa un importante esfuerzo en la canalización de recursos para invertirse en el desarrollo alimentario y agrícola de los países más necesitados. El Gobierno de El Salvador consciente de la importancia del fondo y de acuerdo a sus posibilidades financieras ratificó el convenio y ha dispuesto una contribución al mismo de US\$ 40 000.

Debe interpretarse que nuestro país, por el imperativo de la realidad, se considera incluido dentro de los beneficiarios del fondo. Datos preliminares estimados indican que la producción de granos básicos para la cosecha 1977/78 ha sido afectada en un 20 por ciento del área total cultivada, los que llevados a términos de producción equivaldría a una pérdida de 100 000 toneladas métricas. Esta situación reviste especial gravedad e importancia, puesto que el sector agropecuario contribuye con un 25 por ciento a la formación del producto territorial bruto, añadiendo que el ingreso bruto por habitante en nuestro país es actualmente de US\$ 433.

Por lo que respecta a la FAO, respaldamos la Resolución 3/72 del 72° Consejo de la Organización, que se refiere al acuerdo entre la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación y el FIDA, en el cual se establece que de los servicios prestados y realizados por la FAO por cuenta del FIDA deberán reembolsarse a ésta todos los gastos directos y los indirectos adicionales.

El Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA) tiene una vinculación directa con nuestro país a partir de 1969, habiéndose concluido hasta la fecha proyectos de emergencia, de desarrollo comunal a través de la cooperación y de rehabilitación agrícola y desarrollo de la producción tecnificada de granos básicos. Actualmente se encuentra en fase de revisión y ajustes un proyecto de educación nutricional y alimentación suplementaria de grupos vulnerables; en la aprobación y realización del cual tenemos fundadas esperanzas *por* ser de capital importancia para nuestro país, ya que el mismo no se sustrae del flagelo mundial de la desnutrición que afecta sobre todo a las poblaciones rurales y estando muy distantes de alcanzar la dieta promedio de ingestión calórica y proteínica recomendada por los nutricionistas del (INCAP) Instituto de Nutrición para Centroamérica y Panamá, cuya sede se encuentra en la ciudad de Guatemala. Mi delegación hace un llamado a todos los miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, para que el proyecto mencionado sea aprobado y puesto en práctica con la urgencia que el caso amerita, ya que El Salvador, al igual que la mayoría de los países en vías de desarrollo y con escasos recursos naturales, considera como uno de los más esenciales derechos humanos el derecho a una alimentación y nutrición adecuadas que contribuyan al bienestar y a la dignidad del ser humano, lucha en la cual tiene un papel primordial la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

J. LEÍDO, Jr. (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, permit me at the outset, Sir, to associate my delegation with the previous speakers who congratulated you on your unanimous election. All of us in the Association of South East Asian Nations take pride in your election.

May I also extend our welcome to our new members. A common human concern like food requires no less than a joining of forces of all countries.

My delegation, Mr. Chairman, wishes to convey to the Director-General felicitations for his realistic assessment of the severe long-term problems in food and agriculture. Current adequate harvests tend to mask these problems. It will be in Asia where these problems will be most severe. The current density of peoples in our region, as well as the momentum of earlier population growth, guarantees a spiralling of demand on our resources. It will be in Asia where FAO and the policies of the Director-General will be put to the test.

Mr. Chairman, in your sobering statement to the Conference, you referred to the Asian Development Bank's 1977 Survey of Agriculture. This report shows that per capita grain production trends in Asia have stagnated: that food production, as a whole has barely kept pace with population growth. Today, food imports exceed 11 million tons. Inflation has eroded what little purchasing power is available.

Thus, Asia could have a possible deficit in essential food grains of 24 to 30 million metric tons by 1985. This is nearly one-sixth of average annual cereal production for the whole region for the period 1970 to 1974.



Increasing numbers of poor people are denied food, due to low production and spiralling prices. This truncates lives and snuffs out hope. It does so at a time when the capacity of developing nations to produce food is seriously under-utilized.

Paradoxically, it is also in Asia where chances for a rural breakthrough are greatest. In the region, there is a growing pool of expertise. More governments are devoting more resources for agriculture. Above all, there are success stories in China, in Korea, Malaysia and other countries.

These are hopeful indicators. Our Director-General has instituted a number of new policies and approaches such as decentralization, curbs on a bloated bureaucracy and proliferation of meetings, stress on village-level action, elimination of paternalism, bottom-up" planning and popular participation, full use of manpower and local resources, establishment of country offices, reduction of post-harvest losses and the Technical Cooperation Programme. These represent sincere efforts to retool FAO into a 'leaner, fitter, stronger organization", responsive to the groundswell for change.

We welcome these policies. Our collective experience in Asia, as the distinguished delegate from the People's Republic of China said last Thursday, shows that: "Only by doing a good job of food and agricultural production will it be possible to stimulate the development of industry and the national economy as a whole. "

There is a growing consensus of the folly of policies that beggar the countryside, in the name of progress, for artificial urban-enclaves, eloquently underscored by the distinguished Ministers of Canada and Nepal.

It is the *raison d'être* for the current Philippine Programme for Agricultural and Rural Development. At the Third Ministerial Session of the World Food Council in Manila last June, His Excellency President Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Republic of the Philippines stressed that "our national development plan is anchored on a purposive effort to shift resources and priorities from the urban sector to the rural".

These are not empty words. This commitment is consistently affirmed in all major policy documents issued by the Philippine Government. Among these are: the Five-Year Development Plan for 1978-1982, the Agricultural Credit Plan, and the national budget for the coming calendar year. In these strategies for action we have given priority for a thrust to the countryside.

This approach rests on the realization that the old "trickle-down" strategies of the 1960s have now been largely run into the ground. The food problem is only one of the results of policies that caused disparities between city and the farm. The mega-slums of the cities in my region are another. So much so that a recent report has noted: "Asia's governments, rooted as they are in great cities, seem locked in escalating conflict with their own rural citizenry - and almost without exception, the farmers are losing".

To defuse this conflict, FAO and its member-governments must develop approaches that will tap low-cost indigenous resources, particularly the huge pools of under-utilized agricultural manpower.

Our Five-Year Plan for instance, provides for such an approach. Thus, it is a democratization of development. It addresses itself to the problems of mass poverty, unemployment, underemployment and social justice.

Formulated by the government, the private sector, the academic community, labour, and the farming and fishing sections collaborating at the national, regional and sub-regional levels, the plan reflects the aspirations and desired directions of the Filipino people.

Self-sufficiency in food is one of the plan's priority goals. We realize full well that food is, indeed, the coin of national security. The strategy for the attainment of its development goals involves increased provision and improved delivery of essential inputs. These include credit, extension work, marketing facilities and infrastructure such as irrigation and feeder roads and fishing complexes.

But we are, at the same time; increasingly aware of the major lesson of FAO's Small Farmers Programme in Asia: That the lack of receiving utilizing mechanisms, among the rural poor, is a major institutional gap that prevents their participation in their own "liberation".

Current rural development structures, at field level, are two-tiered. One is the "delivery system" I cited earlier.

But there is a complementary set of functions that constitute the second tier and which we have largely ignored: The absence of a "receiving-cum-utilizing-mechanism", at the grass-roots level. These functions include the seeking, planning receiving and utilizing - by the rural majority themselves - of all that delivery systems provide for them.

FAO must provide increasing assistance to help us develop approaches to enable the small farmers to receive and utilize these services. Such a mechanism will help tilt services and resources in favour of the disadvantaged poor that the Director-General referred to earlier.

I must warn, however, that there is a crucial distinction between governments and external agencies developing a receiving mechanism for the farmers and our helping them to develop their own. At the root of this distinction, there is a fundamental difference: The difference between our perception of how farmers' see rural development and their own perceptions of it.

We must build on their perceptions of their situation. Their perceptions are the foundation on which we help build their own receiving mechanisms for their own growth. It is only then that they become involved and that elusive self-sustaining growth - which for lack of a better name we call development - begins.

The Philippine agrarian reform programme seeks to increase the productivity and income of beneficiaries. Farmer organizations are being given greater access to rural funds.

For this reason, my delegation supports the Director-General's plan to organize the World Conference on Agrarian Reform - although we must underscore the need for careful preparation to ensure that the tillers for once, are heard.

In the past, credit has tended to favor export crops, more than food crops. This was a reflection of the bias of the private financing sector against the high risk, low yield nature of agricultural lending activities.

Through our Agricultural Credit Plan for 1978-1982, we have begun to correct this situation. Emphasis will be shifted away from the traditionally favoured sugar and other export crops to food commodities, particularly cereals, livestock, poultry and fish.

The sources of this credit supply will largely be government financial institutions. They will contribute 67 percent, the balance to come from the 'private lending sector. This is consistent with the Government's policy to invest in the countryside where the private sector may be reluctant to enter.

In our move to balance total development in favor of the countryside, we have restructured the budget for the coming year.

For agriculture, irrigation will continue to dominate infrastructure efforts. Other major thrusts for this sector are agrarian reform and reforestation for fishing development a thrust towards storage, fishing ports and marketing complex system.

We seek also to establish an environment conducive to increased investments in agriculture and rural development. Thus, the Philippine Government offers a new set of agribusiness incentives, which offsets higher risks and problems peculiar to agriculture.

Small farmers and fishermen, even if they are not organized, can qualify for loans. Expenditures on infrastructure, such as irrigation and drainage are eligible for 100 per cent tax credit. Breeding stock and plant genetic materials may be imported tax-free.

Fertilizer is a vital agricultural input. The Philippines now has four firms supplying about 50 percent of consumption. Establishment of a giant ammonia-urea complex, with a daily capacity of 900 metric tons ammonia and 1 200 metric tons urea, is being contemplated. Existing fertilizer facilities producing below capacity, will be rehabilitated.

Within the spirit of ASEAN industrial complementation, arrangements are being made for securing nitrogenous fertilizers, principally urea, from Malaysia and Indonesia who would, in turn, be off-taking phosphatic fertilizers from the Philippines.

The energy crisis, however, has given new relevance to the role of organic fertilizers, specially in non oil-producing countries. We urge FAO to give greater attention to fertilizer programmes that help member governments to acquire nutrients based on both organic and chemical stocks.

Involved in this approach is a basic policy issue: we should welcome modern agricultural innovations; but at the same time, we should strengthen our traditional indigenous agricultural practices. Very often, they are rooted in our soil, adapted to our environment and undoubtedly ecologically sound.

We realize that the food lost from inadequate and inefficient post-harvest technology often spells the difference in the country's effort to maintain self-sufficiency.

In the past three years, the Philippines has undertaken a massive programme to slash post-harvest losses. Actual surveys show that these efforts have thus far reduced grain losses significantly.

This programme calls for construction of 43 additional modern warehouses by 1978, to augment the 81 already established, phasing out of inefficient mills, and operation of modern grain service centres.

The Philippines has also been honoured to head the Policy Advisory Committee of the Post-Harvest Research and Development Programme for South East Asia.

At the same time, we note how some countries have developed low-cost processing and storage facilities, in a decentralized manner, at village level using local materials. Fao's Post-Harvest Losses Programme, when established, would be doing a service if it studies ways of making such technology available.

The Philippines have been self-sufficient in rice for the past two consecutive years. A 4.8 percent increase was attained primarily from improved yields, despite the drought that hit several parts of the country. Crop year 1976-77 ended with the highest inventory ever attained in the country's history.

To carry out the function of price stabilization and buffer stock management more effectively, a storage capacity of 1.5 million cavans annually will be sustained by a warehousing construction programme.

Grain terminal silos will be established in strategic ports to increase efficiency in inter-island movement of grains. Modern terminal market networks of storage facilities will be established in major urban and producing areas.

Our experience shows that organization is the key to development. Thus, we feel FAO should support programmes to help in the organization of homogeneous groups, small farmers, tenants, and landless agricultural workers, below the conventional cooperative level.

This is the nether world of most developing countries. These men and women constitute an inarticulate, paralyzed and largely forgotten stratum. They are not being served by the traditional cooperatives, which are controlled by the better-off sectors.

In Asia - and we suspect elsewhere - the main block against rural mobilization is the lack of access to productive resources and work. Organization is the first step to gaining this access.

We would therefore like to express our agreement with the statement of H. E. Ambassador Abdelmuhsin Al-Sudeary of IFAD before us, that its resources would be used to help the small farmer, sharecropper and landless labourer band together with their peers, for productive purposes. This ensures their survival and security, promotes their human rights and opens the way for their mobilization.

The realization of a desire for a better life, a life with dignity, amongst the rural poor is a crucial factor with rural development. Thus we must develop policies for its awakening.

Peasant motivation is a crucial factor in rural development. Thus, we must develop policies for peasant "awakening", through education, information and training, basically through group participation in productive efforts.

My delegation supports most of the initiatives suggested by the Director-General. Like all delegations, we would like to see the transformation of FAO from a complacent and ponderous bureaucracy into a trim and effective agency for the rural poor.

But we have to transform the resolution that we are now in the process of writing into concrete effective programmes. This is a task both for FAO and member governments.

In Asia, the farmers are wont to counsel those who propose grand schemes: "Let us not weave tapestries of dreams with strands of sand".

If action does not match our words, the sand castles of our dreams may be swept away by a deluge of frustrations.

CHAIRMAN: Before continuing the general discussion may we now take up the Fourth Report of the General Committee. I am informed that we have a Forum and I will ask the Secretary General to read the first section of that Report.

Fourth Report of the General Committee

Quatrième rapport du Bureau

Cuarto Informe del Comité "General

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le quatrième rapport que le Bureau a adopté ce matin, dans sa première section, se lit comme suit: "Date des élections au Conseil - se référant à sa proposition antérieure, figurant au paragraphe 26 du document C 77/LIM/12, et conformément au paragraphe d) de l'article 22 du Règlement général de l'organisation, le Bureau recommande avec insistance que les élections au Conseil soient reportées au mercredi 30 novembre. " Ceci donnerait le temps nécessaire pour les consultations d'usage après le jeudi, 24 novembre, date à laquelle toutes les propositions de candidatures doivent être soumises pour être communiquées à la Conférence.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary-General. Are there any objections to this Section? If there are no objections I will consider this Section adopted unanimously.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La seconde section du rapport du Bureau concerne l'adoption de la première partie du rapport de la Commission III qui figure au document C 77/REP/1, distribué hier.

Afin de donner davantage de temps pour la soumission des propositions de candidatures pour l'élection au Conseil, le Bureau recommande également que la Conférence adopte le rapport de la Commission III, sur l'augmentation du nombre de sièges au Conseil, dans l'après-midi du mardi 22 novembre, c'est-à-dire, Monsieur le Président, cet après-midi, au lieu du mercredi 23 novembre comme prévu.

Une fois que ce rapport et la résolution y incluse auront été adoptés par la Conférence, le Bureau soumettra pour adoption par la Conférence son cinquième rapport qui traitera des élections au Conseil.

Je rappelle, Monsieur le Président, que le vote sur la résolution contenue dans le document C 77/REP/1, et qui est un amendement à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général, doit être un vote par appel nominal et doit comporter une majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés pour être passé.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General. Are there any comments on this part of the Report? If there are no other comments, then I will consider this Section of the Report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We will now resume our general discussion and I will call upon the next speaker on my list, the Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

J. FAUCHON (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)): Le Directeur exécutif du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement aurait vivement désiré s'adresser directement à votre Conférence et en personne. Retenu à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, il regrette vivement de ne pouvoir le faire et m'a chargé de faire à sa place sa déclaration. [Suite en anglais]:

This is the first time the Executive Director of UNEP has had the opportunity to address the General Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This is an honour which I hope will have a beneficial effect on relations between FAO and UNEP. In this statement I should like to review the role of UNEP, existing cooperation between our two Organizations and the scope for collaboration in the future.

UNEP is relatively young compared to FAO. It was established by the General Assembly of United Nations in 1972 following the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm. The General Assembly created a Governing Council of 58 nations and a small secretariat. These were required to draw up an environment programme for the United Nations and to coordinate environmental activities of organizations within the United Nations system. The General Assembly also created a fund to help finance some environmental initiatives from within the programme, and an interagency coordinating body, the Environment Coordination Board, upon which sit the heads of all the Agencies, including, naturally, the Director-General of FAO.

UNEP is a unique body in the United Nations system with specific mandate to identify environmental problems, promote appropriate policy responses and coordinate and catalyze action on the part of the United Nations system, governments and non-governmental organizations. Clearly, therefore, UNEP was not set up to take over the responsibilities of the Agencies for the environmental dimension of their activities. UNEP is neither operational as is FAO, nor principally as funding body, as is UNDP.

The philosophy underlying the Environment Programme has evolved over the last five years and is now clear. We hold that development process should be undertaken with a view to meeting basic human needs without depleting the natural resource base upon which the survival of mankind depends. We should strive to eliminate pollution, or at least hold it to tolerable levels, and in these respects should not exceed what we refer to as the outer limits. Consequently, UNEP's Earthwatch Programme, which includes monitoring and information exchange, has a responsibility to assess threats to the outer limits, the study of climatic changes and the risks to the ozone layer are examples of such earthwatch activities. Environmental assessment is undertaken in order to provide a basis for environmental management.

We live in a world of limited resources whose ecosystems have a limited capacity to supply man's needs and absorb the waste products of man's activities. The limits of lands under cultivation are rather well known. The amount of arable land per head is diminishing, not only as a result of population growth, but also because of soil degradation, humus loss and desertification affecting entire regions. Fresh-water reserves are diminishing and will have to be managed carefully. Not so long ago the oceans seemed to be an inexhaustible food reserve, but some accessible parts of them have been subjected to such exploitation that their productivity has collapsed. The accumulation of manmade wastes and increasing soil, water and air pollution further limit the possibilities for economic and social development.

Thus rapid depletion of non-renewable, natural resources, over-exploitation of those resources which are renewed by biological cycles, and the impact of pollution, compel mankind constantly to monitor the exploitation and proper utilization of available resources. These and other issues will, I believe, dominate international debate in the last years of this century.

These grave and far-reaching problems have been the focus of cooperation between FAO and UNEP since the creation of UNEP. At its Seventeenth Session in November 1972 your Conference defined the framework of cooperation activity within the United Nations Environment Programme based on the assessment as an ecological management of natural resources of food and agriculture. A little over a year ago, we reviewed our joint activities. This revealed the wide extent of our cooperation, which covered most of FAO's major activity sectors and I shall just quote them to show the extent of this cooperation:

Integrated pest control, ecological management of range-lands, safe use of pesticides, conservation of crop, forest and animal, including wildlife, genetic resources, conservation of forestry resources, soil and water, fishery resources and aquatic pollution, food contamination, problems of agro-industries, environmental law, and environmental training. In this connection it is worth recalling that to date UNEP and FAO have undertaken 47 projects, of which 38 are still underway, and with a total cumulative commitment of about ten million dollars on the part of UNEP.

Initially our joint activities developed in a somewhat pragmatic fashion, but assumed a more formal character with the signing of a memorandum of Understanding by the Director-general of FAO and the Executive Director of UNEP in July of this year. The text recalls the objectives of the two Organizations, areas of mutual interest and co-operation, and arrangements for cooperation.

It forms the agreed basis for joint activities by the two Organizations, and a common FAO/UNEP policy towards environmental problems.

I would now like to turn to a recent event of great importance to UNEP, FAO and to other United Nations Specialized Agencies. I am referring to this year's United Nations Conference on Desertification which was held at Nairobi from 29 August to 9 September. It brought together representatives from 95 countries and 65 non-governmental organizations. Its objectives were to draw world attention to the immense problem of the spread of deserts in a number of countries, to identify solutions, to propose precise actions at the national, regional levels and to create a sense of common purpose in the struggle against desertification. In this way it was hoped to promote cooperation among those peoples and countries which had been the victims of desertification, and with those more fortunate peoples and countries which had not been directly affected but were able to make technical or financial contributions. Without doubt, the Conference succeeded in alerting governments to the national, regional and global nature of the problem of desertification, the complexity of the response which is required, the high degree of cooperation needed if the process is to be halted and at least some of the desertified lands reclaimed. The conference adopted a plan of action which is now being considered by the United Nations General Assembly.

FAO has a vast body of experience in this field and is one of the major U. N. Agencies directly concerned with the implementation of the plan of action. UNEP looks forward to cooperating fruitfully with FAO in assisting countries anxious to implement various aspects of the plan of action, and in executing transnational projects which were considered by the Conference on Desertification.

I would like to draw a few lessons for the future development of our joint activities from this brief panorama of cooperation between UNEP and FAO.

First, we have established the mechanisms for cooperations between UNEP and FAO.

Under the auspices of the ECB are held regular meetings of environmental "focal points" within the United Nations system. These meetings and other frequent, less formalized contact, ensure that our two Organizations have many opportunities to discuss matters of common concern. In this respect, we are particularly happy with our relationship to FAO's Inter-Departmental Working Group on Natural Resources and the Human Environment, through its Chairman, Mr. Louis Hugué and his colleagues.

Secondly, it is not enough to rely on bilateral cooperation. There are many environmental problems - and we have quoted desertification, for example, which concerns several Agencies. If the collaboration envisaged in the establishment of UNEP is to be achieved, we must cooperate, both together, and with others concerned. For this reason the Environment Coordination Board recently decided to lend its support to a meeting, to which all interested agencies are invited, to see how joint activities can be developed in line with the objectives and strategies of the Environment Programme in the fields of arid lands and water. This meeting will take place, at the kind invitation of FAO, in Rome in about 10 days' time.

Thirdly, we have a full agenda for cooperation. There is the plan of action to combat desertification to which I have already referred. There are also some very important emerging issues which will concern us in the years ahead. For example, there is the question of basic human needs, which is naturally of direct relevance to FAO since food is perhaps the most basic need of all. The challenge is how to provide the required quantity and quality of feed without destroying the environmental base for sustained productivity.

A second problem which preoccupies a number of scientists is that of the possibility of the depletion of the ozone layer around our planet, with the dangers of a catastrophic impact on human health. The increasing use of chlorofluoromethanes and of nitrate fertilizers are suspect as possible dangers to the ozone layer. To establish the nature of the threat and respond to it appropriately will call for coordinated international action.

Guessing the future is very much in vogue as we approach the milestone of the year 2000. But we should not be satisfied with prediction since we can, in fact, influence the course of future events. We have a double obligation to our descendants. First, we must leave to them a planet productive enough to feed its inhabitants and rich in a variety of plants and animal life. Also, we must educate and train the next generation, which will inhabit a world of more people making more demands on finite resources, to be sensitive to environmental implications, and thus equip them to hand their descendants an unimpaired environmental heritage.

I wish every success to the General Conference, and urge that these simple and far-reaching objectives be borne in mind.

This is the end of the Statement of the Executive Director of UNEP.

CHIN CHUNG GUK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Distinguished delegates: Allow me, first of all, to express my thanks to Mr. Chairman for affording the Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the opportunity of making a speech again at this Conference.

At the same time, I would like to express once again my deep thanks to the delegates from various countries for having actively supported the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into this Organization.

Our delegation warmly congratulates you, the Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia, on your election as Chairman of this important Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Our delegation is deeply moved by the positive activities of Mr. Edouard Saouma, who was elected two years ago as the Director-General, the responsible post of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U. N., having advanced a new orientation and programme of action, is making active efforts for the rational development of the Food and Agriculture Organization in conformity with the constitution and aims of the Organization and for the development of the agriculture of the developing countries.

Our delegation wishes Mr. Saouma greater successes in his continuous work as the Director-General of the Organization.

It is one of very important questions at present to increase food production through the correct solution of the rural question.

Therefore, I would like to deal with how our country has increased food production by correctly solving the agricultural question in our country.

We think it can further deepen our mutual understanding and will make a contribution to further strengthening mutual cooperation and friendly ties.

Before the liberation our country was a backward colonial semi-feudal State which could not get rid of natural calamities and food famine every year because of lack of material means for agricultural production.

We, however, after liberation have turned in a short span of time our countryside into a socialist one firmly equipped with modern machines and technology with the support of a strong socialist industry.

This entirely owes to the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader President KIM IL SUNG who set forth the most correct policy for the solution of the rural question at every important stage of the revolutionary development in our country and has wisely led our people to the struggle for its implementation.

Carrying out of the land reform posed itself as a most important question in solving our rural question after the freeing from the yoke of the imperialist colonial rule.

Every peasant household has only less than 2 hectares of land because mountains occupy 80 per cent of our territory and arable land was extremely limited.

Particularly due to the colonial predatory policy pursued by the imperialists for a long time, the overwhelming majority of our peasantry were landless or landpoor, and in the countryside existed relations of colonial and feudal plunder and exploitation, in which agricultural productivity was insignificant and living conditions of the peasants were miserable beyond description.

It was a great stumbling-block to the advancement of our society.

After the liberation the respected and beloved leader President KIM IL SUNG, having grasped the specific conditions of our country, put forward most correct policy of land reform and the slogan: "land to the tillers", and wisely led the struggle for its implementation.

As a result, in a short period of over 20 days more than one million hectares of land formerly owned by the Japanese imperialists, traitors to the nation and landlords was confiscated without compensation and distributed free of charge to over 700 000 households of landless or landpoor peasants.

In the wake of land reform we abolished all manner of miscellaneous taxes and established the system of agricultural tax in kind, thereby radically increasing agricultural production and improving the living conditions of the peasants.

But our post-war agricultural conditions became very difficult again owing to the 3-year war ignited by the US imperialists.

After the war everything was destroyed. Therefore peasants could no longer do farming unless they pooled their strength. At this very juncture when the peasants were in such a difficult position, we set forth the policy of agricultural cooperativization an energetic struggle for its implementation. As a result, the cooperativization was carried out very smoothly and at a high rate and completed in August, 1958.

Following the brilliant completion of the peasant question and agricultural question at the two stages, that is, the land reform and the agricultural cooperativization the respected and beloved leader President KIM IL SUNG issued the "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country" in February, 1964 and thus brilliantly illuminating the road of the final solution of the rural question.

The peasant and agricultural questions under socialism are to highly develop the agricultural productive forces, make the peasants life abundant, abolish all sorts of backwardness of countryside left by the exploiting society and gradually lessen the difference between towns and villages on the basis of continuous consolidation of the socialist system established in the countryside.

We have firmly maintained the three fundamental principles in order to solve the peasant and agricultural questions successfully.

That is: First, the technical, cultural and ideological revolutions should be thoroughly carried out in the rural areas;

Second, the working-class leadership over the peasantry, the assistance of industry to agriculture, and the support of the towns to the countryside should be strengthened in every way.

Third, the guidance and management of agriculture, should be brought continuously to approach the advanced level of enterprise management of industry, the bonds between all-people property and cooperative property should be strengthened, and cooperative property should be steadily brought closer to property of the whole people.

Our agriculture has come to stand on the solid material and technical foundations with the energetic promotion of the ideological, technical and cultural revolution in the countryside along the bright road illuminated by the respected and beloved leader President KIM IL SUNG in the "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country".

As a result of the over-all acceleration of the technical revolution in countryside with irrigation, electrification, mechanization and chemicalization as its' main content, in our country irrigation system has been established with the result that we can supply enough water to the vast areas of one million hectares and reap bumper harvest every year, never influenced by any big drought or whimsical weather.

Today we sufficiently provide with various kinds of chemical fertilizers and the agricultural medicines suitable to the characteristics of the soil and crops and many farm machines supplied to the countryside are doing hard labour for farmers.

The respected and beloved leader President KIM IL SUNG has created the great Juche-based farming method the scientific method for radically increasing the agricultural production on the basis of the solid material and technical foundations of our rural economy.

The Juche-oriented farming method is most scientific and modern farming method to increase the agricultural production -- establishment of the system of improving seed in conformity with the soil and climatic conditions of our country, selection of the crop and seed on the principle of the right crop at the right time and the right crop to the right soil, ensuring of correct number of plant in farming, introduction of new manuring system and cold frame rice seedlings in non-paddy field on a wide scale and growing of maize in a humus pot.

All these made our country scale the height of the 8 million tons of grain even under last year's conditions where the world underwent great sufferings owing to the influence of the cold front.



Today our country has been converted into a country self-sufficient in food from a famine-stricken country whose pre-liberation grain production was only 2 million tons.

The respected and beloved leader Conrade KIM IL SUNG set forth new five-point policy of nature-remaking under the actual conditions where the demand of state for food is further increasing with the recent expanded scale of socialist economy and the improved material and cultured life of the people.

The respected and beloved leader President KIM IL SUNG instructed as follows: "Firstly, irrigation of non-paddy fields should be rounded off, secondly, land adjustment and land amelioration be undertaken, thirdly, terraced fields be built, fourthly, afforestation and water conservancy be carried out to prevent the damages by downpour, and fifthly, tideland be reclaimed. This is the five-point policy".

This five-point policy and nature-remaking illumined by the respected and beloved President has opened up a broad road for our country to reach the eight of 10 million tons of grain in the near years to come.

Our people waged a vigorous struggle to implement the five-point policy of nature-making, and as a result, nearly 200 thousand hectares of non-paddy field has been under irrigation in the last few months alone.

By successfully carrying through the five-point policy of nature-remaking set forth by the respected and beloved President, we will have the completed irrigation system in not only paddy field but also non-paddy field and thereby achieve greater successes in the development of agriculture in our country, not shaken by any drought or storm caused by the influence of the cold front.

Due to the Occupation of South Korea by the U. S. Army, our country is divided into north and south for more than 30 years.

The National split is obstructing the united development of national economy in all fields including agriculture. It is the greatest national aspiration of our people to realize the reunification of the divided country.

We will ensure the coordinated development of the country on a nation-wide scale and build a more abundant strong paradise for the people good to live in by ending the division and accomplishing the cause of national reunification with the united efforts of the people in north and south Korea.

I am convinced that you will express an active support to the Korean people in their struggle for achieving the country's reunification independently by the Korean people themselves in a peaceful way and on a democratic principle without any outside interference.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates: Now the countries of the third world are attaching significance to agriculture. We think it a very good thing. We are strengthening the economic and technical cooperation with the third world countries in the field of agriculture.

Our delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 proposed by the Director-General with the conviction that it will contribute to the effective administration of the Organization and to the economic and technical co-operation and assistance for the development of agriculture of the third world.

In conclusion, I express the hope that this Conference will achieve great success by the sincere efforts of all delegates present here.

Mrs. M. DEHARENG (Observer for ICFTU): The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions represents over 50 million workers organized in 119 affiliated organizations. Our members come from 88 countries of vastly different levels of development. Political systems and culture. We are not a monolithic organization but a genuine international confederation, in which the dialogue between affiliates leads to a consensus on policies and action to be carried out in the interests of the workers we represent.

Conscious that problems of hunger, unemployment and mass poverty cannot be considered in isolation from the general economic and social problems, the ICFTU supports the establishment of a new international economic order which should bring justice between nations and within them. The ICFTU therefore supported the UNCTAD integrated programme of commodities. Through our affiliated organizations,

particularly in Europe, we called on governments inviting them to contribute to the establishment of a common fund to finance buffer stocks. However, international trade in itself does not promote social justice. This is why technical solutions to the problem of world commodity trade are not enough. It is essential that the integrated programme and other appropriate mechanisms are constructed in such a way as to benefit the poorer section of society in the developing countries. The trade unions cannot endorse such mechanisms if they merely add to the profit of rich landlords, large multinational companies or commodity market speculators. Countries benefiting from these mechanisms should therefore be urged to pursue policies for the creation of employment and the satisfaction of basic needs.

We are glad that the Director-General, in his introduction to document C 77/23, has re-affirmed that basic needs of the rural poor are now rightly receiving increasing attention. For the trade unions the basic needs strategy is a universally applicable and dynamic concept. As an international trade union organization the realization of full employment in conditions of economic and social justice is at the centre of our concern. We consider that the right to employment is an integral part of the basic needs strategy. The right to employment means the right to a job in a private or public enterprise, but also the right for the small farmer and the self-employed worker to earn a decent income from his work and to benefit from services enabling him to satisfy his basic needs. In this context, the basic need concept is relevant to the FAO activities and we are glad to note that, without waiting for the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the FAO has in its technical cooperation programme placed the emphasis on projects enabling the participation of the majority of the rural population concerned.

Rural workers' organizations, in the broad definition of ILO Convention No. 141, have proved effective instruments to determine the needs of rural workers, wage-earning or self-employed, and governments should allow these organizations to exist and encourage them wherever they do exist. For example, through international trade union solidarity we have been able to mobilise the resources in order to support spontaneous organizations of the rural poor and to help them to develop a variety of self-help projects, helping them not only to increase their income through better productivity but also giving their members training, access to credit, and other facilities. However, freedom of association and democratic leadership of workers' and peasants' organizations are prerequisites for an effective participation of the rural masses in the development process. We believe that workers' and peasants' organizations are the motive force of development. They lead to a more equitable distribution of income, stimulate productivity, develop internal markets. Measures limiting the activities of such organizations do not solve problems. On the contrary, they create more poverty and intolerable tension.

Indeed, rural populations should, through their freely and democratically elected representatives, be able to participate in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of rural development programmes, as well as at all stages and levels of relevant national and international planning. In particular, their active participation in the preparation and proceedings of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development should be accepted and properly organized at all levels.

The ICFTU has supported the creation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Through our affiliated organizations we have brought pressure to bear on a number of governments so that they participate generously, and we hope that the Fund will function without delay. We have also supported the refunding of the AID, the "Third Window" of the World Bank, and the "Witteveen facility mechanism" of the IMF as a short-term measure to solve the most urgent monetary problems. We want to be sure that our efforts have not been in vain and benefit the poorest workers of the developing countries who can only be reached if freedom of association and the ILO standards are respected. FAO Assistance in the preparation of the investment process should be conditional on the observance by the aid-receiving country of ILO Conventions Nos. 141, 87 and 98. We believe that the activities of the agencies of the United Nations system should be mutually supportive.

We do not doubt that the service established in the FAO to answer the requests of developing countries concerning investments will be very useful and will ensure, is already ensuring, a more rapid and less bureaucratic solution of the problems of financing development projects. However, we have some doubts about the value of the participation of private banks in the FAO/Bankers Programme. According to document C 77/3 private banks represent 40 percent of the participants of the Bankers Programme. It would be interesting to know to what extent the loans they finance really contribute to the development of the countries in which they invest and especially to what extent the majority of the population of these countries benefit.

Multinational companies, whether their activities be financial, banking, industrial or commercial represent an important source of capital and technology but they are far from providing a solution to development problems. Very often, their ability to manipulate the three key factors of development - capital, raw materials and access to markets - tends to underline the economic and social possibilities of the countries in which they establish themselves. Their basic objective is to increase company profits and not, for instance, to increase the food supply of the population or improve its distribution.

The impact of agro-industry in developing countries has often been linked to the introduction of techniques which are prejudicial to their economies, leading to the reduction of the number of jobs, the expulsion of tenants, the production of luxury goods at the expense of production for local consumption and, because of the repatriation of profits, to the slowing down of asset formation. That is why, as we have already stressed several times, we find the privileges granted to multinational companies in FAO, through the Industry Cooperative Programme, intolerable, and far in excess of the consultation framework admitted by the United Nations system.

We hope that there will finally be an inquiry into the activities of the Programme, as demanded by the 18th Conference, and that if it appears in the Programme of Work and Budget in the future, it will be a little more explicit in this direction. That does not mean that we want FAO to cut all contact with industry; not at all, but we do want an appropriate structure to be found in which trade unions and industry - that is, both sides of industry, the capital and the workers - would be represented on an equal footing in order to advise and assist the FAO and its Member States in all matters concerning rural development, agriculture and agro-food industries, in order to ensure a better balance between the economic and social objectives of development.

VONDRAS (Observateur pour la Fédération Syndicale Mondiale (WFTU)): Permettez-moi, au nom de la Fédération Syndicale Mondiale, de vous exprimer nos remerciements pour nous avoir donné la possibilité de prendre la parole du haut de cette tribune.

Nous avons étudié avec intérêt les documents de la Soixante et onzième session du Conseil de la FAO et les documents préparés en vue de cette Conférence.

Nous partageons pleinement la thèse fondamentale figurant dans le Programme de Travail et Budget pour 1978-79 présenté par le Directeur général constatant: "Si l'on veut résoudre les problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition, accroître la production alimentaire et favoriser un développement rural efficace, il est nécessaire de faire participer la population en cause, qui comprend les couches les plus défavorisées de la société rurale, "

Pour la FSM, et cela est réaffirmé dans les documents préparatoires du IXème Congrès Syndical Mondial qui aura lieu à Prague du 16 au 23 avril 1978, ce n'est qu'avec l'appui des travailleurs ruraux que l'on peut envisager la solution des problèmes qui pèsent sur l'agriculture dans les pays capitalistes et surtout ceux en voie de développement.

C'est pourquoi la FSM cherche à amplifier sa coopération avec la FAO tant dans l'intérêt des travailleurs ruraux que dans celui du développement général de l'agriculture et de l'industrie alimentaire.

Dans ce sens, nous apprécions la tenue régulière des consultations annuelles entre les organisations syndicales internationales et la FAO, Nous les considérons comme une contribution positive tant en prévision du développement de la coopération future entre les syndicats et la FAO, que du point de vue des possibilités d'une certaine coordination des initiatives de toutes les organisations syndicales internationales.

En 1976, les organisations syndicales internationales ont commencé à réaliser avec la FAO une activité commune au niveau régional. Les résultats de la première consultation régionale entre les organisations syndicales internationales, la FAO et certains Etats Membres d'Amérique latine, tenue en octobre 1976 au Honduras, correspondent aux orientations de la FAO, car cette activité, se rapproche davantage vers la base. Les résultats positifs de la première consultation régionale ont été obtenus grâce à une sérieuse coopération sur un pied d'égalité, entre les syndicats et les gouvernements.

Les propositions du directeur général de la FAO visant à déplacer le gros des efforts de l'Organisation dans les régions et au niveau national ouvrent de nouvelles perspectives pour un engagement plus actif des masses rurales et leurs syndicats à la mise en oeuvre des programmes et projets de développement.

La prochaine consultation régionale entre les syndicats, la FAO et les gouvernements des pays d'Asie et d'Extrême-Orient prévue pour 1978 sera sans doute un autre pas en avant dans ce domaine.

Dans ce contexte, nous formulons notre première proposition: élaborer, au sein de la FAO, un programme concret visant à instituer un système de consultations régionales entre la FAO, les gouvernements et les organisations syndicales.

La F. S. M. a confirmé à maintes reprises l'intérêt particulier qu'elle attache à la réalisation et aux résultats positifs de la Conférence sur la Réforme agraire et le Développement rural prévue pour juillet 1979. En nous référant au rapport présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO à la session du Conseil en juin dernier, nous saluons sa ferme intention de joindre ses efforts à ceux des autres organisations pour que cette Conférence aboutisse à des résultats positifs et concrets.

Notre organisation répond positivement à cet appel du Directeur général et lui offre dans ce but sa pleine et sincère coopération active tant dans la phase préparatoire de la Conférence que dans les suites à donner à ses travaux.

A ce sujet, nous constatons avec regret que le Conseil n'a pas encore jugé opportun de prévoir la coopération de la FAO avec les organisations syndicales internationales à la préparation de la Conférence dès sa phase préparatoire. Nous déplorons également le fait que le Directeur général n'ait pas invité les experts des organisations syndicales internationales à prendre part aux travaux de son Comité consultatif d'experts qui s'est réuni pour la première fois en octobre 1977. Si la FAO fait siens les principes stipulés dans la Convention de l'OIT sur les travailleurs ruraux et leur rôle dans le développement économique et social, elle serait bien inspirée d'appliquer ces mêmes principes au niveau international.

A notre avis, la Conférence doit aboutir à des résultats conformes aux besoins vitaux des populations rurales, paysannes et salariées, entraînant du même coup un développement général et rapide de l'agriculture dans le monde.

Et voici notre deuxième proposition:

Il conviendrait que l'ONU, la FAO et les Etats Membres fassent participer les représentants des organisations syndicales internationales à la réunion préparatoire qui est prévue au siège de la FAO six mois environ avant la Conférence; et que les gouvernements fassent également participer les organisations syndicales nationales à la préparation de la Conférence dans leurs pays respectifs et intègrent des représentants syndicaux dans leurs délégations nationales à la Conférence.

Compte tenu de l'importance exceptionnelle des problèmes relatifs à la réforme agraire et au développement rural, la FSM et l'UIS Agriculture envisagent de contribuer à l'organisation, en 1978, d'une rencontre syndicale mondiale sur ces questions. Elle serait convoquée par un Comité préparatoire composé des organisations syndicales internationales et régionales intéressées et la FAO sera invitée à y participer à part entière.

Cette rencontre syndicale mondiale aura pour tâche de formuler les positions du monde du travail sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural et apportera ainsi sa contribution qualifiée et efficace à la Conférence mondiale de l'ONU.

Afin de faciliter aux syndicats la possibilité de jouer le rôle qui leur revient dans l'agriculture, il convient que les gouvernements ratifient et appliquent la Convention N° 141 de l'OIT concernant les organisations des travailleurs ruraux et leur rôle dans le développement économique et social adoptée par la Conférence internationale du Travail en 1975.

Nous sommes préoccupés du fait que les gouvernements attendent trop longtemps pour ratifier cette Convention. Elle n'a été ratifiée jusqu'à présent que par six pays.

Conformément aux conclusions de la 18ème session de la Conférence de la FAO, la Conférence actuelle de la FAO jugera certainement nécessaire d'encourager les Etats Membres à prendre des mesures énergiques en vue de la ratification et de l'application de cette Convention de l'OIT. Cette question doit occuper une place de priorité tant dans les politiques nationales visant à combattre la pauvreté que dans les programmes de la FAO.

Par leur vote massif en faveur de cet instrument à la Conférence internationale du Travail en 1975, les gouvernements ont manifesté leur volonté politique d'encourager la création d'organisations indépendantes et efficaces des travailleurs ruraux.

Ces réflexions nous amènent à une troisième proposition: La présente Conférence pourrait juger cette question assez importante pour qu'elle figure à l'ordre du jour des sessions du Conseil de la FAO pendant plusieurs années afin d'examiner régulièrement les progrès réalisés dans ce domaine. Dans ce sens la FSM offre à la FAO son entière coopération.

Selon la FSM, l'engagement des organisations des travailleurs ruraux et la coopération avec eux est nécessaire notamment dans des projets relatifs à la formation et au perfectionnement professionnels. Nous constatons avec satisfaction que le Programme de travail met un accent particulier sur la formation du personnel de terrain. Dans ce domaine comme vous le savez, la FAO, l'Unesco et l'OIT ont constitué un groupe de travail interinstitutions. La FSM demande à être associée aux travaux de ce groupe de travail tenant compte du fait que d'autres organisations syndicales internationales ont déjà leurs représentants dans ce groupe. Convaincus que la Conférence voudra bien tenir compte de nos remarques, suggestions et propositions, nous lui souhaitons plein succès dans ses travaux.

The meeting rose at 12. 45 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 45 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/17

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
17ª SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1977)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 55 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 55

sous l'a présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 17ª sesión plenaria a las 14. 55 horas

Sajo la presidencia de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I declare the 17th Plenary Meeting open. We shall be taking up also this afternoon the first part of our Report, C 77/REP/1, Increase in Council Seats, and the Fifth Report of the General Committee.

K. J. PHAMBO (Observer for African National Congress): We wish to express our sincere thanks to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, for inviting us to this meeting. The Organization I represent, the African National Congress of South Africa, believes that your support in our struggle is a most vital element in aiding us to reach our objective of freeing our country.

This is a historic meeting. We have seen eight new countries accepted as Members of the Organization, and wish to congratulate them; above all, to congratulate our neighbour Namibia. We hail this progress in the long struggle for the liberation of the whole of Southern Africa.

We welcome the opportunity to appear in this world forum, especially for the chance to address you, and particularly the African States and the Organization of African Unity.

We are meeting here when the history of the struggle for the liberation of Southern Africa is at its most decisive moment. The heroic peoples throughout the world have fought for, and achieved, their independence. It is only a matter of time before the armed struggle in Southern Africa too will bear fruit. We must, however, stress that ours will not be an easy victory. We will have to sacrifice the lives of many of our gallant young brothers and sisters before we achieve our freedom and independence. It is only after this that we will be able to create a society free of oppression, racism and discrimination, a society where there will be no exploitation, hunger, and starvation.

During the last eighteen months we have witnessed in South Africa a new and unprecedented upsurge of militancy and self-sacrifice. The uprising of the students and workers of South Africa has been followed by the unleashing of barbaric savagery and brutality by the fascist police and militia. Never in the history of mankind have we witnessed the use of State violence of such ferocity and magnitude as was seen in South Africa.

The end of confrontation is nowhere in sight. Students in their masses have refused to be taught under the hated Bantu Education and White Education, it cannot be reasonably accepted that education is equal when one considers that education for Africans is not compulsory, nor free. The government spends ten times as much per white child as it does on a black child. School facilities for Africans are primitive and harsh. There are no proper buildings and children are forced to sit and also write on the floor. A large number of teachers have resigned from teaching - no longer wanting to do so under the Bantu Education system. Their sacrifice is enormous as it will be impossible for them to find alternative employment. The South African Security Police, BOSS, will see to that.

But, by the use of its army and police, South Africa cannot contain the growing wave of militancy. Severe torture and murder continue, unabated, despite the expression of horror and disbelief by the whole world. Steve Biko was not the first but the 50th black activist to be killed in detention.

The recent bannings of organizations and their leaders, Trade-Unions, Student Organizations, the Christian Institute, newsmen and newspapers such as the World and the Weekend World, mean that the government has practically closed all channels of legal opposition for the oppressed majority against its repressive apartheid policies. These killings and bannings are not the first but the most recent in a long line of bannings since 1950.

Today's events once again vindicate the line of action charted by the African National Congress and its allies since its banning in 1960. In South Africa today, there is no road to freedom except the armed one. The path of non-violence and negotiation has been shut, not by us, but by the Vorster regime and its predecessors. It is a road strewn with the dead bodies of too many of our brothers and sisters.



Young blacks have been pouring into Botswana and Swaziland, seeking refuge from pursuing fascists since July last year. They arrive destitute and in dire need of basic human necessities such as food, clothing, bedding, accommodation and, above all, schooling. A large number of these people are being cared for by the ANC. With the continuing struggle and increased brutality of the police and the judiciary, many more people will be leaving the country and swelling the ranks of those who need help. Our Organization appeals for maximum support, both financially and materially. Not only do we have to airlift many to safety from Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho, where they are a security hazard, but we have also to feed, clothe, house and educate them.

To assist in these humanitarian needs the ANC has embarked on self-reliant, intensive food production agricultural projects to feed the groups of refugees in the various front line states. This policy of self-reliance also accords with the policy of hosting countries that refugees should be self-sufficient.

Another important objective is to provide on-the-job training in practical and management skills. These skills will, of course, be of immense value to the refugees when they return to their country.

The ANC already has a successful pig-rearing project in Tanzania. It comprises two large pigsties and residential premises for the trainee and management staff. There are over 400 pigs at various stages of growth and development. It is eventually envisaged to have 800 pigs. A trained manager and three trainees are at present involved with the project. It is hoped to provide food for the refugees through this project in Tanzania. A scheme to further improve the project by way of providing cold storage facilities and making polony and sausages is being seriously mooted. An FAO mission recently visited us in Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana, with which we discussed these projects. We sincerely hope, Mr. Chairman, that you will now be able to give us your valuable help with them.

In Zambia, the ANC has a market gardening farm, on which chickens, pigs and a few cattle are being reared in addition to the horticulture section. There, too, residential and irrigation facilities are provided. Management problems are hampering the progress of this farm as we do not have trained personnel, although the person in charge has vast agricultural experience gained before he fled South Africa.

The ANC has two small ten acre holdings about 10 km from the centre of Lusaka which we hope to develop into vegetable garden farms. This, too, we discussed with the mission.

The Tanzanian government, as always, has been most generous in allocating a plot of 200 and more acres in extent, of prime agricultural land, to our Organization. Huge development plans for a school with boarding and lodging facilities, a clinic, a library, a gymnasium, sports grounds, laboratories and vocational training sectors in mechanics, carpentry, metalwork, domestic sciences, homecraft, tailoring, are in the advanced stage of development. The large farm will also have concomitant agricultural projects providing training in animal husbandry and agriculture. We wish, once again, to repeat our thanks to the President, Government and People of Tanzania, and also Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho and Angola for the tremendous sacrifices they are making on our behalf. We ask the FAO to help these states to develop their own economies, so as to be able to continue their generous assistance to the struggle for the liberation of Southern Africa. In addition, we wish to thank the People of Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands for the magnificent contribution towards the school and clinic, and also towards providing for the day-to-day humanitarian needs of our people. The magnitude of our demands far outweighs the assistance so far received, and we are constantly seeking relief. Although we have made repeated requests to FAO for support to our "self-reliant" in-service training projects, we regretfully have to report that, so far, our appeals have met with little response. The World Food Programme itself has not been very helpful, though the recent FAO mission has given us hope. We intend, however, to submit a list of emergency food requirements which we hope will be given urgent and sympathetic consideration. We also wish to record our appreciation and thanks to the Church Council of Tanzania and numerous support groups throughout the world, for having contributed so unselfishly to our food and other basic human needs.

To the OAU, the African and Arab States, our Socialist friends such as the Soviet Union, Cuba, the German Democratic Republic, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary and the others, we express our special thanks for the ever-helpful hand extended to our Organization.

I wish the Conference every success. We have learned a lot by being here, and we thank the Director-General and his Organization for the willingness to support our long struggle which the invitation to attend this Conference shows.

M. M. DLAMINI (Observer for Pan Africanist Congress): Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, It is an honour for me on behalf of our President, Mr. Mangaliso Sobukwe and the struggling people of Azania to thank you for the honour given to the PAC to attend this 19th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization as an observer.

As a liberation movement it gives us great pleasure to note that our brothers from Angola, Comoros, Djibouti, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles have been admitted in this session as members of FAO and are now sitting with other member nations as full participants. It is not long ago since we used to sit with them as observers in many UN agencies. We wish them well and we hope that it will not be long before our brothers from Zimbabwe also take their rightful seat.

We take special pleasure in noting the admission of the UN Council for Namibia. We are looking forward to the day when our neighbour will be totally free, after its long struggle against the common enemy. And then there shall remain Azania.

For many years now racist South Africa has been defying the world. It has adamantly refused to bring about changes in its treatment of the oppressed indigenous and other minority peoples. Instead, the Vorster regime has been entrenching Apartheid from year to year, unmindful of world condemnation. And it is daily filling the prisons with any who dare campaign for political rights. With the latest death in detention of 18-year student Sipho Malaza the number of deaths in detention in the past year has now risen to 22. Steve Biko, Honorary President of the Black Consciousness Movement, died on September 12th and he was the 21st. At the inquest trial now going on the police have admitted that on arrest he was kept naked, in handcuffs and leg irons, and chained to a grille in the wall of his cell and manhandled until he died. This is how Vorster deals with political detainees. At present, two members of our Central Committee are on trial after having been tortured almost to death.

As a result of the persecution and prosecution of our people, the Liberation Movement is now preparing for armed struggle, in order to put to an end, once and for all, to the political oppression, economic exploitation and social degradation of the people of Azania. It is a well known fact that the enemy is very powerful - it has been armed to the teeth by its friends, who indirectly have been amassing huge profits in the exploitation of the oppressed. We know also that the struggle is going to be long and arduous with many ups and downs, with much loss of life and suffering. We also know that the enemy, in desperation, will try to pull everything down with him - to die with everybody, if possible, like the Biblical Samson. The enemy will even wave an atomic bomb to show the world that it means business. All this, however, will not stop the oppressed people of Azania from fighting for their just rights. Even if the struggle should take another 100 years, it will be fought to the finish. The racist regime must be destroyed. Victory and justice are on the side of the oppressed.

Meanwhile, how and where can FAO help? At present, all over Southern Africa, the number of refugees is ever increasing. And as the struggle for freedom intensifies, their numbers will also increase. In Botswana, Swaziland, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Angola many refugees are crying out for help. And food is their problem. As Ambassador Young said the other day: "What more basic right could there be than the right to food? It underpins all other human rights, for without food there is no humanity either of body or spirit. Hunger not only saps vitality, it violates human dignity".

From my own experience there is nothing as upsetting psychologically as to become a refugee overnight. To look forward to the next meal when you do not know where and how it will come, is mindboggling. It is in this particular respect that we hope FAO can be of great assistance.

We hope you will work hand in hand with the governments of the countries where the refugees are, and with other UN agencies, as well as the Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU, to minimize the sufferings of these refugees.

We would like to thank all those who have supported and will support, in the future, the struggle of the oppressed peoples of Azania for dignity and self-determination, especially the countries of Africa, and the Organization of African Unity.

It was a great pleasure to us in the PAC to be visited by an FAO mission during the course of last month. We had frank discussions about our requests and problems which we hope will enable FAO to be of assistance, not only now but during the long and protracted struggle, in which our people will be engaged in the years to come.

We are now attempting to set up a rehabilitation centre in Tanzania, so as to be able to cater initially for 400 recent refugees from South Africa. We expect there will be more later. But we must be self-reliant in food - we cannot expect the countries where the refugees go to support them for

ever. Their generosity has already been very great. In this centre we wish to farm, raise small stock and, above all, train our people in self-reliance now, and skills we will need later in Azania when the country has been freed from the yoke of the oppressor. In this task, we ask the help of FAO,

There is nothing as noble as to fight for one's freedom and there is nothing as encouraging as to have the moral support of the international community. Every little help, moral and material, from governments, organizations and individuals, will be highly appreciated by the people of Azania and their Liberation Movement in the struggle against the monstrous regime of John Vorster and his fellow racists.

I must end by again thanking all those who have supported our very just cause, and, above all, the Director-General of the FAO, and his staff, for having invited us, and for the future assistance we are asking of them.

T. K. GNRÖFCUM (Togo): Il y a deux ans, au moment où se tenait cette assemblée, le monde traversait une des plus graves crises alimentaires qu'elle ait jamais connue. Deux années se sont succédé et les rapports qui nous sont soumis sur ce grave problème ne sont pas de plus optimistes quant à la situation présente et à venir. Si nous devons relever des notes de consolation, elles restent limitées et localisées à quelques pays privilégiés.

Bien de voix autorisées ont déjà jeté un cri d'alarme dont les échos sont allés se perdre dans les tréfonds de l'indifférence mondiale.

Bien d'éminences grises se sont penchées sur ce problème de l'alimentation et ont, bien des fois, préconisé des solutions hardies susceptibles de le résoudre sinon d'atténuer ses effets; malheureusement elles se sont heurtées à l'inertie des pouvoirs de décision quant à leur application.

La FAO, quant à elle, n'est pas à son premier essai; toutes nos réunions, nos conférences, colloques et autres symposiums n'avaient d'autre but que d'améliorer la situation alimentaire mondiale. Et pourtant, des millions d'hommes souffrent encore de malnutrition, de sous-alimentation.

Les surplus alimentaires qui existent sont entre les mains de ceux qui n'en ont pas besoin. Devant cette situation, nous nous devons de faire quelques observations:

La science, en un siècle, a fait d'énormes progrès dans tous les domaines, mettant à la disposition de la communauté internationale les recettes les plus sophistiquées pour allonger la vie, la faciliter, l'agréments de mille et une manières.

Le domaine agricole n'a pas échappé à cette vague de progrès, et Je dois reconnaître que la recherche agronomique, comme toutes les autres recherches scientifiques, a mis au point des évolutions appropriées à la plupart des problèmes qui se posent à nous.

Par ailleurs, depuis des générations, on connaît très bien le rôle de la fumure et plus récemment celui des engrais; on connaît la fonction fondamentale de l'eau; l'homme a su bien se faire substituer par les animaux ou la machine; autant d'acquis qu'il aurait fallu chercher à maîtriser et à vulgariser à fond, partout dans le monde pour éviter le cauchemar qui nous agite aujourd'hui. Mais, au progrès de la science, nous avons trop souvent opposé l'égoïsme que nous connaissons, oubliant volontairement que la planète qui nous porte et le système qui la vivifie constituent un tout indivisible, qui partout où nous nous trouvons, nous rendent solidaire les uns des autres bon gré mal gré.

Notre organisation a par le passé déployé de nombreux efforts pour atteindre ses objectifs. Cependant, nous devons reconnaître qu'au cours de nos assises nous n'avons pu, jusqu'à ces dernières années, dresser qu'un constat, je dirai même un constat d'impuissance en raison de nos propres contradictions et des méthodes jusqu'alors utilisées.

Mais depuis deux ans, une autre lanterne semble bien éclairer l'horizon de nos réunions, de telle sorte que le biennium qui s'achève comporte des notes d'espoir, telle la mise en place du Fonds International pour le Développement Agricole (FIDA), tel le programme d'assistance technique de la FAO, telles les révisions structurelles intervenues ou en cours.

Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués,

Le problème crucial des pertes alimentaires est toujours inscrite à l'ordre du jour de nos réunions et les rapports qui l'analysent ne font pas état d'une amélioration sensible de la situation dans le monde.

Pour la plupart de nos pays, les pertes des récoltes dues aux déprédateurs de toutes sortes peuvent atteindre 30% chiffre évidemment scandaleux. A ce problème il est souvent proposé des solutions de conservation efficaces certes, mais coûteuses pour nos paysans et donc inutilisables par eux. Au niveau des Etats on procède cà et là à des constructions de silos modernes, mais l'installation de ceux-ci nécessite une infrastructure complexe et coûteuse qui limite leur portée.

Nous pensons que véritablement la FAO, en la matière, peut financer des actions appropriées, visant à adopter les entrepôts aux milieux et aux conditions climatiques des utilisateurs dont les paysans, petits producteurs, constituent l'écrasante majorité dans nos pays du Tiers-monde. C'est donc à ce niveau qu'une action vigoureuse devrait être entreprise par notre organisation. Nous avons suffisamment d'expérience à la FAO pour y trouver les solutions les plus efficaces, les moins coûteuses et les plus pratiques. Il me semble nécessaire de rappeler au passage, que le stockage en silo ne concerne que les céréales alors qu'une fraction importante des produits alimentaires est constituée de denrées hautement périssables parmi lesquelles les tubercules, les légumes frais, le poisson, etc.

Si nous nous devons de noter qu'un important effort a été fait par la Communauté Internationale pour la protection des cultures en champ, contre les oiseaux, les insectes, les champignons, etc., nous nous devons aussi de nous soucier de ce que l'utilisation d'une telle gamme de produits désormais disponibles nécessite la mise en place d'un système permettant le contrôle continu de leurs effets sur l'environnement et sur les produits traités et même sur les animaux et l'homme.

Vous voyez, Monsieur le Président, Honorables délégués, combien ce problème de prévention des pertes agricoles est important, et il me plaît de saluer ici l'initiative du Directeur général qui lui a conféré toute l'importance qu'il mérite.

En rappelant maintenant le schéma classique du cercle vicieux dans lequel nous sommes contraints d'évoluer, c'est à la Suède et au Canada que je voudrais rendre hommage. En effet, pour produire davantage, il faut plus de moyens financiers. Le geste de ces deux nations les honore et ouvre la voie, nous l'espérons, à d'autres, envers lesquelles les Etats du Tiers monde ont contracté des dettes énormes pour leur développement.

Pour clore ce point de mon intervention, je me dois d'évoquer le problème tant soulevé par certaines délégations, celui de l'indexation des prix des produits agricoles, car ce que permettait d'acheter un kilo de cacao il y a 10 ans ne peut plus l'être aujourd'hui qu'avec au moins 10 à 15 kg de ce produit dont les coûts de production ont augmenté dans les mêmes proportions.

Cette présentation quelque peu triviale d'un problème grave, plusieurs fois soulevé dans de nombreuses assises internationales, est destinée à rappeler à notre organisation ses responsabilités en la matière parce que faisant partie des facteurs qui travaillent en sens inverse des préoccupations qui sont les nôtres.

Au cours de ces assises, nous avons à nous pencher aussi sur le problème de l'investissement dans le secteur agricole. Sujet passionnant à plus d'un titre, délicat à traiter parce que difficilement maîtrisable pour des économies dominées par le secteur primaire, mais qu'on ne peut éluder en pareille circonstance. Mon pays, le Togo a, depuis 1966, accordé au secteur agricole la priorité qui lui revient de droit dans l'économie nationale. Notre 3ème Plan Quinquennal qui est à sa 2ème année d'exécution a maintenu cette priorité en la pondérant compte tenu des modifications structurelles intervenues dans l'économie du pays.

En le secteur agricole occupe encore 30% de la population, mais n'intervient plus pour moins de 50% dans la constitution du produit intérieur brut et la priorité accordée globalement au secteur agricole implique des investissements en rapport avec ce choix. Dans la mise en oeuvre de cette politique, nous avons décidé de respecter un certain équilibre entre le secteur traditionnel et le secteur industriel ou de modernisation.

Aussi avons-nous choisi de poursuivre les actions intéressant directement le petit exploitant pris individuellement ou inséré à des groupements plus opérationnels, action dont les effets ne se font sentir qu'à long terme, et opter simultanément pour la mise en place de grandes unités de production devant constituer des pôles de développement intégré et facilement quantifiable.

Le FIDA arrive donc au bon moment et nous osons espérer qu'il permettra à nos Etats de se tourner résolument vers des projets équilibrés d'investissement dans le domaine agricole et alimentaire.

Une autre grande préoccupation de mon gouvernement est le problème de la maîtrise de l'eau, cette eau qui est le facteur limitant de notre agriculture. Il s'agit pour nous de trouver les moyens d'exprimer et d'exploiter nos potentialités hydrauliques à des fins agricoles. Ces moyens sont financiers, technologiques, et la FAO dans le cadre de son programme de terrain pourrait sans doute trouver une place à un programme d'actualisation des études réalisées dans ce domaine depuis plusieurs années.

Je conclurai ce chapitre en souhaitant que le FIDA ne s'affuble pas de procédures compliquées et tra-cassières comme bon nombre d'institutions financières s'agissant d'un secteur où le facteur temps compte plus que tout.

Monsieur le Président, le programme d'action qui nous a été soumis pour le biennium 1978-79 reflète réellement nos préoccupations. Nous devons en féliciter le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs pour le réalisme qui le caractérise dans la recherche des solutions aux nombreux problèmes qui se posent à nous.

Je voudrais cependant insister sur la nécessité d'impliquer plus intimement les cadres nationaux dans la conception et l'élaboration des projets de nos pays, car l'application de la science à un milieu donné ne peut atteindre pleinement ses objectifs, qu'il s'agisse de la mesure où elle s'appuie sur une connaissance sûre, authentique et engagée des besoins du milieu considéré.

La FAO, pendant longtemps, et pour des raisons institutionnelles, s'est essentiellement limitée à la réalisation de projets financés par d'autres organisations internationales. Cette moralité d'action relève maintenant du passé et de l'histoire de notre organisation. C'est pourquoi nous voudrions saluer l'avènement du programme d'assistance technique en cours d'expérimentation, et souhaiter qu'au cours des années à venir il connaisse l'extension et l'efficacité que nous en attendons.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Honorables Délégués, en abordant la fin de mon intervention, je voudrais m'associer aux nombreuses voix qui m'ont précédé pour adresser mes remerciements à Monsieur le Président sortant du Conseil, Son Excellence Bula Hoyos, dont nous avons apprécié au cours de ses deux mandats le compétence et la capacité d'adaptation aux exigences de notre Organisation.

Mes félicitations vont ensuite aux Etats nouvellement admis au sein de la FAO. Nous sommes heureux, très heureux de saluer l'admission de ces pays qui viennent tous du tiers monde, signe des temps nouveaux auxquels le monde doit faire face avec courage parce que devant plutôt participer à son nouvel équilibre. Nous mentionnerons notamment l'avènement de la République populaire démocratique de Corée, avec laquelle le Togo entretient, depuis longtemps déjà, de solides liens d'amitiés.

Enfin, j'éprouve un plaisir très grand et très particulier d'avoir à assurer la délégation du Nigeria de l'appui total du Togo à la candidature du Dr Shaib au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil de notre Organisation.

Excellence, Mesdames, Messieurs, paraphrasant le guide de la Révolution togolaise, le général Eyadema, Président de la République, il me reste à formuler le voeu réalisable à plus d'un titre, qu'avant la fin de cette décennie de développement tous les hommes de la terre disposent en quantité et en qualité du bien le plus élémentaire qui soit au monde: la nourriture.

A. U. BELINFANTI (Jamaica): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I should like to begin by joining with those delegates who have preceded me in this Session in warmly congratulating you on your election as Chairman of our Conference. My delegation is confident that your leadership will greatly contribute to our deliberations.

At the beginning of this Session, Mr. Chairman, eight new members of the FAO took their seats in this body: Angola, the Comoros, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tomé and Principe, and the Seychelles. We welcome this opportunity to work with these our brothers for the strengthening of our Organization and the social and economic liberation of the peoples they represent. We at this Conference must view with concern the difficult times through which some of them are passing and we trust that their acceptance in this Organization will be one of the avenues by which they will enter into a new horizon of social and economic prosperity to which we have referred.

Mr. Chairman, in taking the floor on the final day of this debate we are aware of the time constraint placed on speakers and of your wishes in this regard.

Whereas some cause for relief is demonstrated in the present picture of world stocks and supplies of food as against the situation when the World Food Council was established in 1974. Certain factors should be kept before us in our review at this Conference of the work of this Organization and our plans for its future.

The first such factor to recall is that the threat of starvation and the fact of malnutrition for many millions has not changed. Struggle as they may, the developing countries have succeeded in achieving only a 2.6 percent average annual increase in food production, instead of the 4 percent agreed by the World Food Conference as an acceptable rate of increase.

Nor have the developing countries on the whole improved their income to the point where they can purchase freely from granaries in other parts of the world. They cannot, therefore, take advantage of the more bountiful harvests being currently reported. If a country is to purchase in these grain markets, they must have money available, and the most needy countries do not have that money. This is why the emphasis and objectives of the FAO must be to increase the capacities of developing countries for self reliance as far as is possible.

This is why we make no excuse to refer once again to the urgent need for a New International Economic Order. The Government of Jamaica is committed to repeat that every agency attempting action to solve global problems, must be cognisant of the need to refashion the existing systems of economic relationships between states, on the basis of equity and justice. We are heartened to see that the well prepared Programme of Work and Budget presented by our distinguished Director-General reflects a recognition of the role that the FAO must play in producing this New International Economic Order and trust that his efforts in this regard will have the wholehearted support of all members of this Organization.

It is obvious that whereas international cooperation is a burning necessity, it does not remove the obligation of individual countries from finding their own solutions. Against the background of what has been called the "boom and bust" cycle of supplies and prices of food in the international markets, Jamaica has been reorganising its approach to Agriculture with self reliance as its principal objective.

We began, with the assistance of FAO and other agencies, by making a detailed and in-depth analysis of our resources, our needs and the techniques we employed. This analysis shows that we were heirs to a typical plantation economy, shaped and directed from without - for the benefit of those without. Now we are engaged in the task of reshaping that economy - the prime objective of this reshaping being the improvement of the lot of the overwhelming majority of Jamaicans who have, by and large, been deprived for generations of real advancement and social justice.

In the strategy which has emerged in Agriculture, particular attention is being paid to: -

- (1) Land - with a programme of reform based on a more equitable distribution under leasehold tenure and with proper husbandry ensured,
- (2) Water - with the rationalization of regular sources and the improvement of storage and use,
- (3) Services with the upgrading of the quality of life of the rural poor.

In a country such as Jamaica where land which is the major resource base for agricultural development is in short supply because of the mountainous nature of the country - 80 percent of all lands are on slopes - imaginative initiatives are required to make productive, what would otherwise be unsuitable areas. Agroforestry defines the methods and systems which combine agricultural crops, tree crops and animal husbandry into programmes. Such programmes are receiving increasing attention by my Government, as while protecting soils and water they can provide extensive economic benefits for rural populations. Burgeoning population demands, and the resultant improper use of hillside land make this a race against time.

The agricultural sector of the Jamaican economy which, traditionally has received relatively little attention by way of Governmental inputs, has become a priority area for Government intervention. Attention is given not only to the increase of all aspects of agricultural production, but also to the introduction into the rural areas of those amenities which remove the paucity of comfort and low standards of living which characterise the rural poor of the world.

Since achieving independence some fifteen years ago, Jamaica has been a full-time member of this Organization, but my Government, conscious as it is of the importance of solidarity among developing nations, is hoping to participate even more actively in the activities of the FAO, as is demonstrated by the fact that I am the first, for many years, of its Ministers of Agriculture to come to this rostrum. We are strengthened in this resolve by the businesslike trends which have been introduced in the organization at, we believe, the instance of our Director-General, and the clear commitment of all its members to the search for solutions to hunger and malnutrition and the improvement of Agriculture throughout the world.

This commitment has been demonstrated in the upturn of interest in the FAO by donor countries, at a time when other international fora have not been as successful in holding the interest of all states. We have noted that IFAD has been given a shape and form which will be of special benefit to many. The World Bank has been demonstrating a new thinking which, while still heavily concerned with cost benefit ratios and rates of return, sees Agriculture as a preferred area for investment. We trust that this trend will continue, to enable the Director-General's Technical Cooperation Programme, from which Jamaica is shortly to benefit, to find the funds necessary to guarantee its future. The need for urgent and immediate assistance on a modest scale, can be vital for the successful completion of a planned operation overtaken by an unexpected turn of events. I am tempted to remind the Conference of the ancient adage, "For want of a nail a shoe was lost, for want of a shoe the horse was lost--".

I am particularly pleased to observe the leading role being played by the FAO in promoting Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries, TCDC. The growing solidarity of the Third World, its commitment to self reliance, its common economic interest, its common struggles, and often its common ethnic and cultural ties, to say nothing of its many agro-ecological similarities, provide a natural background for the useful sharing of indigenous techniques, tools and equipment often available without the strings, in the absence of which, the traditional metropolitan system find it difficult to operate.

May the deliberations and programmes of FAO result in the creation of avenues that lead to lasting incremental benefits for those who struggle for a new world economic order.

M. VARGAS JORDAN (Bolivia): Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, Señoras y Señores: El Gobierno de mi país, Bolivia, a quien tengo el alto honor de representar en este grande y significativo evento, me ha pedido que por su digno conducto exprese mis agradecimientos al Honorable Gobierno de Indonesia por haber concedido a esta Conferencia el honor de ser dirigida por uno de sus más esclarecidos y capaces hijos.

Deseo igualmente felicitar a los señores Vicepresidentes y dar mi más cordial bienvenida a los representantes de los nuevos Estados Miembros que se han incorporado a FAO, cuya presencia entre nosotros contribuye a fortalecer el carácter de universalidad que todos deseamos para nuestra Organización.

Es esta la primera Conferencia celebrada después de la elección del Dr. Edouard Saouma como Director General. La nueva orientación, el dinamismo y los conceptos pragmáticos de esta afortunada etapa aparecen en los principales documentos presentados a esta reunión. Convenimos y aplaudimos la nueva orientación y la política impresa por el Director General, las mismas que se encuentran contenidas en la sistemática importancia de asistencia a los Estados Miembros para que obtengan mayores recursos financieros; la creación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica para conferir a la FAO mayor rapidez y flexibilidad de acción, en respuesta a las necesidades urgentes y a corto plazo de los Estados Miembros; mayor importancia a la descentralización de las actividades en la sede, proyectándolas hacia los países, incluida la designación gradual de representantes de la FAO en ellos; revisión de los programas para dar mayor prioridad a las acciones prácticas y a corto plazo y la reducción del número de reuniones, publicaciones y documentos y puestos en la sede. Estos principios básicos sobre los que se asienta la nueva dimensión de FAO, creemos que hará al organismo de la alimentación y la agricultura más práctico y efectivo en sus propósitos y objetivos de cumplir con rapidez eficiencia y capacidad con los pueblos del mundo, que tanto espera de la práctica efectiva de este organismo de Naciones Unidas.

El Gobierno de mi país considera que la FAO es la más importante Agencia de Naciones Unidas. La experiencia y los conocimientos del personal de nuestra Organización, así como los recursos de que dispone, deben estar al servicio -real y positivo- de las poblaciones del mundo que aún padecen de hambre, hecho que afecta a la sensibilidad de los espíritus de quienes creemos en la igualdad de derecho, sin ninguna discriminación, a la vida sana y decorosa. Bolivia fue miembro fundador de FAO y mi Gobierno se siente vinculado a esta Organización, a sus ideales y a su acción.

Es por esta razón que mi país ha venido apoyando sin reservas la nueva orientación política y programática trazada por el Director General. El desaliento del Tercer Mundo cifra nuevas esperanzas en el futuro, pues ya estábamos cansados de escuchar palabras y de leer documentos sin una práctica efectiva y de resonancia. Es necesario transformar la fría burocracia internacional en fuerzas de acción para atender particularmente a los países en vías de desarrollo. Permítame, . Ud. señor Presidente, que yo transmita; a esta Conferencia algunas informaciones sobre mi país, para que pueda ser valorado en su justa dimensión.

Empezare por decir que Bolivia, país latinoamericano, se encuentra enclavado en el corazón de su continente y podría ser considerado como el Tibet de Sudamérica. Se ubica en el Centro mismo de la América Meridional, con una superficie tan vasta y suficiente que llega a los 1 098 581 Km<sup>2</sup>, ocupando el quinto lugar en el conglomerado de países que conforman Latinoamérica; colinda al Norte y al Nordeste con la República del Brasil, al Oeste con la República de Perú y Chile, al Sureste con Paraguay, y al Sur con la República Argentina. Gracias a su posición geográfica, es un país de fuertes contrastes, que vienen siendo vencidos por la integración realizada por el hombre boliviano quien con su soberbia voluntad de trabajo y de acción, se transporta desde el altiplano hacia los valles y llanuras para cumplir con el trabajo fructífero en beneficio de los caros intereses nacionales.

El clima está profundamente influenciado, ya sea por la altitud como por la situación geográfica; de esto también se generan situaciones altamente diversas; tropical en la zona de las llanuras, templado en los valles andinos y frío en la altipampa. La estación de las lluvias, que se dá, más o menos de diciembre a mayo, condiciona la economía y las formas de vida en general. Cerca de los dos tercios del territorio está constituido por la zona de los llanos orientales, con una altitud de los 400 metros sobre el nivel del mar. En la parte Occidental del país, se tiene la zona de montañas, la cual, a su vez, puede subdividirse en dos zonas: Zona de los valles, desde los 1 000 hasta los 2 000 metros de altura, y zona del altiplano, desde los 3 000 hasta los 4 000 metros de altura.

Mi país posee tres sistemas hidrográficos: el Amazónico, el del Plata y el Interno, formado por los lagos Titicaca y Popó, y los ríos de la zona, que generalmente corren al Nordeste o sea, hacia la inmensa Cuenca del Amazonas. Casi todos ellos son de notable importancia, tanto en pesca como en navegación.

En el 1 098 581 km<sup>2</sup> se asienta una población que casi linda con los 6 000 000 de habitantes, con una tasa anual de crecimiento demográfico del 3 por ciento. Somos un país en vías de desarrollo, pero anhelamos y estamos propugnando el progreso y el desarrollo de nuestra economía.

Bolivia cuenta con inmensas riquezas minerales, que desde la Colonia hasta nuestros días constituyen el soporte de nuestra economía nacional. Explotamos el estaño, el zinc, el plomo, el wolfram, el cobre, la plata, el bismuto y muchos más; somos un país productor de petróleo y gas. Si a esto se suman nuestras grandes posibilidades de producción agrícola, cuya variedad de tierras hace posible que sean aptas para cultivos de tipo europeo y de productos tropicales, podemos considerarnos como un país dotado por la naturaleza, necesitando cada vez más la asistencia financiera y técnica externas para conseguir nuestro pleno desarrollo, que es cuanto anhela el pueblo humilde y trabajador de mi patria.

Nuestros bosques albergan en sus entrañas cualquier cantidad y calidad de madera y nuestras vastas llanuras de Moxos, en que se asienta el capital ganadero de nuestro país, esperan las técnicas de crianza adecuada y racional para poder producir en cantidades incalculables por su extensión y en calidades que cubran las exigencias de los mercados internacionales.

Hoy por hoy, somos un país rodeado de tierras y enclaustrado en nuestra propia geografía. Este es un factor determinante que gravita en nuestro verdadero despegue económico y social, pero estamos seguros que la voz del pueblo boliviano, en su justo derecho y anhelo que le asiste, despertará la conciencia de los países hermanos de América y del mundo, que no ha de permitir la asfixia de un país que, dotado de la naturaleza, se ve privado de su puerto marítimo.

Bolivia, en la etapa actual, multiplica su desarrollo económico, asegurando para el hombre boliviano el destino ansiosamente buscado, que dentro del moderno contexto social, se inspira en el aprovechamiento compartido de la conversión en riqueza de los bienes naturales abundantes en la flora, fauna y minerales. La prodigalidad terrena ha dado a Bolivia la mano bienhechora, tanto como la prueba a su estirpe, que deviene de grandes imperios y gestas emancipadoras, experiencia espartana con la que afortunadamente el boliviano responde perseverante y titánico al reto en las profundidades de la tierra, en la maraña selvática y en las excelsas altitudes. Los sistemas de planificación nacional en Bolivia, se van consolidando poco a poco en estos últimos años a pesar de los cambios económicos producidos. Los planes y programas están demostrando su verdadero valor en la creciente complejidad del desarrollo, sobre todo cuanto están sometidos a evaluaciones y revisiones periódicas. Sin embargo, el proceso de un desarrollo nacional óptimo sólo podrá conseguirse plenamente mediante un proceso multinacional.



Bolivia, que convertido en país exportador de crudo, viene a ser uno de los favorecidos en la actual situación económica mundial y que por ende ha aumentado considerablemente sus reservas en divisas, ha adoptado últimamente planes que favorecen al desarrollo agrícola, consiguiéndose una economía más equilibrada.

Como otros países de América Latina, que disponen de grandes zonas agrícolas que se encuentran escasamente pobladas, Bolivia ha incluido programas de desarrollo rural integrado en sus estrategias de desarrollo, con la finalidad primordial de reducir la pobreza rural, creando más empleo y ayudando a la población a aumentar su capacidad de autodependencia.

La permanente preocupación de mi gobierno por elevar el nivel nutricional en nuestro país está claramente reflejada en la formulación de planes y políticas de alimentación y nutrición, cumpliéndose las recomendaciones hechas por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación en 1974. Bolivia, a partir de 1975, aprobó planes de alimentación y nutrición.

En la actualidad puede observarse en mi país Bolivia, una marcada tendencia muy alentadora por cierto, dirigida a aumentar las inversiones agrícolas con fondos públicos enderezados a abrir la frontera agrícola, a la expansión de las comarcas de regadíos y a la dotación de carreteras y otros elementos infraestructurales. Se están desplegando también serios esfuerzos en el plano nacional para aumentar la provisión del crédito a los agricultores mediante un mayor empleo del sistema de créditos supervisados. Se está dando amplia prioridad a las carreteras de acceso para hacer retroceder las fronteras de la agricultura.

Confiamos en que la FAO y el FIDA, próximo a crearse, complementarán sus labores en favor de la atención que necesitan nuestros países. Apoyamos también el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que tan valiosos servicios viene ofreciendo a mi país.

El Gobierno Boliviano apoya el nivel del Presupuesto, los dos proyectos de resoluciones sobre cuenta en suspenso y fondo para evitar las pérdidas en alimentos, así como todas las propuestas hechas por el Director General, en particular el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y la Descentralización, mediante oficinas propias de la FAO en nuestros respectivos países.

En los últimos meses, como Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano, yo he tenido el honor de representar a la región en las actividades comunes que se llevan a cabo en el seno del Grupo de los "77", en asociación de nuestros hermanos del Tercer Mundo. Los Latinoamericanos estamos al servicio de la FAO. Nos esforzaremos por el fortalecimiento de nuestra Organización y porque en la FAO América Latina ocupe la posición destacada y decorosa que merece. Como latinoamericano, yo me siento muy complacido por el reconocimiento que se ha hecho a la labor cumplida por mi amigo y colega Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, quien dejará, dentro de pocos días, el cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Señor Presidente: Bolivia confía en el porvenir venturoso de todas las poblaciones del mundo. Queremos que nadie - ni aún en el más apartado rincón del universo - padezca el flagelo del hambre. Somos fraternalmente solidarios con los pueblos de todas las regiones. Pedimos que todos los gobiernos presten su decidido apoyo a la FAO con el propósito de mejorar las condiciones de vida de la humanidad.

Ese es el requerimiento cordial y respetuoso que hago a esta Conferencia, en nombre del Gobierno de mi país, nación lejana en la distancia, pero muy cerca de todos ustedes en la lucha por el bienestar de todos los pueblos.

Será imposible conseguir una paz estable, mientras los pueblos no tengan pan.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PREMIERE PARTIE

PESTEUTCTO INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE I

18. Amendments to the FAO Constitution and General Rules of the Organization - Increase of Council Seats
18. Amendements à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général de l'Organisation - Augmentation du nombre des sièges du Conseil
18. Enmiendas a la Constitución de la FAO y al Reglamento General de la Organización - Aumento del número de puestos del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I think we now have to move to voting on the increase in number of Council seats so please stay seated. Will you now take up the Report contained in Document C 77/REP/1 which we have received from Commission III.

Paragraphs 1 to 3 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 3 sont approuvés

Los párrafo"s 1 a 3 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 4

PARAGRAPHE 4

PÁRRAFO 4

CHAIRMAN: Before proceeding to the voting of the resolution, I would like to have the Secretary-General make an elaboration.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Seulement pour rappeler qu'en conformité à l'article 20. 1 de l'Acte consultatif. la Conférence peut à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés, amender le présent Acte. Cette majorité doit néanmoins être supérieure à la moitié du nombre total des Etats Membres de l'Organisation. Il est donc très important que les délégations soient présentes pour voter, sans cela nous risquons d'être obligés d'avoir un Conseil de 42 membres.

La Résolution qui est donc devant vous porte un amendement à la Constitution ainsi qu'au Règlement général de l'Organisation.

Nous allons appeler maintenant les pays puisqu'il s'agit d'un vote par appel nominal, et nous devons avoir les deux tiers des suffrages exprimés pour que cette Résolution passe.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: I will ask the the Secretary General to read the results of the voting.



Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETTINS  
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

No. 1

Vote on Amendments to Article V-1 of the Constitution and  
Vote sur Rule XXII-1(b) GRO  
Votación para

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
					Total brought forward Report Suma anterior	30				Total brought forward Report Suma anterior	60			
Afghanistan	X				Ghana	X				Niger	X			
Albania					Greece					Nigeria	X			
Algeria	X				Grenada					Norway				
Angola					Guatemala					Oman				
Argentina					Guinea	X				Pakistan	X			
Australia	X				Guinea-Bissau	X				Panama	X			
Austria	X				Guyana					Papua New Guinea	X			
Bahamas					Haiti					Paraguay				
Bahrain					Honduras					Peru				
Bangladesh	X				Hungary	X				Philippines	X			
Barbados	X				Iceland					Poland	X			
Belgium	X				India					Portugal	X			
Benin	X				Indonesia	X				Qatar				
Bolivia	X				Iran					Romania				
Botswana	X				Iraq	X				Rwanda				
Brazil	X				Ireland	X				Sao Tome and Principe	X			
Bulgaria					Israel	X				Saudi Arabia	X			
Burma	X				Italy					Senegal	X			
Burundi	X				Ivory Coast	X				Seychelles				
Cameroon	X				Jamaica	X				Sierra Leone	X			
Canada	X				Japan	X				Somalia	X			
Cape Verde					Jordan	X				Spain	X			
Cent. African Emp.					Kenya	X				Sri Lanka				
Chad	X				Korea (Republic of)	X				Sudan	X			
Chile	X				Kuwait	X				Surinam				
China	X				Laos	X				Swaziland	X			
Colombia	X				Lebanon					Sweden	X			
Comoros					Lesotho	X				Switzerland	X			
Congo	X				Liberia	X				Syria	X			
Costa Rica					Libya	X				Tanzania	X			
Cuba	X				Luxembourg					Thailand	X			
Cyprus	X				Madagascar					Togo	X			
Czechoslovakia	X				Malawi	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Democratic Kampuchea					Malaysia	X				Tunisia				
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	X				Maldives					Turkey	X			
Denmark	X				Mali	X				Uganda	X			
Djibouti					Malta	X				United Arab Emirates				
Dominican Rep.					Mauritania	X				United Kingdom	X			
Ecuador	X				Mauritius	X				U.S. of America	X			
Egypt	X				Mexico					Upper Volta	X			
El Salvador					Mongolia	X				Uruguay	X			
Ethiopia	X				Morocco	X				Venezuela	X			
Fiji	X				Mozambique					Viet Nam	X			
Finland					Namibia					Yemen Arab Republic				
France					Nepal	X				Yemen (People's Dem. Rep. of)	X			
Gabon					Netherlands	X				Yugoslavia	X			
Gambia					New Zealand	X				Zaire	X			
Germany (Fed. Rep. of)	X				Nicaragua					Zambia	X			
	30					60					95			

Session of the Conference  
Sesión de la Conferencia  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

SHOW OF HANDS VOTING  
☐ VOTE A MAIN LEVEE  
VOTACION A MANO ALZADA

ROLL CALL VOTING  
☐ APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on  
Vote sur  
Votación por  
1st Amendments to Article V-1 of the Constitution and Rule XXII-1(b) GRO

1 Number of votes cast  
Nombre de suffrages exprimés ..... 95  
Número de votos emitidos

4 Votes against  
Voix contre ..... 0  
Votos en contra

2 Majority required  
Majorité requise ..... 73  
Mayoría requerida

5 Abstentions  
Abstentions ..... 0  
Abstenciones

3 Votes for  
Voix pour ..... 95  
Votos favorables

6 No reply  
Aucune réponse ..... 45  
Ninguna respuesta

Adopted  
☒ Adoptée  
Aceptada

Rejected  
☐ Repoussée  
Rechazada

22.11.77  
Date  
Fecha

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

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

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

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

Paragraphe 4, including Resolución, adoptedd

Le paragraphe 4, y compris la resolution, est adopte

El párrafo 4, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragrph 5 approved

Le paragraphe 5 est approuve

El parrafo 5 es aprobado

Fifth Report of the General Committee

Cinquième rapport du Bureau

Quinto informe del Comité General

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je vais donc lire la première section du document C 77/LIM/40) qui a été distribué cet après midi et qui comprend le cinquième rapport du Bureau. Vous y verrez que le Bureau avait déjà étudié la question des élections au Conseil sur la base de la résolution que vous venez d'adopter pour gagner du temps, augmentation du nombre de sièges au Conseil.

La Conférence ayant adopté le rapport de la Commission III concernant l'augmentation du nombre de sièges au Conseil et leur répartition, elle devra aussi se prononcer sur la durée du mandat des sept membres supplémentaires.

Un siège supplémentaire sera attribué à chacune, des régions suivantes: Asie et Extrême-Orient, Europe, Amérique latine, et Proche-Orient.

Trois sièges supplémentaires seront attribués à la région Afrique.

Le Bureau a examiné la question des dates du mandat de chaque siège supplémentaire, et a décidé de recommander que la Conférence fixe les périodes suivantes respectivement pour chacun des trois sièges supplémentaires attribués à l'Afrique: novembre 1977 - 31 décembre 1978; novembre 1977 - novembre 1979; et novembre 1977 au 31 décembre 1980. L'Afrique serait donc représentée par un siège supplémentaire à chacune de ces périodes.

En ce qui concerne le siège supplémentaire qui sera attribué à chuncue des régions: Asie, Extrême-Orient, Europe, Amérique latine, et Proche-Orient, le Bureau a procédé à un tirage au sort pour fixer les dates des mandats respectifs. Il est recommandé que la Conférence adopte les résultats de ce tirage au sort qui ont été les suivants:

Siège supplémentaire pour l'Asie et 1 'Extrême-Orient: de novembre 1977 au 31 décembre 1978 (C'est la période d'un an);

siège supplémentaire pour l'Europe: de novembre 1977 au 31 décembre 1980 (C'est la période de deux ans);

siège supplémentaire pour l'Amérique latine: de novembre 1977 au 31 décembre 1980 (C'est la période de 3 ans)

siège supplémentaire pour le Proche-Orient: de novembre 1977 à novembre 1979.

En vertu-des dispositions de l'Article 22. 4 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les deux Etats Membres d'Afrique et d'Asie-Extrême-Orient, désignés par les mandats expirant au 31 décembre 1978, c'est-à-dire la première période d'un an, seront rééligibles pour la période allant du 1er janvier 1979 à novembre 1981.

Avant de continuer la deuxième section de ce rapport, je voudrais attirer l'attention de la Conférence sur le fait que demain matin vous trouverez dans vos casiers un document qui porte le sigle C 77/LIM/41, qui donnera de façon compréhensible tous les renseignements sur les élections au Conseil, ainsi que le formulaire pour le dépôt des candidatures. Donc, le formulaire de dépôt des candidatures n'est pas séparé, c'est l'Appendice B. du document C 77/LIM/41.

Je rappelle également que le dépôt de ces candidatures doit se faire, vous l'avez déjà décidé, avant 18 heures, jeudi 24, dans mon Bureau.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to this section? If there are no objections I will consider this section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

I ask the Secretary-General to proceed with the second part of the report.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La deuxième section du rapport du Bureau se lit comme suit: "Hommage à M. G. BULA HOYOS,

Le Bureau a décidé de rendre hommage à M. G. BULA HOYOS, Président indépendant du Conseil sortant, et propose à la Conférence d'adopter le projet de résolution suivant:

La Conférence, considérant que le mandat de M. G. BULA HOYOS, Président indépendant du Conseil depuis novembre 1973, vient à expiration au terme de la dix-neuvième session de la Conférence, notant que le Président indépendant sortant a été étroitement et activement associé aux travaux de la FAO depuis 1959,

1. Le remercie sincèrement pour les services inestimables qu'il a rendus à l'Organisation et en particulier au Conseil durant les quatre années de son mandat;

2. Exprime à M. G. BULA HOYOS sa profonde gratitude, et lui adresse ses vœux les plus chaleureux.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections to the second part of the report of the General Committee I will consider this section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

S. ANDERSEN (UNDP/UNICEF): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the FAO Conference on behalf of the Administrator of UNDP. At the same time, I have been asked to speak on behalf of the Executive Director of UNICEF. I believe that the fact that I am representing both organizations has important significance, and is but one example of how we are moving to integrate development activities within the United Nations system.

Mr. Morse and Mr. Labouisse have asked me to convey to the Director-General, Dr. Saouma, their warmest good wishes and their determination to further strengthen and develop the bonds between our Organizations. The goals of FAO, UNICEF and UNDP are the same, namely, to help improve the standard of living of the peoples of the developing countries. While we may on occasion have to respond to different priorities as set by our governing bodies, we in the secretariats have a common cause to serve the peoples of the developing countries. I know that both Mr. Morse and Mr. Labouisse feel just as strongly and in the same determined way as Dr. Saouma, that we must bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, and the United Nations family must gear itself to respond more efficiently to this challenge.

I need not tell you that the decisions that you take at this Conference will have an important impact on development issues and will be fully reflected on the governing bodies of UNDP and UNICEF.

Before dealing with some of the measures which are being introduced to improve the development cycle, I would like to bring you up to date on the results of the recent UNDP pledging conference. Mr. Morse feels sincerely that the 1975-76 UNDP financial crisis is now a thing of the past. As a reflection of the renewed confidence Member Governments have in the Programme, a record level of \$570 million- was pledged for 1978 earlier this month. While this is slightly short of the 14 percent goal approved by the General Assembly, we do have the resources to allow the Programme to move steadily forward and thus regain some of its lost momentum.

Let me tell you something about some of the measures planned by both UNDP and UNICEF.

At its, 24th Session last June, the Governing Council of UNDP initiated a process designed to sharpen the Programme's role and activities with a view to the fullest and most effective use of its capabilities. The Council's debate has provided a solid foundation for further progress that will enable the Programme to respond effectively to the evolving development needs of the developing countries. The Council adopted an important decision which stated that the Administrator should "in full cooperation with the Participating and Executing Agencies, further develop existing functions of planning, appraisal and evaluation of operations of this kind carried out under UNDP programmes, to consolidate them into a comprehensive system of analysis and feedback, so as to ensure the optimal use of resources and a flexible system of programme management suited to each particular circumstance".

The Council also reiterated the "need to ensure an integrated and inter-disciplinary approach to our operational activities, particularly in the field". It directed the Administrator to consult closely with the Executing Agencies to improve the country and inter-country programming process, including, in particular, the implementation phase where problems had been encountered in the past. It also asked his collaboration with the Agencies to ensure further improvement of coordination at the field level, with a view to strengthening the impact of the coopération provided by the United Nations system. . . taking into account the role of the Resident Representative as leading partner within the United Nations system at the country level. . . ". Along similar lines, he was authorized to consult with the Agencies on efforts to expand, where Governments so desire, the country programming framework. In the same decision the Council clarified the Programme's funding role for technical cooperation within the United Nations system and appealed to governments to help maintain the coherence of the system.

The Council reconfirmed the 1970 consensus and advocated that, wherever feasible, existing resources should be coordinated within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme.

The Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session, endorsed the decisions of the Governing Council, stressing, in particular, the necessary steps to strengthen agency cooperation with the United Nations field office network, including efforts to ensure an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to operational activities.

A number of important steps have already been taken to improve the system's efficiency in these respects. Last month an Agency Task Force was established at UNDP Headquarters on a trial basis in which representatives from ILO, WHO and UNESCO are participating and which will soon be joined by representatives from UNIDO and the United Nations office of Technical Cooperation. The Director-General has indicated that he will send a special representative when matters of interest to FAO are discussed. The task force is already providing valuable sectoral guidance on policies and procedures of potential use for the system as a whole, and is being consulted on measures to ensure full participation of the agencies in country programming. At the recent meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board, the Administrator strongly emphasized the importance of the fullest involvement of the agencies in country programming in the field, making maximum use of agency personnel available in the country and in the region. In this connection, we have noted the concern expressed by the FAO Programme Committee to ensure the utilization of the potentials of the partner Organizations in country programming. Agreement has been reached with the Director-General of WHO - which is the agency with the largest technical assistance programme within its own budget - to undertake, again on an experimental basis, a joint programming exercise designed to combine the impact of UNDP and WHO resources in strengthening external support to the health sector in selected developing countries.

Other Agencies and Organizations including FAO have been invited to associate themselves with this exercise and some - among them ILO and UNESCO - have expressed keen interest in collaborating. In addition, UNDP has also proposed to the agencies that other experimental joint programming exercises be undertaken with respect to the 20 or more country programmes schedules to be submitted to the UNDP Governing Council for approval in June 1979. We have asked that a few test cases be identified from among these for expanding, with the approval of the government concerned, the country programming framework to include the inputs of the regular programmes of the agencies involved.

In addition, upon the initiative of UNICEF, the four major voluntary funding agencies of the United Nations system, that is, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP have been holding close consultations during the past year in order to enhance collaboration among them, with particular emphasis on joint programming and cooperative or complementary projects assisted by these agencies at the field level.

The Governing Council of UNDP has also attached increased importance to the evaluation of the developmental activities financed by UNDP on a sectoral, sub-sectoral and subject matter basis. This emphasis is of course not intended to replace the continuing evaluation of individual projects, both during implementation and after their completion. It is intended rather to analyze in depth the experience of the entire system in important fields in which we have been active for a number of years, so that the experience gained and the lessons learned can be systematically assessed and fed into future programming and project identification, preparation and implementation and hence improve the quality and impact of the programme. In cooperation with the Agencies we are now preparing a two-year evaluation programme for the years 1978 and 1979 within the context of the two umbrella themes the transfer, adaptation, generation and deployment of technology generally and the relationship of the programme to the requirements of the neediest sections of the population.

This evaluation work is being carried out in full collaboration with the specialized agencies which are of course solely responsible for the technical support for the, work at the meetings of the Programme Working Group and the Inter-Agency Consultative Board last month.

FAO and UNDP are now close to finalizing detailed arrangements to undertake collaboratively an evaluation of our activities in agricultural training with special emphasis on the impact the trainees at all levels are having on agricultural production, especially that of small-scale farmers. This evaluation would build on the valuable work already done by FAO and reported in the Review of Field Programmes for 1972-73 and for 1974-75, by undertaking in-depth analyses in selected countries. In this connection, we have taken note of the remarks contained in the report of the FAO Programme Committee to this Conference, to the effect that an important criterion for assessing training activities should be the extent to which its impact is felt at the "grass-roots" level; and that training should not be seen in isolation from other factors bearing on development. UNESCO and ILO who are also active in this field are being invited to participate in the exercise, and UNDP will contribute \$40 000 to the work in 1978. We hope that this will be the first of a number of similar exercises within the area of agricultural support institutions, which it is generally recognized need substantial strengthening in many countries in order to ensure that the improved agricultural technology available is more effectively used by the agricultural producer.

UNDP and UNICEF have been pleased to note the emphasis which has been placed by the distinguished Director-General of FAO on anti-poverty programmes, especially activities designed to improve the productivity, income and well-being of the small-scale farmer, an emphasis which is stressed in many of the documents before this Conference. This strategy is in harmony with those adopted by a number of other agencies such as the Primary Health Care Strategy which WHO and UNICEF are supporting, the Basic Needs Strategy of the ILO, and the poverty-oriented rural development approach which was endorsed last year by the ACC and which is being carried out by the member agencies of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development in which FAO, UNDP and UNICEF all participate; and for which FAO will be the lead agency in 1978.

It is also in accord with the concept of "basic services for children", which has been the keystone of UNICEF's work since 1975. The main objective is to reach the largely unreached and underserved children and families in the villages and poor urban districts through services at the grass roots level in the fields of maternal and child health, safe water supply, family food production and nutrition, responsible parenthood, literacy and basic education, along with simple measures to lighten the daily tasks of women and girls and improve their position in the community. There is need for governments to spearhead and support development of such services- with understanding, investment, assistance with training and in some cases adjustment of administrative structures.

A further aspect of action against poverty is the Year of the Child, which the UN General Assembly has proclaimed for 1979, and for which UNICEF has been designated as lead agency. Already many governments and non-governmental organizations are preparing for the Year. The Year is intended for all children. Observance of the Year is not confined to the developing countries but will be worldwide. It is expected that in industrialized countries a considerable amount of attention will be given to the special needs of their own children. It is hoped that 1979 will be a Year for both advocacy and action with regard to children's concerns. It should be a year of reflection, assessment, comparison of national goals and national achievements and planning and commitments for the strengthening and extension of services in the following years. To this end, UNICEF is providing from its own budget the sum of \$3 million to help developing countries identify priorities for national programmes and to improve the situation of their own children.



The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to be sponsored by the FAO in 1979, will provide governments with another excellent opportunity to review experience in this field, to identify constraints impeding rural development where these exist, and to explore new and better ways of improving the conditions of life in rural populations. UNDP and UNICEF are ready to collaborate fully with FAO in the preparations for the Conference and during its deliberations. Another subject related to the alleviation of poverty is nutrition. Following upon the recommendations made by the World Food Conference, UNDP and UNICEF have been collaborating actively with FAO, WHO, the World Bank, the UN and other agencies concerned, to develop the most appropriate institutional arrangements to deal with the subject within the UN system. As you know, these discussions have resulted in the establishment of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition, and its Advisory Group on Nutrition.

UNDP and UNICEF enthusiastically support vigorous efforts of the Director-General of FAO to mobilize international resources to assist governments in reducing post-harvest losses of food crops, since this is one of the most promising ways of bringing about a rapid increase in the availability of food, particularly for low income and vulnerable groups. The Administrator of UNDP offers his full collaboration to the Director-General to assist in mobilizing additional resources and has already offered to make modest funds available to FAO from UNDP's Programme Reserve to carry out exploratory missions in some selected countries in order to identify needs for technical and/or capital assistance and to develop additional information where this is needed as a basis for the assistance. The valuable work already carried out by FAO and by other institutions, such as the Group for Assistance for the Storage of Grains in Africa, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Group for Agricultural Development in Latin America, might be a useful starting point for this work. An important component of the Basic Services Concept is the use of technologies appropriate to the community for improving conditions with respect to food, water, sanitation and employment particularly that of women. UNICEF has helped to establish a village technology centre in Kenya which is helping governments of developing countries in all parts of the world in the field and UNDP is supporting a similar centre at Las Gaviotas in Colombia. FAO's proposal to increase substantially the resources available for the reduction of post-harvest losses of food could provide important impetus in this work.

Substantial additional resources are expected to become available to increase food production in developing countries in the longer term as a result of the establishment of the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD), which is now imminent. Like FAO, UNDP and UNICEF look forward to working closely with this important new agency of the UN system. Both organizations are already supporting projects which have identified needs and opportunities for new investment in food production, food preservation and the utilization of food. UNDP will be prepared to collaborate with FAO in financing the identification and preparation of projects which might lead to investment by IFAD as well as cooperating in their appraisal, if this is required by IFAD.

I mentioned at the beginning that UNDP-financed activities were severely curtailed during the last two years because of the financial difficulties encountered by UNDP. FAO is the largest executing agency for UNDP financed projects and consequently its programmes were severely affected by this situation. I am glad to say that as a result of the generous cooperation of all governments, and stringent management measures, we have been successful in correcting the situation from a financial point of view. The measures taken in 1975 to curtail delivery inevitably took time to have an impact and the slow-down in project implementation which has predictably occurred will result in some under-delivery in 1977 against approved project budgets. The Administrator has therefore instructed the Resident Representatives to ensure a level of project preparation and approval commensurate with the improved financial situation. He has also initiated a review of the pipeline of new projects for each country and will expedite project identification and preparation, including the fielding of programming missions, in cooperation with the Agencies.

One of the reasons for the recent financial difficulty was of course the rapidly escalating cost of experts. Projects in the field of agricultural and rural development often provide particularly appropriate opportunities to deploy volunteers; and a larger number of UN Volunteers is associated with FAO projects, actually more in FAO projects than other organization. The UN Volunteers is able to recruit technically well-qualified people, and stands ready to support FAO field projects whenever possible and appropriate. In this connexion, a number of countries with which UNICEF is collaborating have found that the use of responsible volunteers or part-time workers chosen from the community and trained locally is particularly beneficial in fields such as health, home economics and agricultural extension.

There is no doubt in our minds that the focus for our joint and cooperative activities must be at the field level. As you know, the first FAO country representatives have been appointed in a number of countries to replace the Senior Agricultural Advisers/FAO country representatives, formerly financed jointly by UNDP and FAO. The Administrator of UNDP and the Director-General of FAO have agreed on arrangements to ensure the closest collaboration between the FAO representatives and those of other

agencies with the Resident Representatives, so as to ensure that the utilization of the scarce resources available within the UN system to assist countries is conceived and planned in an integrated, rather than piecemeal, way and that the resources are applied in the most effective way possible. I am confident that the FAO Country Representatives and the UNDP Resident Representatives will work closely together to achieve these aims. The examples of joint activity which I have cited are, I hope, sufficient to illustrate the wide range of opportunities which are before us.

Finally, I should like to mention the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to be held in Buenos Aires next year. I believe that, in full collaboration with our agency partners and particularly with FAO, we are now making good progress together through the Inter-Agency Task Force established for the Conference which includes the Regional Commissions and the Regional Development Banks. We have studied the valuable review of TCDC contained in the "Review of Field Programmes 1976-77", and we note with satisfaction that in the preparatory work for the Conference FAO has taken important steps in recent months and that this Conference has passed an important resolution on the subject of TCDC and the Conference itself. The Director-General of FAO stated in the recent ACC meeting that FAO has prepared a document on the subject which we are sure will provide a significant contribution. The ideas contained in this document as well as in the other material submitted by the members of the IATF, will be incorporated in the basic documentation for the Conference and particularly in the plan of action which will be the primary document before it.

In closing, may I take this opportunity to convey to this distinguished Conference the commitment both of the Administrator of UNDP and of all of us who are part of the UNDP, and that of the Executive Director of UNICEF, and all of those who are privileged to be part of that great organization, to cooperate fully with FAO and all other elements of the United Nations family in order to ensure that, together, we can intensify and accelerate the efforts of the United Nations community to support the needs of developing countries to achieve self-reliance and a new international economic order.

M. A. WININGA (Haute-Volta): La délégation voltaïque voudrait se joindre à toutes celles qui l'ont précédée à cette tribune pour vous féliciter de votre élection comme Président de la 19ème session de notre Organisation. Nos félicitations s'adressent également aux vice-présidents et aux pays qui font leur première entrée à la FAO. En admettant ces derniers au sein de cette auguste assemblée, c'est un peu une de leurs faims que cette conférence a contribué à assouvir: la faim d'être reconnu comme un égal et un partenaire de dialogue. Pour l'un de ces pays plus particulièrement, je veux parler de la Namibie, la décision de la FAO revêt une importance et une signification toutes particulières, et il faut espérer que notre acte lui ouvrira la porte à une reconnaissance plus complète et plus large.

Le Directeur général de notre Organisation a proposé à la méditation des Etats Membres un thème dont les délégations qui n'ont déjà précédé ont souligné la pertinence; l'investissement dans le secteur agricole, aux plans national et international.

Pour la Haute-Volta, l'investissement dans le secteur agricole constitue la première des priorités. Il ne peut du reste en être autrement pour un pays dont la population, récemment évaluée à un peu plus de 6 millions d'habitants, compte 95 pour cent de paysans, du travail desquels tout le monde attend à la fois la satisfaction de ce besoin élémentaire qu'est manger et manger à sa faim, mais aussi qu'il procure les devises nécessaires à notre développement. Ceci explique que l'essentiel de nos projets de développement, du point de vue de leur nature comme du point de vue des niveaux de financement consentis, concerne, à quelques exceptions près, le secteur agricole.

Pour mener à bien les opérations de développement agricole, notre pays a mis sur pied des structures à caractère régional: les organismes régionaux de développement, au nombre de onze, dont la vocation est de promouvoir le développement intégré de chaque région sur la base des possibilités que l'on y décèle, des besoins des populations, et en s'efforçant de faire participer ces dernières à l'amélioration de leur propre condition. Ces organismes encadrent et animent le monde rural, lui fournissent " les facteurs de production, et participent à la commercialisation et à l'effort de stockage.

Il faut ajouter à ces structures l'autorité des aménagements des Vallées des Voltas, créée en 1975, et plus spécialement chargée d'aménager les terres libérées de l'onchocercose. Les vallées des Voltas sont en effet parmi les zones les plus fertiles du pays; malheureusement le terrible fléau que représente l'assèchement des rivières en a empêché jusque-là l'exploitation. Le Gouvernement, soutenu par de nombreux pays amis, s'est donné pour objectif de préparer les terres libérées de l'onchocercose, d'y mettre en place les infrastructures jugées indispensables à leur colonisation (telles que routes, écoles, dispensaires, etc), d'y installer des paysans des zones surpeuplées et par conséquent moins fertiles, ) de les faire encadrer et de les organiser.

L'objectif visé à travers ces structures c'est d'atteindre très rapidement non seulement l'autosuffisance alimentaire, mais encore un niveau de production qui permette l'exportation. Pour l'horizon 1981, nous envisageons un niveau de production de 1 500 000 tonnes environ de céréales. Ce chiffre, somme toute modeste, ne représente qu'un minimum, le minimum sans lequel nous serions obligés d'importer pour satisfaire nos besoins alimentaires, semenciers et autres. Il est bien évident que notre pays pourrait produire plus, bien plus: nous avons les terres pour cela, et nous avons pour les travailler des hommes dont le courage et la ténacité ne sont plus à démontrer. Seulement le courage et la ténacité sont réduits presque à néant du fait d'une nature particulièrement difficile. Cette année encore, la campagne agricole se trouve compromise en partie du fait de l'interruption précoce de la saison des pluies. Si le déficit prévisible n'atteint pas un niveau catastrophique, il restera tout de même grandement préoccupant, pour le gouvernement. Mais en plus du déficit céréalier, il faut noter que l'insuffisance pluviométrique aura eu pour autres conséquences d'empêcher le renouvellement des pâturages et des nappes aquifères. Dans peu de mois, la situation ne manquera pas d'être pénible pour les hommes comme pour le cheptel, qui bien avant de représenter notre premier produit d'exportation, constitue, pour une large fraction de nos populations, celles du nord du pays notamment, la première et seule richesse, l'unique garantie par conséquent de leur dignité.

Il existe bien des perspectives, de solution, qui permettraient d'éviter le renouvellement de telles situations et les angoisses qu'elles entraînent: la maîtrise de l'eau. Sans elle, les efforts consentis tant par le monde rural que par les autorités risquent de représenter sinon des investissements à fonds perdus, du moins des investissements qui n'atteignent pas le maximum des résultats qu'on est en droit d'espérer. C'est pourquoi mon pays a prévu un vaste programme hydraulique comprenant: un volet "hydraulique villageoise" et un volet "aménagements hydro-agricoles".

Le projet d'hydraulique villageoise déjà en exécution vise à doter 5 000 villages d'un puits chacun. Le montant total du financement - auquel mon pays a consacré cette année 650 millions de francs CFA - dépasse les 6 milliards de francs CFA. Un inventaire aussi complet que possible des ressources en eau souterraine doit compléter et appuyer ce projet et nous bénéficions pour sa réalisation de l'appui de plusieurs pays.

Le volet aménagement hydro-agricole comprend la construction de 40 petits barrages en terre (deux ont été achevés cette année et deux autres sont en cours de réalisation), la réalisation de grands barrages dont la vocation agricole pourrait se doubler d'une vocation électrique, et l'aménagement de 5 000 ha d'aval de barrage par an. Nous sommes convaincus que c'est la voie vers la réalisation des objectifs du gouvernement qui sont:

- assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire
- procurer des revenus au monde paysan et à l'Etat
- assurer du travail à l'immense fraction de la population qui, sans cela, serait condamnée à l'exode et à l'émigration.

Je n'en veux pour preuve que les conclusions de l'étude récemment achevée par une société d'études française concernant le site et la réalisation d'un barrage sur la Volta Blanche, dans le centre-est du pays. L'aménagement des 30 000 ha de surface irrigable, que la construction de ce barrage permettrait, accroîtrait la production voltaïque de:

50 000	t	supplémentaires de sorgho, mil et maïs
23 000	t	d'arachides
22 000	t	de coton
60 000	t	de riz
45 000	t	de sucre
22 000	t	de niébé
6 000	t	de tomates
et 1 200	t	de haricots verts.

C'est aussi l'assurance de 50 000 emplois, davantage peut-être, quand on sait que l'ensemble des familles que le projet est susceptible de regrouper formerait une population d'environ 300 000 personnes.

Il faut savoir qu'en 1976 la production voltaïque a été de:

1 200 000	t	de sorgho, mil et maïs
87 000	t	d'arachides
55 000	t	de coton
40 000	t	de riz
4 000	t	de sucre

On aura remarqué que la production de riz attendue de la réalisation de ce barrage (60 000 t) est égale à 12 pour cent de la production nationale en 1976 et que celle du coton (notre 2ème source d'apport de devises après le bétail) représente 40 pour cent au moins de la même production nationale pour la même année.

Je ne m'arrêterai pas à toutes les possibilités qui pourraient ainsi s'ouvrir à un pays en développement grâce à de telles réalisations: la culture du blé, par exemple, céréales pour laquelle mon pays a, pour quelque 13 000 et 15 000 t en 1975 et 1976, dépensé pour plus d'un milliard de francs CFA; ou celle du soja dont on connaît l'intérêt pour l'alimentation humaine et animale au sujet de laquelle nous avons déjà les expérimentations les plus prometteuses. J'aime à penser seulement que le FIDA trouvera dans des projets de cette nature la justification de sa création et des espérances que cette création a suscitées.

Un précédent orateur, le distingué représentant du Danemark je crois, a dit que les pays en voie de développement avaient des ressources inutilisées. Je le crois volontiers. Mais il n'est pas superflu de préciser que ce sont des ressources que les pays en voie de développement ne peuvent pas toujours utiliser, Faute, tout simplement, de moyens. Ces moyens, nombre de pays plus développés nous les ont souvent apportés. Il est souhaitable, indispensable même dirais-je, que cela se poursuive et s'intensifie, si l'on veut réellement instaurer ce nouvel ordre économique que nous appelons tous de nos vœux, comme garant de la justice et de la paix internationales.

Il est bien évident pour nous tous ici qu'investir dans le secteur agricole, c'est assurer l'avenir. Au plan national comme au plan international. C'est pourquoi ma délégation se joint à celles qui l'ont déjà précédée ici pour apporter le soutien de notre pays au programme que le Directeur général propose. Sur ce programme, que l'on me permette toutefois de faire quelques observations.

La première concerne la prévention des pertes alimentaires. Que le problème soit important, qu'il doive être appréhendé de manière globale (nécessité d'envisager ensemble les aspects production, stockage, circuits de commercialisation, prix, transport, etc. ), qu'il soit urgent d'y apporter rapidement des solutions, c'est ce que l'on a déjà dit; je n'insisterai donc pas dessus.

Ce sur quoi je voudrais attirer l'attention c'est sur la nécessité d'une part d'éviter la mise en place de structures trop compliquées et sophistiquées, peu en rapport avec les réalités dans les pays en voie de développement. Par exemple, en matière de stockage, si les grandes unités sont valables lorsqu'il s'agit de stocks nationaux à gestion étatique, elles ne le sont plus lorsque l'on descend au niveau du village et des paysans dont il importe tout autant de préserver les récoltes.

C'est pourquoi nous pensons que l'existence de structures légères de stockage au niveau villageois doit mériter toute notre attention en raison de son caractère économique, mais aussi en raison de son impact psychologique sur le village. C'est pourquoi aussi nous pensons qu'une action pour la protection des récoltes en direction des masses rurales et qui serait soutenue par les mass media représente un investissement de premier choix en raison de l'importance du public qui peut être ainsi touché. Compte tenu de ce que notre pays a pu expérimenter déjà en matière de radio rurale, dont le programme s'étend de la campagne pour la protection des récoltes, j'estime qu'une attention spéciale doit être accordée au rôle des mass media, notamment dans le programme de prévention des pertes alimentaires.

Ma deuxième observation concerne l'élevage. Il nous a semblé - nous ne demandons qu'à être rassurés sur ce point - que le projet de programme ne fait pas suffisamment de place à l'élevage. Celui-ci représente cependant, pour de nombreuses populations, la source essentielle de nourriture; les rapports entre agriculture et élevage (besoins de la culture attelée pour ne citer que cela) tout autant que les perspectives de production de viande pour les prochaines années devraient inciter une organisation comme la notre à développer davantage ses activités dans ce domaine. Un pays comme la Haute-Volta aimerait voir la FAO orienter une attention plus particulière vers l'amélioration de l'élevage pour la production dans les pays en voie de développement, la mise en place d'unités d'alimentation pour le bétail, l'intensification des cultures fourragères, etc.

Toujours à propos de bétail et de viande, je voudrais émettre un souhait: que la FAO se penche sur les possibilités d'exportation de viande de nos pays vers certains pays développés. Ces pays invoquent, bien souvent, pour s'y opposer, des questions d'hygiène, l'existence d'épizooties, etc. Une étude sur les possibilités d'amélioration de la production animale permettrait à nos pays de valoriser notre cheptel et d'en faire une source de revenus capable d'alimenter notre développement.

J'en viens maintenant à la formation. C'est un problème auquel mon pays attache la plus grande importance. Si l'investissement dans le secteur agricole se limite aux financements et à la technique, on reste encore loin du compte, parce que le premier investissement et le meilleur est celui qui se fait dans l'homme, à travers les paysans ou leurs encadreurs. La formation est en effet la seule voie permettant à

des pays comme le mien de prendre en main leur propre développement et de limiter le recrutement d'une assistance technique dont d'autres - notamment le représentant des Etats-Unis, S. E. l'Ambassadeur Young-ont, devant cette assemblée, fait une proposition intéressante, celle de la formation d'un corps de volontaires. Il est souhaitable que la FAO se penche sur cette proposition.

Nous nous félicitons également du travail déjà accompli en matière de décentralisation et souhaitons qu'il puisse se poursuivre. Il permettra une meilleure appréhension des réalités locales ou régionales, et un dialogue plus dynamique et plus rapide. La limitation financière ne devrait pas constituer une raison de renoncer à cet objectif, mais plutôt seulement une raison de mieux programmer les étapes de sa réalisation. En tout cas ma délégation apporte un appui particulier aux propositions contenues dans la section 3. 4. du programme de travail et de budget.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, la Haute-Volta voudrait apporter son soutien aux objectifs définis par le Directeur général dans le programme à court terme. Si ce programme a pu apparaître comme un catalogue d'idées vagues, cette imprécision à notre sens tient moins dans la justesse des objectifs, des principes et des priorités qui y sont définis, que dans l'impossibilité de chiffrer maintenant la somme des efforts à accomplir, ni les étapes de leur accomplissement. Nous souscrivons plus particulièrement à tout ce qui est dit concernant la réduction des études et des réunions intéressantes bien des fois, comme le souligne le Directeur général, "pour ceux qui les exécutent mais beaucoup moins utiles pour les ministres et les dirigeants de n'importe quel pays en développement confronté aux problèmes réels et urgents de ses agriculteurs et des masses affamées qu'il faut nourrir".

Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués, excusez-moi de recourir pour terminer à une formule peut-être populaire et selon laquelle le bon esprit réside dans la marmite. Cela signifie que de la capacité de notre monde à résoudre les problèmes de faim et de malnutrition dépendent en tout premier lieu les chances d'établissement d'un nouvel ordre économique international juste et durable.

C'est bien du reste ce que le Directeur général exprimait encore à la soixante et onzième session du Conseil lorsqu'il déclarait: "La recherche de l'équité entre riches et pauvres, au niveau des nations comme des individus, n'aura guère de sens tant que le problème alimentaire mondial n'aura pas été résolu. . . Il est bien évident que le problème ne peut pas être résolu par des paroles, par des déclarations d'intentions, mais par des actes et des engagements, au niveau national comme international.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation souhaite que de cette dix-neuvième conférence sortent des décisions hardies, mais cependant réalistes, généreuses mais sans paternalisme, à la mesure de la faim de tant de millions d'hommes. Une fois de plus je puis vous assurer que notre Délégation s'efforcera d'apporter à nos débats sa modeste, mais loyale contribution.

O. LUCO ECHEVERPIA (Chile): Señor Presidente, señores delegados, señoras, señores:

En el nombre de mi Gobierno, en el de mi Delegación y en el mío propio, felicito a Ud, por su designación como Presidente de esta Conferencia. Con gran placer, hacemos extensivas nuestras congratulaciones a los demás distinguidos miembros de la Mesa.

Estamos seguros de que bajo su brillante dirección esta Conferencia realizará sus labores en forma altamente satisfactoria y alcanzará los mejores resultados.

Damos también nuestra bienvenida a aquellos nuevos Estados que han pasado a ser miembros de pleno derecho de la FAO, poniendo de manifiesto así el carácter de universalidad de la Organización.

Señor Presidente: En diversos foros internacionales y, sobre todo, en el seno de los órganos de la FAO, se ha evidenciado últimamente un ambiente de satisfacción y de alivio por los aumentos importantes, que se han registrado en la producción de alimentos en el mundo entero y, en consecuencia, por el mejoramiento sustancial de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Así, bien podemos decir que las circunstancias en que se reúne el 19º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO son muy distintas de aquellas que prevalecían cuando tuvo lugar la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación.

Sin embargo, también se han oído reiteradas voces que llaman a la cautela, que tienden a moderar un optimismo tal vez exagerado. Y estas voces tienen ciertamente un sólido fundamento.

Subsisten, en efecto, algunos factores negativos, que reclaman nuestra atención.

Por una parte, aun es imposible determinar las causas reales del mejoramiento que registra la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación. Concretamente, parece del todo imposible determinar si estos resultados son debidos a las políticas de desarrollo agrícola o son meramente la consecuencia afortunada de condiciones meteorológicas excepcionalmente favorables en un sentido global. Si el factor determinante fuera este último, cabría tener presente la delicada vulnerabilidad de la situación y el peligro constante de recaer en nuevas crisis como las que el mundo ha deido soportar en tiempos no lejanos.

Por otra parte, preocupa el hecho de que el crecimiento de la producción agrícola, especialmente de cereales, en los países en desarrollo sigue siendo relativamente bajo si se compara con el ritmo a que ha estado incrementándose la producción mundial. Quiere esto decir que los abastecimientos de alimentos continúan dependiendo, en una medida demasiado elevada, de las condiciones que imperan en unos pocos países desarrollados; elemento este último que también refleja el carácter inestable de las existencias y la inseguridad en los abastecimientos.

En otro orden de consideraciones, cabe observar que el aumento de la producción de alimentos no basta por sí solo para dar solución a los problemas de la alimentación en el mundo.

Es cierto que el aumento de la producción es el elemento básico y clave para asegurar un nivel adecuado de suministros. Pero no es menos cierto que la erradicación del hambre y de la malnutrición en todas partes del globo terrestre exige como requisito indispensable que los alimentos producidos estén al alcance de quienes los necesitan.

Para ello se requiere en forma urgente una modificación de los términos del intercambio internacional, en tal forma que los países en desarrollo cuenten con la capacidad para importar los alimentos de que carecen y que constituyen excedentes en los países más evolucionados del mundo.

En estos últimos momentos, se comprueban con desaliento los escasos resultados obtenidos en todas las iniciativas que se han intentado, no ya con el objetivo supremo de instaurar un nuevo orden económico internacional, sino simplemente con el fin de atenuar los efectos perniciosos que para los países del tercer mundo surgen de un tipo de relaciones comerciales que para ellos implica cada vez más mayores dificultades para colocar en los mercados internacionales los productos básicos que producen y obtener los alimentos que no pueden producir y que sus pueblos necesitan tan urgentemente.

La ayuda que los países en desarrollo reciben a través del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que es quizás el más eficaz de todos los instrumentos utilizados por los organismos internacionales para aliviar la situación de los pueblos más afectados por la escasez de alimentos: no puede ser considerada una solución definitiva. El Programa Mundial de Alimentos tiene, desde sus orígenes y por su propia naturaleza, un carácter eminentemente transitorio, y no podemos esperar que los países más seriamente afectados dependan de su asistencia en forma indefinida.

Es por esto que una solución definitiva sólo podrá encontrarse a través de aumentos sustanciales de la producción en los países en desarrollo.

Ello exigirá un esfuerzo concertado de la comunidad internacional, con el firme apoyo de los países desarrollados, dirigido a la modernización de las explotaciones agrícolas en los países en desarrollo, a través de una amplia transferencia de tecnología y de actividades de capacitación que permitan a los agricultores hacer un uso cabal de los nuevos instrumentos de producción que se pongan en sus manos.

Es indispensable también el suministro de insumos en condiciones compatibles con la deteriorada situación económica de los países del tercer mundo.

Sobre todo, es indispensable promover las inversiones agrícolas, objetivo que se hace cada vez más urgente y más difícil. No obstante, es un motivo de satisfacción observar algunos avances en esta esfera. El principal de ellos es, sin duda, el establecimiento del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, cuyas actividades se iniciarán felizmente antes del término de este año.

En suma, la situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, incluyendo la seguridad alimentaria mundial, sigue constituyendo un serio desafío que se plantea, no sólo a la FAO y a otros organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, sino individualmente a cada uno de los Estados que lo integran, y abrigamos la esperanza de que ello sea reconocido claramente, tanto por los países en desarrollo como por los países desarrollados en forma especial.

Quisiera ahora referirme, Señor Presidente, al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y, al hacerlo no puedo menos de expresar nuestras felicitaciones al Director General de la FAO por el nuevo y dinámico enfoque que ha dado a las actividades de la Organización; orientándolas hacia la solución de aquellos problemas que de una manera más apremiante afligen a los países del tercer mundo. Son éstos también los más difíciles obstáculos que se oponen al crecimiento de la producción agrícola en una medida suficiente para dar satisfacción a las necesidades mínimas e impostergables de todos los pueblos.

Ya en 1976 el Consejo de la FAO había aprobado una política integrada presentada por el Director General, en la que destacaban objetivos tan valiosos como el incremento de las inversiones agrícolas, la creación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, la descentralización de las actividades de la FAO, el establecimiento de prioridades en favor de acciones prácticas y a corto plazo y la reducción de gastos por concepto de reuniones, publicaciones, etc.

El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado ahora a la consideración de la Conferencia constituye un conjunto coherente de proyectos tendientes a materializar tales políticas básicas. Sotóos conscientes de que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto refleja la mínima acción que puede desarrollar la FAO frente a las ingentes necesidades del momento. Los países en desarrollo requieren una asistencia mucho más considerable para mejorar las condiciones de sus explotaciones agrícolas, incorporando nuevas tecnologías y modernizando sus estructuras agrarias, Pero reconocemos también las Imitaciones con que la Organización se enfrenta para llevar a cabo una acción más ambiciosa.

Debemos destacar, en particular, la relevancia que se confiere a determinados proyectos incluidos en el Programa.

Así, por ejemplo, estimamos útil señalar la alta prioridad que se concede a la ordenación de suelos y fertilizantes, al programa de semillas, al mejoramiento de las industrias alimentarias y agrícolas, a la protección vegetal, a los esfuerzos por intensificar las acciones de sanidad animal y al desarrollo de la investigación y los programas de capacitación.

Asimismo, es particularmente importante para mi país la forma en que se presentan los programas de pesca. Chile es un país que cuenta con una riqueza pesquera de gran magnitud, y es evidente que su explotación racional requiere de la valiosa asistencia técnica y científica que la FAO puede proporcionar en este ámbito, especialmente en lo que se refiere al desarrollo y aprovechamiento de los recursos existentes en su zona económica exclusiva de 200 millas.

Una observación similar merece el Programa de Montes. El mantenimiento y el acrecentamiento de los recursos forestales son del mayor interés para Chile, no sólo por el valor que ellos tienen en sí mismos, sino también por la influencia positiva que ejercen en el ámbito más amplio de la conservación de los recursos naturales renovables.

En cuanto se refiere a la celebración de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, creemos que debe tenerse en cuenta el hecho de que, tanto la decisión sobre llevar a cabo una reforma agraria, como acerca de las modalidades y procedimientos para hacerlo, es una cuestión interna de los países, estrechamente condicionada por la situación de cada uno de ellos er multiples aspectos.

Por ello quisiéramos que la Conferencia se centrara fundamentalmente en el examen de los problemas técnicos que afectan e interesan a los países en lo que se refiere al desarrollo rural, incluyendo aquellos de carácter económico y social, que emergen como consecuencia misma de la refonna agraria. Confiamos en que los preparativos que se están llevando a cabo en relación con la Conferencia se orienten hacia estos objetivos primordiales.

Deseamos apoyar decididamente el Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO. Creemos que este Programa es una de las más importantes y dinámicas actividades de la Organización. Representa, sin duda, una buena demostración de la capacidad de la FAO para dar una respuesta rápida, eficaz y oportuna a las situaciones urgentes que suelen presentarse en los países en desarrollo y que obstaculizan los esfuerzos de todo orden que éstos hacen para incrementar la producción de alimentos. En particular, apoyamos las orientaciones futuras del Programa y, en especial, el propósito de conferir una mayor importancia a la preparación de inversiones en colaboración con otros organismos financieros.

Confiamos en que la. asignación a este Programa de recursos, más bien modestos, para el próximo bienio, constituya sólo el comienzo de una acción mucho más profunda, vigorosa y amplia para el futuro.

Mi delegación apoya decididamente la propuesta hecha por el Director General y aprobada ya por el Consejo de la FAO en orden a iniciar un programa de acción con el fin de reducir las pérdidas de alimentos ocasionadas durante y después de las cosechas. Estamos también de acuerdo en la utilización de una parte de *los* fondos acumulados en la cuenta transitoria,

Se trata de atacar un problema de gran envergadura y cualesquiera medidas que se adopten para solucionarlo o para atenuar sus efectos tendrán repercusiones favorables en la dispolibilidad de alimentos en el mundo entero. Por otra parte, los países en desarrollo, por razones obvias, tienen una urgente necesidad de asistencia en este campo.

Lamentamos que no exista aún un consenso acerca del mecanismo financiero ideado por el Director General para dar vida a esta iniciativa. Creemos firmemente que tal mecanismo es el más adecuado porque responde satisfactoriamente a los requisitos que juzgamos indispensables para el éxito del programa de acción, a saber: Constituye un sistema de financiamiento en el que participan absolutamente todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización; permite una acción inmediata que la FAO podrá iniciar desde el principio del período presupuestario próximo, y hace posible la iniciación del Programa sobre la base de una administración de los recursos disponibles por la comunidad internacional, esto es, por la FAO.

Señor Presidente: permítame que me refiera ahora muy brevemente y en términos generales a la situación de la agricultura en Chile y a las directrices básicas de la política de desarrollo agrícola y de desarrollo rural en que se encuentra empeñado el Gobierno de Chile.

De la superficie total del país, que alcanza a 75 695 000 hectáreas - excluyendo el territorio antártico-sólo contamos con una superficie productiva de aproximadamente 20 290 000 hectáreas. Pretendemos obtener el máximo aprovechamiento posible de estos limitados recursos.

En términos generales, la política agraria tiende a aumentos sustanciales de la producción a fin de disminuir, y a la larga eliminar completamente, nuestra dependencia con respecto a las importaciones en aquellos rubros o productos para cuyo cultivo contamos con adecuadas condiciones de clima y de suelo. Sin desatender las necesidades de una más alta diversificación de los cultivos, estamos empeñados especialmente en acrecentar la producción de cereales, principalmente mediante el mejoramiento de los rendimientos por unidad de superficie. Estamos incrementando constantemente nuestras exportaciones y esperamos limitar nuestras importaciones exclusivamente a aquellos bienes, especialmente tropicales, que no pueden ser producidos en el país.

La política agrícola en Chile ha considerado también con la mayor atención la necesidad de adoptar medidas urgentes encaminadas a la conservación, protección y acrecentamiento de los recursos naturales renovables; para lo cual se están perfeccionando normas jurídicas que enfocan este grave problema en un sentido integral.

Especial importancia se ha dado a las actividades forestales, en atención a los grandes recursos con que cuenta el país en este aspecto. Una adecuada legislación, puesta en práctica desde el año 1974, está promoviendo un amplio programa que está permitiendo la reforestación de aproximadamente 200 000 hectáreas por año.

En el sector pesquero, pretendemos una utilización más racional de nuestros abundantes recursos, incentivando la industrialización de los recursos del mar y un desarrollo más amplio de la acuicultura.

Se ha dado un énfasis especial a la promoción de la agroindustria, comprendiendo que constituye un medio eficaz para valorizar la producción agrícola y pesquera y, en consecuencia, para elevar el nivel de ingresos de los productores.

El proceso de reforma agraria, iniciado en Chile en 1962, se encuentra en su etapa final en lo que se relaciona con la asignación de tierras a los campesinos. En efecto, en la actualidad se está poniendo término a la asignación individual de las tierras expropiadas, transformando a los trabajadores y obreros agrícolas en verdaderos dueños de la tierra, con responsabilidades definidas y con amplias perspectivas de progreso. La experiencia nos ha demostrado que la explotación colectiva de la tierra no da resultados favorables por lo menos en nuestro medio, y ello nos ha inducido a orientar el proceso de reforma agraria con un sentido de justicia social, pero sin detrimento del progreso de la agricultura como elemento de importancia en el desarrollo de nuestra economía nacional.

Sin embargo, no podemos dejar de reconocer las dificultades que entraña la explotación individual de pequeñas unidades agrícolas, y es por ello que, junto con propender a la subdivisión equitativa y razonable de la tierra, la política del Gobierno se ha acentuado en la necesidad de promover la organización de los pequeños agricultores y en el otorgarles una amplia asistencia técnica y crediticia.

Esta necesidad y el hecho de que la reforma agraria ha ocasionado un cambio fundamental en la estructura y fisonomía de la agricultura chilena, caracterizada por el predominio claro de un gran número de pequeños productores individuales, ha inducido a nuestro Gobierno a implantar reformas administrativas conducentes principalmente a una reorganización del Ministerio de Agricultura.



A través de tales medidas, los servicios estatales del agro serán implementados en concordancia con la actual política general agraria y, en forma muy principal, de acuerdo con las nuevas características del sistema de tenencia de la tierra. Se ha tenido también presente la necesidad de mejorar las condiciones en que se desenvuelven los propietarios de minifundios, mediante la ayuda del Estado en diferentes formas, algunas de las cuales consideran el reagrupamiento de la propiedad.

Es evidente que, una vez cumplidas las etapas de expropiación y asignación de tierras a nuevos propietarios, que han vivido en condiciones cultural y económicamente débiles, nos enfrentamos a la etapa más difícil del proceso de reforma agraria, cuyo objetivo fundamental es asegurar a los beneficiarios de este proceso condiciones bajo las cuales puedan desenvolverse con dignidad, optimismo y esperanzas en un futuro mejor. Mi Gobierno encara con decisión y esfuerzo esta tan importante etapa. El no hacerlo implicaría un engaño para los que, con entusiasmo y sacrificio, están hoy día laborando la tierra que les pertenece.

Somos perfectamente conscientes de que el cumplimiento de las metas y objetivos que nos hemos fijado para modernizar nuestra agricultura, para independizarnos de las importaciones de alimentos en la medida de lo posible, para mejorar el nivel de ingresos en el sector agrícola y, en general, para promover el desarrollo rural, exige un gran esfuerzo nacional en todos los niveles.

Somos también conscientes de nuestras necesidades de asistencia técnica por parte de la comunidad internacional y, particularmente, por parte, de la FAO, sobre todo en lo referente a las inversiones agrícolas, a la capacitación y a la cooperación técnica.

Señor Presidente: Debido a nuestras severas limitaciones, nosotros sabemos que no podemos efectuar directamente una gran aportación a la solución de los problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo. Somos un país pequeño, con todos los problemas económicos y sociales que afectan, en mayor o menor grado, a todos los países del tercer mundo. No podemos esperar alcanzar niveles muy importantes de exportación de alimentos en un breve plazo. Pero estamos también seguros de que, en la medida en que logremos independizarnos de las importaciones de aquellos alimentos que podemos producir, haremos una contribución valiosa a los esfuerzos de la FAO y de otros organismos internacionales por lograr una verdadera seguridad alimentaria.

M. A. DA SILVA (Guinée-Bissau) (interprétation du portugais): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais, au nom de notre délégation, m'associer aux illustres délégués qui vous ont déjà félicité pour votre nomination en qualité de Président de notre Assemblée.

Je voudrais également profiter de cette occasion pour présenter nos chaleureuses salutations à toutes les illustres délégations qui participent à cette 19<sup>ème</sup> Conférence de la FAO et leur transmettre nos remerciements pour les efforts qu'elles développent pour le succès de cette réunion.

J'aimerais aussi féliciter Son Excellence Monsieur Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, pour l'intelligence qu'il a démontrée dans l'accomplissement de ses fonctions pendant ces deux années, cherchant à éviter que notre Organisation ne tombe dans le marasme et soit impuissante à accomplir sa préoccupation fondamentale - la solution du problème alimentaire mondial.

Nous nous réjouissons de la présence des délégués des pays frères et amis de la République Populaire de l'Angola, de la République Populaire du Mozambique, de la République Démocratique de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, de la République des Iles Comores, de la République de Djibouti, de la République Populaire Démocratique de Corée, de la République des Seychelles, du Conseil des Nations Unies pour la Namibie et des Mouvements de Libération ici présents. Nous sommes convaincus que la participation de ces nouveaux membres renforcera cette organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et nous profitons de cette occasion pour vous saluer, désirant que vos efforts puissent contribuer de plus en plus à l'agrandissement de notre Organisation et à la concrétisation de son objectif.

La République de Guinée-Bissau est un pays essentiellement agricole, où presque 90 pour cent de la population active vit de l'agriculture, où l'énergie humaine pour les travaux agricoles occupe une place prépondérante, atteignant, dans certains cas, 100 pour cent; les revenus unitaires des cultures sont peu élevés, l'ignorance des pratiques de défense et de protection des cultures et du sol est pratiquement totale. La surface des terrains qui bénéficie de l'utilisation des fertilisants est très réduite, les conditions hygiéniques, sanitaires et d'habitation sont très mauvaises, et le taux d'analphabétisme est élevé.

Après une longue, dure et difficile lutte armée de libération nationale menée par le glorieux PAIGC sous la Direction de notre Chef immortel Amilcar Cabrai, et pendant laquelle les colonialistes portugais ont pratiqué la politique de la terre brûlée, utilisant des bombes, des défoliants, le napalm, l'abattage indiscriminé du bétail et des essences forestières, avec toutes ses conséquences dans la production agricole, nous nous trouvons dans une nouvelle phase de lutte, celle de la Reconstruction nationale, dans une situation difficile, sans aucune infrastructure, en particulier sans infrastructures agricoles. L'aliment de base de notre population est le riz, denrée dont nous étions exportateurs avant la guerre, tandis qu'à présent nous sommes obligés de l'importer. Compte tenu que l'agriculture est la base de notre développement économique, on sait que si elle se trouve dans une situation catastrophique nous ne pourrions qu'assurer un marché de stagnation qui empêchera le développement des autres secteurs de l'économie, constituant ainsi un facteur important d'étranglement des voies qui conduisent vers le progrès. Notre Gouvernement, conscient de ces réalités, s'est efforcé d'adopter une politique agraire dont la stratégie se base sur l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Cette politique s'appuie: sur la transformation de l'attitude de l'homme rural et le changement de son environnement; sur la définition des objectifs de production agricole adaptés aux nécessités diverses et croissantes des masses populaires; sur la définition des objectifs régionalisés de cette production; sur la création de structures agraires pour préparer le passage de l'agriculture traditionnelle à l'agriculture de marché.

Cette politique a pour but fondamental l'augmentation de la production et de la productivité agraires, la diversification des cultures, la rationalisation et l'intensification de la production de l'élevage, l'amélioration de la diète alimentaire et la hausse du niveau de vie des agriculteurs, la contribution à l'équilibre de la balance des paiements.

Pour la matérialisation de ces objectifs on préconise les lignes d'action suivantes: intensification de la promotion globale de communautés rurales, fondée sur la technique du développement communautaire; amélioration de l'assistance technique; introduction de nouvelles variétés, de nouvelles façons de cultiver, de nouvelles races et de meilleures techniques de cultures; utilisation rationnelle des facteurs de production tels que les semences améliorées, les engrais, les insecticides, les fongicides, la traction animale et mécanique; création d'infrastructures techniques; introduction d'un système de crédit agricole, surtout de crédit contrôlé; amélioration des circuits de commercialisation; institution graduelle du système coopératif de production, d'unités autonomes et d'unités d'Etat de production; développement et prolifération de l'enseignement agricole; industrialisation des produits agricoles.

Tous nos efforts sont concentrés dans ces actions car nous savons que, pour la réalisation du progrès et de la justice sociale, nous devons construire une économie indépendante. Notre voie de développement économique a comme objectif fondamental l'élimination de la misère et l'augmentation du niveau de vie des Guinéens, de façon à ce qu'ils puissent disposer d'un minimum indispensable à la satisfaction de leurs légitimes aspirations à une vie digne de bien-être et de progrès. Et la pierre angulaire pour y arriver c'est le développement de l'agriculture. Et d'ailleurs, elle est la clé que nous devons utiliser dans la lutte que nous menons pour l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international fondé sur la justice, l'égalité souveraine, l'interdépendance, dans l'intérêt commun et la coopération entre tous les Etats.

Conscients de cette réalité et après la libération totale de notre pays et le départ de l'armée coloniale en octobre 1974, nous avons essayé d'exercer une action concrète et efficace pour augmenter la production alimentaire et pour améliorer la nutrition des masses, portant tout spécialement notre attention vers la reconstruction et la construction de petits barrages, digues et à la mobilisation des terres destinées à la riziculture et autres cultures vivrières.

C'est ainsi que pour le riz, culture principale et base de l'alimentation de notre peuple, nous avons réussi à obtenir l'augmentation de la production et la réduction de l'importation qui était de 31 000 tonnes en 1974 à 10 800 tonnes en 1976. Ainsi le poids du riz qui représentait le 25, 4 pour cent des importations totales et le 55, 4 pour cent des importations de produits alimentaires de première nécessité en 1974 ne représentent plus à présent que respectivement le 7, 3 pour cent et le 26, 1 pour cent.

Néanmoins, nous avons vu cette année que notre objectif de réduire substantiellement cette importation en vue de l'autosuffisance est devenu difficile à cause de la sécheresse dont a souffert notre pays qui a provoqué une perte d'environ 50 pour cent de notre production, c'est-à-dire pour la culture du riz 50 000 tonnes de paddy.

Pourtant, à part les insuffisances de nos ressources financières et la carence des structures socio-économiques et institutionnelles, nous avons eu la sécheresse, calamité qui est venue s'ajouter à l'économie faible et de guerre que nous avons héritée du colonialisme, ce qui a rendu plus difficile notre chemin vers la production alimentaire et agricole.

Notre situation s'est compliquée, elle est critique et elle a besoin d'une attention spéciale de cette Organisation et de la Communauté internationale.

En ce qui concerne la nouvelle orientation que le Directeur général a cherché de donner à notre Organisation, nous tenons à soutenir cette ligne d'action puisque la FAO ne doit pas servir seulement de tribune pour les grands débats sur les options politiques et les actions possibles à l'échelle internationale, mais également élaborer et faire converger les mesures pratiques de coopération pour la sécurité alimentaire et fournir des services aux Etats Membres, en les aidant à résoudre certains problèmes techniques, économiques et sociaux du développement alimentaire et agricole et oeuvrer pour que le nouvel ordre économique international ne soit pas un "géant aux pieds d'argile", comme le disait Son Excellence Monsieur Edouard Saouma.

C'est dans ce sens que les propositions relatives au programme de travail et budget pour les années 1978/79 méritent notre approbation ainsi que les objectifs à moyen terme avec la concentration d'efforts vers l'augmentation de la production agricole dans les pays en voie de développement.

Nous appuyons également la proposition du Directeur général sur la création d'un fonds spécial pour la prévention et les pertes alimentaires, la continuation du PCT et la conférence sur le développement rural et la réforme agraire. En ce qui concerne la création du fonds international du développement agricole (FIDA), qui pourrait jouer un rôle très important pour le progrès des pays en développement, nous voudrions apporter notre inconditionnel appui, et notre instrument de ratification doit être, dans un très bref délai, présenté à cette organisation. Nous nous réjouissons de la proposition du projet de résolution sur les objectifs de contribution au PAM, pour la période 1978/79, dont peuvent bénéficier les pays qui ont été touchés par la sécheresse, calamité qui cette année a frappé notre pays.

Nous savons que la restauration de l'Organisation est un processus dynamique qui exigera plusieurs années, mais nous désirons que la FAO soit un chemin pour la solution du problème de la misère rurale et l'instrument qui permettra la construction d'un monde libéré de la faim.

Pour terminer, permettez-moi, encore une fois, d'attirer votre attention et celle de la FAO sur la situation de notre pays, qui vient de sortir d'une guerre de libération et qui, cette année, a été frappé par la sécheresse, et je vous prie également de bien vouloir nous accorder une attention particulière dans l'avenir pour que nous puissions accomplir les objectifs définis par notre Gouvernement, et en premier lieu, l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

W. THOMPSON (Fiji): My country joined this Organization three Conferences ago soon after we attained independence. In the six years since we have followed developments in the FAO with close interest. The high hopes which caused us to join began to seem badly misplaced.

Our waning faith in the FAO has been reversed by the way the Director General has set about trimming and streamlining the structure and work of the Organisation since he took office. Although much has been accomplished in the past two years many areas still need urgent attention. We urge him to continue to pursue the new directions with the diligence and effectiveness he has already so ably displayed

One of his innovations we strongly endorse is the TCP. The speed with which he responded to a request we placed came as a pleasant surprise. The programme has our wholehearted support. It should remain quick-responding and uncluttered and must not be allowed to become a victim of the worst features of bureaucracy.

We fully support the decentralisation proposals and the intended reductions in meetings, seminars and the like. The devolution of functions responsibilities and capacities to the regional and country levels should be encouraged.

I would like to endorse comments made by other distinguished speakers to the effect that the Organisation concentrates on priorities. Resources at its disposal are limited and these should not be dissipated over, too wide a field. The temptation to become involved in too many areas should be resisted. And sections set up to do a one-off job should not be allowed to live on beyond their time. We have very confidence that the Director General has these matters well in hand.

Much has been said about the new international economic order. Some distinguished speakers have commented on steps being taken or on what should be done to implement this philosophy. I would like to single out the Lome Convention, that enlightened linkage between the EEC and 52 African, Caribbean and Pacific nations. Certainly for a country like mine, the "guarantee of a remunerative outlet for our major export provided by the Sugar Protocol and the effective support of the STABXX scheme for our second agricultural export are outstanding examples in our view of what can be done when deeds replace platitudes. This model should not be allowed to remain the only such example of a trade and aid treaty between developed and developing nations.

We welcome, too, the recent successful conclusion of the negotiations on a new International Sugar Agreement. The final compromise, by some crucial developed and developing countries, enabled consensus to be attained at the eleventh hour. This is another noteworthy instance of tangible progress in restructuring the international economic order.

In spite of our smallness we feel, no less acutely than others, the frustrations and pains of underdevelopment. It is only recently, in particular at UNCTAD IV in Nairobi, that small developing island countries were recognised as having severe and unique problems. Add to this the remoteness we have in the Pacific and our handicaps become formidable. To go anywhere in the world we, and our exports, have to travel vast distances. In economic terms, being waterlocked puts us in the same position as land-locked countries. And some land-locked countries are better off than the most remote of small island countries.

It has been suggested that we small island countries in the South Pacific have markets and sources of manufactured goods in nearby Australia and New Zealand. But the freight costs are practically the same to these countries as to Europe. We are only one of a score of small island groups in the Pacific Ocean whose livelihoods, of necessity, must remain substantially at the subsistence level. We are also prone to natural disasters in the form of hurricanes which occur on average once a year and which cause widespread devastation.

I must hasten to add that New Zealand and Australia, and to a lesser extent some other countries, are providing valuable and comprehensive financial and technical assistance to us and to others in the South Pacific. Without this, the lack of interest of the rest of the international community would leave us sadly placed indeed.

In our seventh five year development plan rural development is a major objective. While we support the proposal to hold the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, we feel the issue is first and foremost a national one, to be solved at the national level. World Conferences do not solve problems of this kind. Nonetheless, the preparatory work now in progress on country positions will be invaluable in clarifying our present situation and can form the basis of action - perhaps even before the Conference is held.

We were asked to focus specific attention on investment in agriculture. To the extent permitted by our competing needs for balanced social and economic development, my Government is committing as much as it is able to agricultural development. In trying to obtain external funding assistance, we find ourselves in the unfortunate position of not being classified as a "least developed country". We are required to pay normal rates of interest which quite often we cannot afford. The end result is we do not borrow and this reduces our rate of development. We have often wondered at the fairness of the way GNP per caput is calculated and whether it is a true reflection of a country's position.

In addition to achieving national self-sufficiency in our basic food needs, we intend to establish forestry and fisheries as important industries by the mid-1980's. Already we have received valuable assistance from FAO and from New Zealand in these efforts. We in the South Pacific are moving towards establishing a Fisheries Agency which will ensure the conservation and enable the rational exploitation of the highly migratory tunas in our waters.

In conclusion let me reiterate our support to the Director General for the steps he has so far taken and for those he is yet to take, to streamline and consolidate the Organisation. The FAO must become and must remain responsive to the needs of members. Its work must at all times be relevant, positive and efficient.

M. GHEDIRA (Observateur pour la FIPA): J'ai le plaisir et l'honneur, en ma qualité de vice-président de la FIPA, d'être ici l'unique porte-parole des agriculteurs du monde.

Lors de la 22ème Conférence générale de la Fédération tenue à Helsinki en juin dernier, nous avons pu engager un dialogue constructif avec M. Jackson, Directeur général adjoint de la FAO, poursuivant ainsi une longue tradition de consultations et de collaboration entre nos deux organisations complémentaires. Nous sommes heureux de reprendre aujourd'hui ce dialogue.

Je concentrerai mes remarques sur la question des investissements en agriculture.

Les études de la FAO ont clairement démontré que des sommes très importantes devront être dégagées et investies dans le secteur agricole pour maintenir un rythme de croissance de la production suffisant pour nourrir les générations futures. On peut contester tel ou tel aspect de ces études, mais globalement les faits sont là.

Nous croyons qu'une partie importante de ces investissements peuvent être dégagés au sein même du secteur agricole. Mais, pour cela, il faudra que les idées reçues à propos des agriculteurs, et les attitudes nées de la "modernisation" des économies, changent radicalement.

Les membres de la FIPA sont pour l'essentiel des représentants d'exploitations familiales, c'est-à-dire des entreprises de petite ou de moyenne dimension, où la responsabilité personnelle du chef d'exploitation est directement engagée, avec l'aide de la famille et parfois avec quelques employés dans la gestion et le travail de la ferme. La sécurité alimentaire dépend, selon nous, de la capacité qui sera donnée à ce type d'exploitation à se maintenir et à se moderniser. L'avenir de l'agriculture est entre les mains de ceux qui, depuis des générations, contre vents et marées, se sont accrochés au métier difficile d'agriculteur et qui sont prêts et capables d'augmenter leur performance si seulement on leur en donne les moyens.

Il ne s'agit pas là d'une requête dans le seul intérêt des agriculteurs eux-mêmes. Dans l'immédiat, la santé et le dynamisme du secteur agricole exercent une forte influence sur la santé et le dynamisme de nombreux autres secteurs et régions dans chaque pays. Quant à l'avenir, la performance des agriculteurs d'aujourd'hui déterminera en grande partie si les générations futures mangeront à leur faim.

On sait que c'est tout un contexte socio-économique qui détermine les possibilités d'action des agriculteurs. Voilà plus de vingt ans que la FIPA proclame la nécessité d'investir suffisamment dans les zones rurales pour stimuler la production et la commercialisation des produits agricoles. Ce n'est que tout récemment, et dans des proportions encore insuffisantes dans la plupart des pays, que cela commence à être fait. Nous espérons que ce débat servira à inspirer tous les gouvernements à envisager les investissements dans le secteur agricole et rural non pas comme une charge mais plutôt comme un véritable investissement dans l'avenir du pays tout entier.

Il ne faut pas oublier, en effet, que dans la plupart de nos pays en voie de développement, c'est précisément la production agricole qui a fourni les capitaux d'investissement jusqu'ici. Les efforts des agriculteurs ont construit des villes, des routes, des ports. Laissez-les profiter aux agriculteurs maintenant en donnant priorité aux réseaux de communications rurales à la formation et à l'enseignement adaptés, à l'eau potable et d'irrigation.

Mais l'investissement dans l'agriculture, ce n'est pas seulement les gros travaux. C'est aussi tout ce que l'agriculteur et sa famille peut et doit réaliser pour protéger le sol, tirer parti des disponibilités en eau, stocker sa récolte et mieux la commercialiser.

Ces travaux d'investissement, il peut les réaliser et les financer. Mais non pas dans les conditions passées et actuelles des prix et des marchés agricoles. En raison des problèmes de climat et des maladies, les revenus agricoles ne peuvent pas être stables comme les revenus industriels. Mais il faut des progrès plus rapides vers l'organisation des marchés mondiaux, et aussi des marchés des produits destinés à la consommation interne afin d'apporter une stabilité indispensable à la confiance des agriculteurs dans leur avenir.

Cette confiance, les agriculteurs ne l'ont guère vu augmenter depuis 1974. Incités par des cours plus rentables pour leurs produits et encouragés par les exportations de leurs gouvernements, les agriculteurs ont fait un gros effort de production pour mettre l'humanité à l'abri de la faim. Mais le résultat aujourd'hui est une situation trop péniblement familière:

- faute de la mise en place à temps de politiques appropriées, les excédents de production sont de nouveau devenus des surplus au lieu d'être constitués en une véritable réserve alimentaire;
- les prix à la production pour de nombreux produits sont donc tombés sensiblement en dessous du prix de revient;
- cette belle récolte 1977, dont le monde a pourtant tant besoin, rapportera moins aux agriculteurs que la récolte de la pénurie d'il y a quelques années.

C'est en raison de la répétition d'expériences pareilles que certains producteurs craignent que "stabilisation" signifie bas prix: ils préfèrent tenter leurs chances avec de fortes fluctuations des prix, ce qui signifie bien entendu une offre également instable. Mais la très grande majorité des agriculteurs ne désire pas que l'insuffisance des approvisionnements soit leur seul espoir d'obtenir des prix rentables.

Pour que les investissements indispensables se fassent, il faut à la fois une stabilisation dans des limites raisonnables et une amélioration du niveau des prix payés aux producteurs: le nouvel ordre économique devra s'entendre non seulement au niveau des pays dans le système mondial, mais bien au niveau des agriculteurs dans chaque système national. Nous avons été encouragés d'entendre Monsieur Saouma mentionner le niveau des prix à la production dans son discours d'ouverture.

La stabilisation des revenus à un niveau suffisant constitue le seul moyen de permettre aux producteurs agricoles d'assurer à leur famille un niveau de vie décent, de faire face aux prix croissants des moyens de production, et aussi de dégager les sommes indispensables à l'investissement pour l'avenir. L'augmentation de l'endettement des agriculteurs, l'entrée massive de capitaux non agricoles dans des secteurs clés comme le foncier et la production animale, la dépendance des apports gouvernementaux constituent autant de conséquences de l'insuffisance et de l'instabilité des revenus agricoles.

Même si ces deux conditions - stabilité et insuffisance - pouvaient être réalisées, cela ne suffirait pas. C'est pourquoi, il est indispensable de mettre en place des systèmes de crédit réellement adaptés à la situation des agriculteurs. Dans quelques pays, c'est déjà le cas: nous souhaiterions que la FAO poursuive ses études des moyens de mettre à la disposition des agriculteurs du crédit adapté étroitement lié à des politiques des prix qui permettrait le remboursement des prêts ainsi accordés.

La formule coopérative peut également fournir un cadre non seulement pour distribuer le crédit, mais aussi pour réaliser certains investissements communs au niveau de chaque communauté. Mais la formule coopérative doit être mise en oeuvre avec toutes les précautions nécessaires et selon des modèles qui donnent une réelle responsabilité aux sociétaires agriculteurs. Notamment, il nous paraît très important que les membres d'une coopérative assurent eux-mêmes (ou au moins majoritairement) le financement de leur coopérative. Là aussi, le crédit a un rôle important à jouer quand les membres ne disposent pas au départ d'une mise de fonds, si minime soit-elle, pour le démarrage.

Je voudrais, pour terminer ces remarques sur les investissements dans le secteur agricole, parler des jeunes agriculteurs. Les jeunes qui acceptent de rester à la campagne prendront la relève de la ferme familiale ou mettront en culture des terres en friche. Ceux-là sont habituellement les éléments les plus dynamiques, les plus avides d'idées et de techniques nouvelles, les plus aptes à mener à bien la transformation des campagnes. Mais la mise en oeuvre d'idées nouvelles est coûteuse et les jeunes manquent de moyens financiers. Pour l'avenir de l'agriculture, il faut maintenir les jeunes à la campagne, et leur fournir les moyens d'être fiers d'être agriculteurs. Nous croyons que dans tous les pays des politiques tenant compte des besoins spécifiques des jeunes seraient en elles-mêmes un des plus importants investissements que l'on puisse réaliser dans l'avenir de l'agriculture.

J'ai parlé tout à l'heure de la nécessité, pour les agriculteurs d'avoir confiance dans l'avenir. Pour cela, il leur faut pouvoir faire confiance aux gouvernements de mettre en place, à l'échelon national et international, des politiques adaptées.

En 1974, les organisations agricoles ont été très encouragées par les résultats de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation: enfin elles reconnaissaient dans des résolutions adoptées par les gouvernements des idées qu'elles préconisent depuis trois décennies; enfin, on semblait placer l'agriculteur au centre des préoccupations pour résoudre le problème de la faim.

En 1977, elles constatent qu'une fois de plus il s'agissait là de résolutions de papier: on ne peut pas blâmer les agriculteurs s'ils sont sceptiques à l'égard de l'adoption à Manille en juin des mêmes résolutions qu'il y a trois ans. Nous espérons que l'amélioration de l'atmosphère politique leur donnera une plus grande valeur cette fois-ci. Pour résoudre le problème de la faim, il faut un plan d'action à long terme qui ne soit pas sujet à des modifications avec chaque changement de la conjoncture; il faut une détermination d'agir qui ne soit pas diminuée au hasard d'une ou deux bonnes récoltes.

Et puisque l'objet de cette discussion générale est l'investissement en agriculture, je tiens à dire en terminant combien la confiance des agriculteurs a été ébranlée en constatant que le FIDA devient tout juste opérationnel alors que trois années de forte inflation en ont déjà sensiblement réduit la valeur.

Pour être agriculteur, il faut être un éternel optimiste. Alors nous continuerons de croire qu'un jour des promesses deviendront réalité.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ghedira of the National Federation of Agricultural Producers. In concluding the general discussion of the present session of the Conference, I would like to remind you that this debate has spread over thirteen meetings and six full working days and included one evening meeting. A total of 129 speakers have delivered statements, including the opening address by the Director-General. The other 128 statements consisted of the following statements by Independent Chairman. of the Council; 112 statements were made by heads of country delegations; a statement by the permanent observer to the Holy See; a statement from the representative Secretary-General of the United Nations; four statements by representatives of United Nations bodies: IFA, WFC, UNDP/UNICEF, and UNEP; one statement by the European Economic Community; one statement by the observer of the inter-governmental OAU; four statements by observers of liberation movements: PLO, ANC, PAT, SWAPO; three statements from observers of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with FAO: ICFTU, IFAP, WFTU. Of the 112 heads of country delegations which addressed the Conference, 90 were Ministers. Finally, the delegates of three Members, namely Madagascar, Maldives and the Yemen Arab Republic did not speak but left statements to be included in the record. In addition, the delegate from Panama has requested that the statement of the head of the delegation be included in today's records.

Distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Vice-Chairman and myself as Chairman of the Conference, I would like to extend my gratitude to all heads of country delegations and other speakers for the friendly way and cooperative spirit the general discussions have been implemented.

Before adjourning this Plenary meeting the Secretary-General would like to make some announcements.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je voudrais seulement rappeler que toutes les explications pertinentes concernant les élections au Conseil, prévues maintenant pour le mercredi 30 novembre, figurent au document C 77/LIM/41 qui sera distribué demain matin. Ce document comprend en annexe le formulaire de candidature au Conseil, à déposer avant le jeudi 24 novembre à 18 heures.

Par ailleurs, un calendrier révisé de la Conférence, pour la période restante, sera distribué également demain matin sous le sigle C 77/LIM/42.

Enfin, la prochaine réunion de cette plénière, M. le Président, doit se tenir comme prévu vendredi après-midi 25 novembre.

Srta. C. DOMÍNGUEZ (Panamá): Znnombre del Gobierno de Panamá y del pueblo panameño deseamos expresarle a usted, Señor Presidente, y a los Miembros de la mesa que lo acompañan, nuestras más calurosas felicitaciones.

Al mismo tiempo deseamos expresar nuestra cordial bienvenida a los países hermanos que han ingresado a esta Organización, asegurándoles que podrán contar con nuestra colaboración.

Deseamos hacer público reconocimiento a la labor efectuada por el Director General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, quien con capacidad y dinamismo está tratando de cambiar el rumbo de la Organización hacia un efectivo establecimiento de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

Permítame, Señor Presidente, hacer algunos planteamientos generales sobre la agricultura en nuestro país.

La situación agrícola en Panamá es de tal naturaleza que el Gobierno se ha propuesto aumentar la tasa de crecimiento económico del sector agropecuario de 3 por ciento en el decenio 65/75 hasta lograr un 5 por ciento de tasas promedio anual, a mediano y largo plazo, manteniendo el objetivo social fundamental de incorporar a miles de familias de campesinos y agricultores panameños que todavía hoy, viven y subsisten fuera de la economía de mercado, marginados de las mejores tierras agrícolas con un bajo nivel tecnológico y con problemas básicos de nutrición.

Los esfuerzos del Gobierno Nacional están encaminados a lograr la incorporación a una tasa mucho más alta de la mayor cantidad posible de la población marginada. Hasta el momento, se han incorporado 7 000 familias campesinas a la economía de mercado en los últimos 7 años, en virtud de una política definida de reforma agraria, crédito y asistencia técnica.

Ante la imposibilidad de intervenir en todo el espacio geográfico de nuestro país, hemos diseñado dentro de la estrategia de desarrollo regional una política de desarrollo rural integrado, en donde la concentración de la gente, de las inversiones, los recursos y esfuerzos multisectoriales es la clave para el logro de un objetivo común.

Por tal motivo, damos trascendental importancia a los preparativos de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural Integrado, en la cual estaremos presente.

Dentro de dicha estrategia de desarrollo regional hemos señalado intervenciones para el desarrollo, teniendo en cuenta el manejo de nuestras principales cuencas hidrográficas, entre ellas las cuencas de los lagos Gatún y Alajuela, las cuales constituyen parte fundamental del sistema hidráulico del Canal de Panamá y para el abastecimiento de agua a nuestra principales ciudades, que son recipientes del movimiento poblacional campo-ciudad.

El manejo de estas cuencas hidrográficas contemplan la aplicación de sistemas agroforestales en las áreas de tierras agrícolas no mecanizables y en las tierras forestales y dentro de una concepción del desarrollo de todas las actividades humanas, tendientes a la conservación de los recursos naturales renovables y del medio ambiente, debido principalmente a nuestras particulares condiciones ecológicas del trópico húmedo.

Especial consideración ha merecido la situación de pobreza y malnutrición de extensas áreas indígenas degradadas para las cuales ya estaraos recibiendo la cooperación técnica efectiva de la FAO, para implementar un programa de reforestación, esperando solamente respuesta favorable de una solicitud hecha por nuestro Gobierno al Programa Mundial de Alimentos que pueda ser aprobada con la urgencia que el caso amerita.

Hemos reconocido la importancia que la agricultura tiene en el desarrollo económico y social, por ello intentamos fortalecer nuestros sistemas financieros e institucionales que permitan el aprovechamiento del potencial productivo y la participación de la población rural. Por lo que buscamos el perfeccionamiento de nuestra oficina de planificación agrícola, a través del Proyecto PAN/76/005 conjuntamente con la FAO, con el objetivo de instalar un sistema nacional de planificación agropecuaria y elaborar un Plan de Mediano Plazo para el Sector, que defina una estrategia, dentro del marco de la estructura de los cambios anteriormente señalados.

En el sector Forestal y de Pesca, el Programa de Asistencia Técnica, en Panamá, ha cumplido con los objetivos que se ha propuesto. En este sentido, mi delegación, brinda todo su apoyo a este programa que ha sido creado para beneficio de los países en desarrollo y esperamos que en el próximo bienio beneficie, tanto a nuestro país así como a la mayor cantidad posible de países que necesitan su colaboración.

En el campo de las inversiones, cabe destacar la prioridad que las mismas han tenido dentro de la agricultura, especialmente, en el incremento de la producción de rubros de exportación, que como la caña de azúcar ocupa el segundo lugar de nuestras exportaciones agrícolas. Lamentablemente, debemos señalar, la desventaja enorme que los países en desarrollo tenemos frente a los países desarrollados, en beneficio de éstos últimos en los aspectos de la comercialización de este producto, provocando serios trastornos a la economía nacional e impidiendo que el sector agropecuario contribuya al financiamiento de los demás sectores de nuestra economía.

Para responder a las ingentes tareas que el desarrollo de la agricultura nos demanda, nos vemos en la necesidad creciente de la obtención de financiamiento externo para la ejecución de los diferentes programas y proyectos, en función del cumplimiento de las metas programadas. Pero tal hecho no siempre guarda relación con las políticas nacionales elaboradas para el desarrollo agrícola. Ante esto debemos decir, las dificultades que atravesamos para la obtención de financiamiento para el desarrollo y consolidación de los asentamientos campesinos, los cuales han tenido que ser financiados con aporte del Gobierno Central y con recursos caros de la banca privada. Debemos advertir, que tal actitud de las agencias internacionales de financiamiento perjudica el cumplimiento de objetivos precisos como la redistribución de ingresos, por su marcada tendencia de conferir préstamos únicamente para productores individuales, lo que conlleva a modernizar la agricultura de una parte de la población rural con la consiguiente concentración del ingreso. Por tal motivo miramos con profunda satisfacción la constitución del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA), como vía para ayudar a resolver los problemas del desarrollo nacional de la agricultura.

Consideramos que debe existir una acción conjunta y la necesaria coordinación entre ambas organizaciones con el fin de aprovechar la experiencia técnica de la FAO en la realización de los programas y hacer más efectiva y barata la asistencia técnica y crediticia programada.

Nos complace notar, como en tan corto tiempo el Director General está orientando la Organización para una acción más directa en beneficio del incremento de la producción agropecuaria de los países en desarrollo.



Para terminar, Señor Presidente, la Delegación de Panamá apoya el programa de Prevención de Pérdidas de Alimentos tal y como fue expuesto por nuestra Delegación en la Comisión I, haciendo un llamado a esta Conferencia para que se establezca, lo antes posible, el Fondo propuesto para este fin, con énfasis especial, en su nivel de importancia, en la urgencia de los países en solucionar en parte sustancial los déficit de alimentos y en especial la malnutrición.

Pensamos Señor Presidente, que la descentralización a nivel, de países del programa general constituye parte de la estrategia tendiente a garantizar la agilización de todos los programas y actividades más importantes que éstos deben desarrollar conjuntamente con la FAO, por lo cual apoyamos decididamente esta acción de política. 1/

The meeting rose at 18. 25 hours

La séance est levée a 18 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 25 horas

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/18

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 18ª SESION PLENARIA

(25 November 1977)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15. 20 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-huitième seance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 20, sous

la présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conference

Se abre la 18ª sesión plenaria a las 15. 20 horas, bajo la

presidencia de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

Second Report of the Credentials Committee to the Conference

Deuxième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs de la Conférence

Segundo informe del Comité de Credenciales a la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on the Chairman of the Credentials Committee to read the second report of the Credentials Committee.

H. QABAZARD (Chairman, Credentials Committee): The Credentials Committee, at its second session, examined the credentials of another 22 Member Nations and found them to be in order, thus bringing the total to 138 credentials. Six Member Nations have not registered to date. The list, as you see in document C 77/LIM/43, is attached as Appendix A.

In addition, the Committee examined and found in order the credentials of the observers of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the following three African Liberation Movements invited under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity: African National Congress, Pan-Africanist Congress and the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe.

The Committee also examined and found in order the credentials of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, of the intergovernmental organizations and of the non-governmental organizations, and found them in order. These are listed in Appendix B. Five organizations had registered but not submitted letters of accreditation as of 22 November 1977.

CHAIRMAN: I understand that the report has already been distributed. The number of the document is C 77/LIM/43

Are there any comments?

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Sixth Report of the General Committee

Sixième rapport du Bureau

Sexto informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: The second report of the Credentials Committee was reviewed by the General Committee this morning, and I will ask the Secretary-General to read the section of the report of the General Committee which refers to it.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The second report of the Credentials Committee: the General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Second Report of the Credentials Committee (document C 77/LIM/43).

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section which has just been read adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Apropiado

In the second section of the Sixth Report of the General Committee there is a resolution on the appointment of the independent Chairman of the Council. The name, of course, will be inserted after the election which will take place on Monday morning. I will ask the Secretary-General to read it.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I believe the document will be distributed within a few minutes, but as it is not yet available I will read the resolution and the text of the report.

Pursuant to Rule XXIII-1(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, the General Committee recommends the following Resolution for adoption by the Conference, setting out the conditions of appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council for a period of two years up to the end of the 1979 Session of the Conference, including the allowances attached to the office:

Resolution.... /77

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

THE CONFERENCE,

Having proceeded to a secret ballot, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization,

1. Declares that ..... is appointed Independent Chairman of the Council for a period of two years, that is until the end of the regular session of the Conference to be held in 1979, and

Having noted the recommendations submitted by the General Committee in conformity with Rule XXIII of the General Rules of the Organization,

2. Decides that the conditions of appointment, including the allowances attached to the office of the Independent Chairman of the Council, shall be as follows:

(a) An annual allowance of the equivalent of \$10 000 to cover representation expenses and secretarial assistance in the Chairman's home station, on the understanding that the Director-General will provide secretarial assistance when the Chairman attends sessions of the Council or Conference; one half of the allowance shall be payable in US dollars, the balance being payable, in whole or in part, in the currency of the home country of the Chairman, or in Italian Lire, according to his desire;

(b) A per diem allowance at a rate equivalent to that for the Deputy Director-General, while the Chairman is absent from his home station on Council business, the allowance being reduced to \$20. 00 per diem while the Chairman is in travel status;

(c) Travel expenses, including the above per diem allowance, shall be defrayed by the Organization, in conformity with its regulations and existing practice when the Chairman attends sessions of the Council, of the Programme and Finance Committees, of the Conference, or when he is invited by the Council or by the Director-General to travel for other purposes.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments?

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (Mexico): No sé si todos los demás delegados habrán sido advertidos, como yo, al disponer del texto escrito de este sexto informe. Parecería, por la lectura que se hizo, que ello fue debido a que no estaba aun en poder de todos los delegados dicho informe. Es una resolución interesante e importante y mi delegación, únicamente para fines de ilustración, desearía hacer unas preguntas en relación con la parte operativa 2 de este proyecto de resolución, inciso a), penúltimo párrafo, del texto en español, que dice: "En la moneda del país. . .".

En realidad, yo no pretendo estar en el papel del Presidente Independiente del Consejo, o de conocer sus preferencias. No sé si esto sea ya tradicional, esta forma así, o si se quiere decir en la moneda del país de residencia del Presidente, que no necesariamente es el país de origen, si es que se quiere hacer referencia a éste cuando se habla de país.

Esa es una primera observación; la siguiente se refiere al inciso b) también de este párrafo operativo 2 en donde se habla del subsidio diario, equivalente al del Director General Adjunto, mientras el Presidente se halle ausente por asuntos del Consejo. Y luego, será diferente cuando el Presidente se halle de viaje. Parece que no resulta muy clara para nosotros porque si se halla ausente de su residencia por asuntos del Consejo, se puede encontrar también de viaje. Lo que se quiere decir es que cuando el Presidente esté llevando a cabo o atendiendo asuntos del Consejo, y el otro presupuesto es cuando se encuentre en tránsito. O sea, la segunda parte sí nos parece bien, cuando se halla en viaje, la primera, cuando precisamente está atendiendo asuntos del Consejo. No se' si he sido un poco prolijo, Sr. Presidente, pero desearía conocer alguna reacción al respecto.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have not got the Spanish text in front of me but I think there may have been some misunderstanding. In the last part of paragraph 2(a) it says indeed "the balance being payable in whole or in part in the currency of the home country". Home country means the country of residence (el país de residencia). As regards travel status it is during his transit that he is covered. The interpretation of the delegate of Mexico is correct.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary-General. Is it clear, delegate of Mexico? Are there any other comments on this Resolution?

M. S. ZEHNI (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): Since the Arabic text has not yet been distributed there is a point under point 2. (ii) - "the conditions of appointment including the allowances attached to the office". Reading (a), (b) and (c) I see no conditions of appointment, it is all a financial arrangement so if you can clear this up for me.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The conditions of appointment are laid down in the basic text where the status of the Chairman is spelt out.

CHAIRMAN: Is it clear now, delegate of Libya?

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The exact reference, Mr. Chairman, is Rule 23 of the General Rules of the Organization which deals with the Rules of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: Are you satisfied, delegate of Libya? Are there any other comments? If there are no other comments, I declare the Resolution on the Independent Chairman of the Council adopted.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobado

Seventh Report of the General Committee

Septième rapport du Bureau

Séptimo informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: The seventh Report of the General Committee has been circulated as document C 77/LIM/45. This document informs the Conference of the further nominations that have been received by Thursday at 18.00 hours. I will ask the Secretary-General to read paragraph 8 of this Report.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le paragraphe 8 du document C 77/LIM/45 contient la recommandation du bureau qui est que la première étape des élections comporte un tour de scrutin pour toutes les régions concernées par les sièges supplémentaires des deux premières périodes, c'est-à-dire celles qui vont de novembre 1977 au 31 décembre 1978 - une année - et de novembre 1977 à novembre 1979 - deux ans. Ce premier scrutin sera suivi de tout scrutin supplémentaire qui pourrait être requis pour ces deux périodes. Il est bien entendu que les pays qui ont posé leur candidature aux deux périodes et qui sont élus pour la première période ne peuvent être élus pour la seconde; ils tombent automatiquement pour la seconde.

La deuxième étape pourrait comporter un tour de scrutin pour les régions concernées par les sièges de la troisième période, c'est-à-dire pour la période qui va de novembre 1977 au 31 décembre 1980 -période de trois ans. Ce scrutin sera lui-même suivi de tout scrutin supplémentaire qui pourrait être repris pour cette période.

La troisième étape comporterait alors un tour de scrutin pour les régions concernées par les sièges de la quatrième période, c'est-à-dire la période qui va du 1er janvier 1979 à novembre 1981, donc également trois ans, scrutin qui serait également suivi de tout scrutin supplémentaire qui pourrait être requis pour cette période.

C'était, . Monsieur le Président, la forme habituelle de tenir ces élections.

CHAIRMAN: May I now enquire if there are any comments on this Seventh Report of the General Committee? If there are none I declare the Report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

#### PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

#### QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

#### PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

26. Appointments (continued)

26. Nominations (suite)

26. Nombramientos (continuación)

26. 2 Appointment of Member Governments' Representatives to the Staff Pension Committee

26. 2 Nomination des représentants des Etats Membres au Comité de la Caisse des pensions

26. 2 Nombramiento de representantes de los Estados Miembros en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

CHAIRMAN: The Organization participates in the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund which provides the staff of its member organizations with pension and related benefits on retirement, death or disability. The Fund is administered through a Joint Staff Pension Board which is composed of representatives of: (1) the governing bodies of the member organizations; (2) the Directors-General of the organizations and (3) participants in the Fund.

Each member organization has a Staff Pension Committee with the same tripartite composition. This deals with most of the pension matters relating to its staff. It is necessary for the Conference to appoint three members and three alternates to the FAO Committee for the two-year period 1978-79. For reasons of economy the practice has been to appoint members and alternates stationed in Rome. This enables them to attend meetings at FAO Headquarters without involving the Organization in heavy cost.

I am informed that the following members of delegations to this Conference, resident in Rome, have indicated their interest in serving on this Committee for a two-year term of office:

Members

M. Gerhard Lieber  
Counsellor (Agriculture)  
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Rome  
M. S. S. Mahdi  
Counsellor (Agriculture)  
Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of the Republic of India  
Rome  
Sr. Giuseppe de Michelis di Slonghello  
Counsellor  
Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO  
Permanent Mission of Italy to FAO  
Rome

Alternate Members:

M. Horatio Mends  
Minister Counsellor (Agriculture)  
Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of the Republic of Ghana  
Rome  
Counsellor Alfred I. Machayo  
Minister Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative to FAO  
Rome  
M. Amir Abdalla Khalil  
Counsellor  
Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Sudan  
Rome

Are there any comments or objections on this list?

As I see none I declare these proposals adopted.

PART V - OTHER MATTERS

CINQUIEME PARTIE - QUESTIONS DIVERSES

PARTE V - OTROS ASUNTOS

27. A. H. Boerma Activity  
27. Activité A. H. Boermâ  
27. Actividad A. H. Boerma

CHAIRMAN: As requested by the last Session of the Conference the Director-General has proposed to the Council the terms of the new Boerma Activity to be awarded in the name of the previous Director-General of this Organization, Mr. Boerma. The terms of how this award should be presented are outlined in document C 77/LIM/6 which is an extract from the Report of the Seventy-First Council Session. I am informed that this document was distributed to delegates quite a while ago and I would like to invite any comments. If there are none I take it that the Conference notes the decision of the Council that the award be presented during Conference sessions and under the conditions established by the Council at its Seventy-First Session.

The meeting rose at 16. 00 hours

La séance est levée à 16 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 16. 00 horas



## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/PV/19

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING DIX-NEUVIEME SÉANCE PLENIERE 19ª SESION PLENARIA

(28 November 1977)

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10. 45 hours,

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 45, sous la présidence de

T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 19ª sesión plenaria a las 10. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia de

T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

PART I V - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

QUATRIEME PARIE – MOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

PARTE IV – NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuacion)

26. Appointments (continued)

26. Nominations (suite)

26. Nom bramientos (continuacion)

26. 1 Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council

26. 1 Nomination du Prbsident indbpendant du Conseil

26. 1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independngte del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: May I call the Nineteenth Plenary Meeting to order. For this morning, we have on our agenda Item 26. 1, Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council. There is one nomination only for the post of the Independent Chairman of the Council, and it is that of Dr. Bukar Shaib, as stated in document C 77/15. I hope all of you have seen this document.

Before we proceed to the election, I will call upon the Secretary-General to explain the voting procedure.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: On trouvera tous les renseignements concernant le scrutin dans le document C 77/INF. 2. Aux fins du scrutin, chaque délégation reçoit un bulletin de vote sur lequel figurent trois cases. Il faut mettre un X dans la case correspondant au choix de l'électeur, c'est-à-dire soit dans le "OUI", soit dans le "NON" soit dans l'"ABSTENTION".

Aux termes de l'Article XII. 4 c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront comptés comme abstentions aux termes de l'alinéa 4 d) du même Article XII, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication, ni aucun signe autre que celui par lequel s'exprime le suffrage.

CHAIRMAN: In accordance with the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization which have been explained, I hope that the whole voting procedure is made clear. Paragraph 9(a) of Rule XII specifies: "The appointment of the Chairman of the Council and of the Director-General, the admission of additional Member Nations and Associate Members, and the election of Council Members, shall be decided by secret ballot.

In accordance with the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. I have requested the officers in charge of the election to carry out a count and I am told that at this moment 85 delegations of Member Nations are present in this hall. We may therefore proceed at once to voting. May I remind you that in accordance with Rule XII-14 of the General Rules of the Organization once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting. In accordance with the Rule XII-9(c) of the General Rules of the Organization the Chairman of the Conference appoints two tellers from among the delegations of their alternates. I therefore request the delegates of Colombia and Algeria to serve as tellers for this election. Will these two delegates please proceed to the voting area?

Vote

Votation

Votacion

Date 28 November 1977  
Fecha

REPORT OF BALLOT ON ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL  
RESULTAT DU TOUR DE SCRUTIN SUR LA NOMINATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION PARA EL NOMBRAMIENTO DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO

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DR. BUKAR SHAIB

1. Number of ballot papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	104
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3
4. Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	101
5. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	51
6. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	98
7. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	3

DR. BUKAR SHAIB

IS ACCORDINGLY ELECTED INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

EST ELU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL

HA SIDO ELEGIDO PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO

Signatures .....	.....	.....
Teller	Teller	Elections Officer
Eduardo Saénz (Colombia)	Bendjema M.A. (Algérie)	B. Linley

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: C'est pour moi un très agréable devoir de rendre hommage au Président sortant du Conseil, et d'accueillir et féliciter le Président nouvellement élu.

Notre ami, le Président Bula Hoyos, quitte sa charge. J'ai évoqué, lors de la toute dernière session du Conseil, les étapes de sa remarquable carrière toujours plus étroitement associée à notre Organisation depuis 1959. Qu'il me suffise de redire devant cette éminente assemblée que M. Bula Hoyos peut être légitimement fier et satisfait de son travail. Il entre dans l'illustre lignée de ses prédécesseurs. Ceux-ci sont, en quelque sorte, la conscience de notre Organisation. Ils sont pour nous le témoignage de l'attachement d'homme de coeur à cette maison, à ses nobles objectifs. Leur exemple nous incite au dévouement.

Je tiens à vous remercier vivement, M. Bula Hoyos, des éminents services que vous avez rendus à la FAO.

Je voudrais maintenant me tourner vers le nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil et le féliciter très sincèrement. Son élection unanime témoigne de la haute estime dans laquelle il est tenu au sein de cette Organisation. Elle honore son pays, le Nigeria, mais aussi l'Afrique.

Le Dr B. Shaib a forgé sa réputation tout d'abord dans son propre pays, où il assume actuellement les importantes responsabilités de Secrétaire permanent au Ministère fédéral des ressources hydrauliques; il l'a étendue ensuite à la FAO où sa présence nous est familière. Il a participé en effet depuis 1962, à presque toutes les conférences biennales, et ses compétences l'ont porté, en 1971, au Comité du programme, dont il fut Vice-Président de 1973 à nos jours. Dans ces fonctions, il a démontré amplement qu'il avait l'étoffe d'un excellent Président.

Très sincèrement, je félicite une fois encore le Dr B. Shaib de son élection, et l'assure de toute ma coopération.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

B. SHAIB (Independent Chairman-elect of the Council): Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: At this very late stage of the Conference I am sure that the last thing you would want to hear would be another long speech on the world food situation, malnutrition, etc. You have heard more than enough of these already, and I do not intend to burden you with any more.

In fact, from now on, my main preoccupation will be how to persuade delegates to Council sessions not to make long speeches. And charity begins at home.

This morning in the 32nd year in the history of this Organization, you have elected an African to be the Independent Chairman of the Council, which is the second highest organ of the Organization after the Conference. And I am proud to be that son of Africa.

This is not only a rare privilege to me, but also a great honour to my country and to the whole of Africa.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that this is also the first time a veterinarian has been appointed to this post in FAO. By electing me, therefore, the Conference has done honour to the veterinary profession the world over.

As the Independent Chairman of the Council I do not represent my country, nor do I represent my region. I have no casting vote. My role in Council debates. will be that of a neutral referee to ensure that the game is played according to the rules, and to act as a conciliator when the debates are deadlocked.

This, Mr. "Chairman, is not an easy role and to succeed I will need the confidence and goodwill of not only the members of the Council, but also of all Member Nations of the Organization Happily, all the indications are that the necessary confidence and goodwill do exist. The overwhelming votes which you have just cast in my favour and the numerous pledges of support which we received even before the election are eloquent testimony of such confidence and goodwill. I am most grateful to all of you.

Mr. Chairman, I now wish to refer to some remarks made by the Heads of two delegations which have a direct bearing on the work of the Conference and the Council.

The Head of the Saudi Arabian delegation His Excellency Abdel-Aziz Al-Sheikh in concluding his statement appealed to the Conference to limit the number of resolutions to a few essential ones. I couldn't agree more. An index of all FAO Conference and Council resolutions and decisions since the Organization was founded in 1945 to date have been compiled by the Secretariat at the request of the Council. ' These resolutions occupy over 600 pages in three volumes. Mr Chairman, much time and effort can be saved if in future all draft resolutions are screened to make sure that they are, in fact, new before being submitted to the Conference or Council for adoption.

The next remarks were made by Mr. Walter Ives, the Leader of the Australian delegation. Mr. Ives drew the attention of the Conference to the tendency of the Member Countries to belong to one group or the other, and to the apparent lack of effective mechanism for the groups to exchange their viewpoints in a quiet and informal atmosphere which could be conducive to compromise. In other words, the type of "musyawara" of the Indonesian farming villages which you, Mr. Chairman, described so vividly in your opening statement.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I do not entirely share Mr. Ives' pessimism in this respect. Since 1963 I have attended every FAO biennial Conference, except that of 1967, and I can say without any hesitation that this Conference is one of the best I have ever seen. As Mr. Ives himself pointed out later in his statement, "There is a good spirit in this Conference and an evident desire for cooperation even at the cost of difficult compromise. " These are Mr. Ives' own words, and here I am in full agreement with him.

One good example of the spirit of compromise was the "Contact Group" set up when the debates on certain important issues were deadlocked in the last Council Session. The "Contact Group" which consisted of members of the "Group of 77" and the "Geneva Group" held informal discussion, which not only took the heat out of the formal Council debates, but also resulted in compromise solutions acceptable to the various groups. In fact, the "Contact Group" continued to hold informal discussion throughout this Conference.

Mr. Chairman, what is of much greater concern to me, and I am sure to many other people is the lack of genuine debate by ministers and other heads of delegations on matters of substance at the plenary meetings. The whole of the first week of the Conference is taken up by formal statements, after which most ministers leave for home because throughout the second week the Commissions are meeting and there is very little for the ministers to do, and they cannot afford to be in Rome for the whole three weeks of the Conference. When the reports of the Commissions come up for adoption at the Plenary in the third week it is often difficult to form a quorum, because by that time even the poor bureaucrats left behind are completely exhausted and show little further interest in the proceedings of the Conference. It is, therefore, necessary for the Council to examine this problem in depth and make recommendations to the Conference on how best to make the maximum use of the limited time available to ministers.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working closely with my friend, Dr. Edouard Saouma. Since he took office as the Director-General less than two years ago, Dr. Saouma has revitalized the Organization and given it positive direction. As a member of the Programme Committee, I know how much effort Dr. Saouma and his staff have put into reshaping the Programme of Work to what it is today. I will do all I can to contribute to the further success of the Director-General's efforts.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Señor Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, the outgoing Independent Chairman of the Council. I have worked with him for many years both in the Council and the Programme Committee, and we have all come to admire his patience and confidence as a Chairman. The greatest tribute I can pay to Gonzalo is to say that I will endeavour to keep the very high standard he has already set. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Bakar Shaib, the newly-elected Independent Chairman of the Council. May I now call upon Señor Gonzalo Hoyos, the Independent Chairman of the Council until the end of this Conference.

G. BULA HOYOS (Presidente Independiente del Consejo): Señor Presidente, señor Director General, señoras y señores; Esta Conferencia acaba de elegir el nuevo Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Concluye así el mandato que recibí de este organismo soberano por dos períodos consecutivos.

En estos momentos experimento la sensación de que culmina una etapa importante en los veinte años de servicios que he dedicado a nuestra Organización.

Personalmente, me siento muy satisfecho, muy honrado con las generosas frases que se han pronunciado sobre mi labor. Todo ello será un valioso estímulo para continuar mi vinculación a la FAO. Reiniciare el ciclo desde sus comienzos: volveré a ser delegado de Colombia, y me empeñaré por ofrecer a esta Organización todos mis esfuerzos en favor de los objetivos que le corresponde cumplir. Los caminos siguen abiertos, la jornada continúa. Mi carrera se ha basado en la amistad y la simpatía personales que me han unido a todos ustedes. La cooperación que me ofrecieron mis colegas y amigos facilitó grandemente en todo momento el mejor desempeño de mis funciones.

Cuánto me honra y complace que el Sr. Bukar Shaib haya sido elegido Presidente independiente del Consejo! He tenido la fortuna y el privilegio de ser amigo de Bukar Shaib desde hace muchos años. Hemos trabajado juntos en diversas reuniones. Conozco bien y admiro muy sinceramente sus capacidades y su inteligencia. La honestidad y la franqueza que le caracterizan se suman a sus condiciones intelectuales para conformar la personalidad de un hombre íntegro y capaz que bien merece esta distinción.

La elección de Bukar Shaib conlleva también el hecho importante de que será el primer Presidente del Consejo proveniente de África. Así, tan importante región del mundo ha escogido uno de sus mejores hijos para que la represente en esta alta posición.

Este hecho es símbolo significativo de la evolución en curso cuyo cumplimiento hace justicia al gran continente africano.

Bukar Shaib será un excelente Presidente del Consejo. Esa es mi convicción, que coincide con mis deseos más sinceros que le transmito del fondo de mi corazón.

Dejo la Presidencia del Consejo con la fe creciente e inquebrantable en el porvenir de nuestra Organización.

La FAO debe ser fortalecida porque está llamada a cumplir una función esencial en la lucha contra el hambre y la miseria.

Las declaraciones hechas en días pasados por los ministros y jefes de delegaciones indican que la situación alimentaria ha mejorado un poco, pero aún es preocupante en el Sahel y otras regiones del mundo. Las recientes mejoras temporales en la producción no deben disminuir nuestros esfuerzos. No esperemos nuevas crisis para actuar; por el contrario, hay que aprovechar esos intervalos para avanzar, buscar soluciones a los problemas y evitar futuras dramáticas situaciones. El Director General ha iniciado una profunda y vigorosa revisión del Programa, de la política y de los métodos de trabajo de nuestra Organización. En ese empeño acompañan al doctor Saouma mis mejores y más sinceros deseos. En esta Conferencia que está por terminar, la FAO ha recibido el apoyo unánime de todos los Estados Miembros. Toda la comunidad internacional debe impulsar nuestra Organización hacia el cumplimiento de los principios del nuevo orden económico internacional en favor del Tercer Mundo. Esa no es una alternativa; es la dirección, inexorable el derrotero invariable de nuestras actividades. Trabajemos, en armonía, en pleno acuerdo, sin confrontación, en el seno de la FAO, que es nuestro Organismo y es también esperanza cierta de los pueblos que padecen hambre y de todos los Estados que necesitan aumentar su producción agrícola para asegurar la subsistencia y la dignidad de sus poblaciones. El hambre, la malnutrición, la pobreza nublan las mentes, apagan los espíritus, ensombrecen las conciencias. Desesperan a los seres desafortunados que las padecen. Sólo una población en todos los rincones del planeta, con cuerpos sanos, mentes libres, condiciones de vida mínimamente decorosas; podrá asegurar la paz y el progreso en toda la humanidad.

Mil y mil gracias, queridos compañeros y amigos. La confianza con que me honraron durante estos cuatro años ha germinado en mi espíritu, pleno de gratitud y reconocimiento, hacia todos ustedes. Me siento orgulloso y feliz de volver a ser delegado de Colombia. Les ruego que, como en otros buenos tiempos, me acojan a su lado. Sumaré toda mi buena voluntad a los esfuerzos que ustedes vienen haciendo por fortalecer nuestra Organización. En este día recuerdo los versos del poeta que dicen: "Sopla el viento, caen las doradas hojas del otoño con el melódico rumor de su canción. El riachuelo evoca la idílica grandeza del manantial que nos espera. Sigamos de la mano. El porvenir es nuestro, "

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

G. V. K. RAO (India): My delegation takes this opportunity of congratulating Dr. Bukar Shaib, Permanent Secretary of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on his near-unanimous election to this high post. It is indicative of the measure of trust and confidence which this august body reposes in him and the country which he has the honour to represent, and also the great continent of Africa.

This is an extremely well deserved election. Dr. Bukar Shaib is no stranger to those who have been in contact with him. He has been attending these conferences since 1963 but for a single omission. Dr. Shaib has also represented his country in the FAO Council, having first served as a member of the Programme Committee and later on as its Vice-chairman. These are a few instances out of many distinctions which Dr. Shaib has to his credit, both in his government as well as in international circles. He fully reflects all the ideals which the FAO stands for.

In his speech today, he has given ample indications of the balanced and mature person he is. I have had the privilege of personally knowing Dr. Shaib in the last few weeks while we have been here. His gentle and noble temperament leaves a lasting impression. My delegation is aware of the heavy responsibility this House is putting on his shoulders, but we have no doubt that with his distinguished background, experience and personal qualities, he will successfully discharge his many responsibilities most successfully and will add lustre to the high office he is going to occupy. My delegation once again congratulates him and assures him of our support.

So far as the outgoing Chairman, Señor Bula Hoyos, is concerned, may I congratulate and compliment him on the very successful completion of his term of office. He has been a familiar figure here for the last two decades, first as a distinguished representative of his country, and later on as the Independent Chairman for the last four years. This Organization has had the privilege of his wise counsel on many occasions, and his experience has led to the solution of many complex problems on many occasions. He has all the qualities which an Independent Chairman should have - tact, firmness, humility, and above all amiability.

As we bid him farewell today, our consolation is that he will continue to sit with us and give us the benefit of his wise counsel as the distinguished delegate of his country. I wish him all success in whatever capacity he serves his country and the international community.

G. W. THOM (United Kingdom): On behalf of the United Kingdom delegation, I would like to say a few words about the outgoing and incoming Independent Chairmen of the Council. If I speak only briefly, this is not due to any lack of respect or regard for Señor Bula Hoyos and Dr. Bukar Shaib. A number of delegations wish to speak, and in these circumstances brevity is a virtue; indeed, I understood from Dr. Bukar Shaib that in all circumstances brevity is a virtue.

To guide and control meetings at which delegates of many different nationalities often express widely differing views, sometimes at excessive length, is no easy task. The Chairman's job fundamentally is to ensure the Council completes its business in the time available and with the least possible friction. He must earn the respect of all by his courtesy, tolerance and firmness. He must not go to sleep, however dull the proceedings may be. He must listen carefully to every intervention so that at the end he may sum up the debate in a fair, balanced and reasonable way. He must work tirelessly to promote compromise or, better still, agreement between those holding different views. He must always be ready to forego his lunch or his leisure hours in the interests of peace, harmony and concord in the Council. He must be ready to travel to the ends of the earth in the interests of FAO.

I have tried to describe in a few words the functions of the Independent Chairman and the qualities which he should possess. As I have been speaking I have been reflecting on the way in which Mr. Bula Hoyos has performed these functions and exhibited these qualities. The conclusion at which I have arrived is that he has performed over the last four years the very difficult duties of his office with praiseworthy efficiency. He has shown firmness and tolerance. He has not, as far as I know, fallen asleep. He has summed up sensibly and impartially and he has exerted enormous efforts on occasions, of which I am personally aware, to bring together delegations or groups of delegations holding strongly different opinions.

All of us who have participated in sessions of the Council during Mr. Bula Hoyos' term of office will feel just a little sad that his time is up and that he will no longer be presiding over our meetings. We would like to thank him most warmly for everything that he has done.

We must now look to the future. My delegation is delighted that Dr. Bukar Shaib of Nigeria has been elected to succeed Mr. Bula Hoyos. We cannot of course say with complete confidence in advance that he will perform his duties in exactly the same admirable way in which his predecessor has been performing them. But we only have to look at his most distinguished record of service in Nigeria and his long association with FAO to feel completely confident that he will guide the Council through its business over the next two years with the great efficiency which he has shown in all the other tasks to which he has set his hand in his distinguished career. We most warmly congratulate him on his election and look forward with pleasure to working harmoniously with him.

F. J. SPECKS (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): My Government welcomes the fact that we now have an African Chairman of the Council, after having had a Latin-American one. My delegation, like the previous speakers, would like to congratulate Dr. Bukar Shaib very warmly on his election. The trust which Member countries have placed in Dr. Bukar Shaib by electing him shows the great trust which we have in him. The work of the Organization, the problems of the Organization, are extremely familiar to him because for many years he has attended the Conference, the Council, the Programme Committee and other bodies of FAO. Sound technical knowledge and wide experience in leading positions in the national government of his country give him a good basis for carrying out his responsible task. What we appreciate greatly is his readiness for a dialogue and his perfect fairness. We would like to express to Dr. Bukar Shaib our best wishes for success in his new responsible task.

Now I come to the Independent Chairman of the Council who is leaving us, Mr. Bula Hoyos, who after four years of successful work as Chairman of the Council has already heard the thanks of my delegation during the Seventy-Second Session of the Council. Therefore we want to be brief and just stress once again how greatly we appreciate the way in which Mr. Bula Hoyos has guided the debates of the Council. Also we have admired the art with which he has been able at the end of a discussion to give a clear, neutral and objective summary of what had happened during the discussion. We express to you our best wishes for your personal life in the future.

J. S. CÂMARA (Guinée): C'est un honneur pour moi et pour ma délégation que d'exprimer, au nom de la région africaine, notre profonde reconnaissance à cette dix-neuvième session de la Conférence, qui vient d'élire un fils de l'Afrique au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil de l'Organisation. En choisissant le Dr. Bukar Shaib, les délégués ont rendu un hommage à son pays et à toute l'Afrique. Nous connaissons tous ses éminentes qualités et l'immense travail qu'il a accompli dans cette Organisation, tant au cours des sessions de la Conférence que des sessions du Comité du Programme ou du Conseil. Nous sommes sûrs qu'il répondra parfaitement à la confiance que cette Conférence a placée en lui. Au nom de la région de l'Afrique et du Gouvernement de Guinée, nous lui souhaitons plein succès dans ses nouvelles responsabilités.

L'unanimité qui s'est faite sur son nom, d'abord dans la région africaine et ensuite au sein des autres régions, témoignent de l'immensité des problèmes qui préoccupent notre organisation. Nous pensons que la coopération utile et efficace qu'il aura avec le Directeur général ne pourra que nous aider dans notre tâche. La solidité de cette coopération entre les deux sera un gage certain pour l'avenir de cette organisation.

Nous voulons également exprimer à M. Bula Hoyos, et nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de le faire lors de la dernière session du Conseil, la profonde gratitude de la région africaine pour le travail qu'il a accompli à la tête du Conseil pour le bien de tous les pays et surtout des pays en voie de développement, spécialement dans notre région. M. Bula Hoyos est l'ami de tous les délégués africains. Pour nous, c'est très important. En revenant ici comme délégué de la Colombie, il continuera à mettre son expérience au service de l'Organisation, ainsi qu'il nous l'a dit lui-même. .

Allons de l'avant, l'avenir est à nous. Nous sommes sûrs que l'avenir est à cette Organisation, grâce au dynamisme de son chef et également grâce à un sang nouveau qui vient de lui être insufflé par l'élection du Dr. Bukar Shaib. Nous sommes convaincus que, quelles que soient les difficultés rencontrées pendant les sessions du Conseil, le Dr. Shaib, comme son prédécesseur, réussira à conduire les points de vue des différentes délégations vers un consensus sur les divers problèmes traités au Conseil. Nous lui souhaitons donc plein succès.



S. H. AL-SHAKIR (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the Near East countries I am happy to congratulate Dr. Bukar Shaib on his election as Independent Chairman of the Council for the coming session. We would like to thank the friendly country of Nigeria for having chosen Dr. Bukar Shaib to represent it and all the developing African countries. Dr. Bukar Shaib is well known to the Organization. He is equally well known in Nigeria and in other international fora. His future task is a very important one, since he has to carry out and implement quite a number of resolutions and recommendations in a practical and very serious manner, especially those which have been approved at this session of the Conference. I am convinced that the fruitful cooperation that will exist between the Independent Chairman of the Council and the Director-General of FAO will provide a corner-stone for the Organization. We will be able to progress and implement new resolutions for the great benefit of FAO and the hopes of the developing countries in full confidence.

I would like to pay tribute to our friend, Mr. Bula Hoyos, the outgoing Chairman of the Council. He has made every effort and with his qualities and integrity he has been fair and just to all groups and regions and has had close ties with everybody as well as with FAO. We wish him every success and we welcome him amongst the permanent delegations again. I would like to wish Dr. Bukar Shaib every success.

J. C KHARAS (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation would like to add its voice to those before us in congratulating Mr. Bukar Shaib on his unanimous election as the Independent Chairman of the Council. We warmly welcome his appointment which is not only a tribute to his country but also a personal tribute to him. It is a matter of gratification for us that this important post has for the first time passed into the hands of a distinguished son of the great continent of Africa. We know Mr. Bukar Shaib well and we have always been impressed by his ability, his sincerity, his seriousness, his integrity and his deep and abiding interest in and experience of the problems of food and agriculture in developing countries. We are confident that he will bring all these qualities to bear upon steering the work of the Council during the years ahead. We wish him every success and assure him of our full cooperation in the discharge of his heavy responsibilities.

The Pakistan delegation would be failing in its duty if it did not pay tribute to Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos at the end of his successful tenure as Independent Chairman of the Council. Mr. Bula Hoyos has held this important post for the last four years with great distinction. The mere fact that he was reelected two years ago for another term of independent chairmanship is a clear indication of the effective manner in which he conducted his work and it is a well merited tribute to his ability. He has discharged his heavy duties with a great sense of responsibility and devotion, and has ably guided the Council during a particularly trying period when the world was faced with a food crisis of unprecedented magnitude and when new initiatives and responses were required of FAO in the light of the new international economic order. We wish to place on record our sincere appreciation for his valuable contribution towards furthering the work of the Council and the objectives of the Organization.

My delegation has always received the closest cooperation and understanding, from Mr. Bula Hoyos and we have valued his friendship. We are glad that he will continue to be with us and that we will continue to have the benefit of his valuable experience and advice. We wish him the best of health and happiness and continued success in his career.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Dr. Bukar Shaib has advised us to be brief and I shall certainly be brief. It is for my delegation and for myself a reason of particular satisfaction to extend in the name of the Group of Seventy-Seven the warmest congratulations to Dr. Bukar Shaib on his election as Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. We feel that Africa has a tremendous interest in the Organization's work. All of us know that Africa is a continent with a tremendous agricultural potential. It is therefore in our view particularly appropriate that at this stage the leadership of the FAO Council falls in the hands of an African son.

As a Brazilian it is even a reason of almost personal and sentimental satisfaction, the fact that a son of Nigeria will be in charge of the work and in a position of leadership of the FAO Council. Many of us know the important contribution of the Nigerian people to those of Brazilian nationality. We are confident that the experience of Dr. Bukar Shaib and his statesmanlike approach to problems, which he has shown in the past, are an excellent indication that we shall have effective leadership in the work of the Council, fully responsive to the needs of the Council so that its role can be enhanced and restored to the maximum utility and usefulness.

I should not like to conclude my statement without rendering homage to the outgoing Chairman of the Council, Dr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos and I do that, again, in the name of the Group of Seventy-Seven.

DATO'ISHAK B. HJ. PATEH AKHIR (Malaysia): On behalf of the Malaysian delegation it gives me great pleasure indeed to pay a warm tribute to Dr. Bula Hoyos for having served the Council most creditably as Independent Chairman of the last four years. Although Malaysia has not had the pleasure of working closely with him, either as a member of the FAO Council or any of the Council's standing committees, Malaysia is very much aware of the painstaking and responsible manner in which the Council has discharged its duties. This, to our mind, reflects the painstaking and responsible qualities of the man at the helm. Needless to say that to chair an important body comprising 42 members coming from various nations and regions is no simple task. That the work of the Council has been carried out smoothly is therefore not only a credit to Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos as a person but also to Colombia from which he comes.

As for the incoming Independent Chairman of the Council, Dr. Bukar Shaib of Nigeria, Malaysia welcomes his election most heartily. We wish him all the best and pray for his success. We are confident that he will acquit himself well in the interests of the Organization, an Organization upon which we depend in no small measure for world development in food and agriculture.

M. VARGAS JORDAN (Bolivia): En nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano reitero, en el momento de cesar en sus funciones Dr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, nuestro reconocimiento por los servicios prestados a la FAO durante los cuatro años de su mandato como Presidente.

Es digno de destacar que nuestro dilecto Presidente Independiente del Consejo, cesante, con gran eficiencia, capacidad y extraordinaria cordialidad ha pasado por este significativo organismo de gran responsabilidad demostrando su verdadera dimensión en talento y probidad como un gran personaje de América Latina.

Gonzalo Bula Hoyos es hijo de un pequeño pueblo de Colombia, Sahagun, que ha dado imagen de gran valía no sólo a su patria sino a la gran "familia de la humanidad.

Este es, a grandes rasgos, el caso de Dr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos. En nombre de América Latina muchas gracias a nuestro dilecto y gran amigo Gonzalo Bula Hoyos.

En nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano, deseo también felicitar muy cordial y sinceramente al Sr. Bukar Shaib por su elección como Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Puede estar seguro el nuevo Presidente Independiente- del Consejo de que en el cumplimiento de sus altas funciones estará siempre asistido por el apoyo y la colaboración de todos los países de América Latina.

A través de este distinguido representante de África, continente al cual unen nexos comunes a América Latina, los representantes del Tercer Mundo sentimos que se ha hecho una magnífica elección.

Todos los latinoamericanos deseamos al Sr. Bukar Shaib los mejores éxitos como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, y estamos seguros de que el viernes próximo, bajo su experta y acertada dirección, el principal organismo de la FAO seguirá desempeñando el importante papel que le corresponde.

A. U. BELINFANTI (Jamaica): The Jamaican delegation is delighted to join with the other delegations in congratulating Dr. Bukar Shaib on his appointment as Independent Chairman of the Council. Dr. Bukar Shaib has an outstanding record of service in his own country, Nigeria, matched by an equally outstanding record of distinguished service in the international field and we rejoice with our brothers from Africa in this further recognition of his ability to contribute to this Organization. We are sure that the Council will greatly benefit from his experience and his skill in its forthcoming sessions.

We also wish to add our congratulations to the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Bula Hoyos, on his performance over the last two terms. My delegation is heartened to know we will continue to benefit from his ability and experience in FAO; we salute him.

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): On behalf of the Member States of the North American region, the United States and Canada, I would like to extend our warm congratulations to our new Independent Chairman of the Council, the distinguished Dr. Bukar Shaib. We share with the other delegations here

the high appreciation of the qualities and experience which he brings to this important function. We strongly commend him for emphasizing in his statement to us here today the future role that he hopes to play as a defender of the rules of the game and as a conciliator.

As conciliator he will have before him the example of his predecessor, Mr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, the distinguished outgoing Independent Chairman. The fact that we have during this Conference resolved, through the practice of conciliation, the most sensitive and controversial issues before us, has its origins in the Session of the Council just preceding this meeting. There, under the leadership of Mr. Bula Hoyos and the active collaboration of the Director-General, the basis for conciliation at this Conference was laid.

Therefore our congratulations to the new Independent Chairman, as he embarks on his own path of constructive conciliation, can appropriately be combined with our gratitude to his gifted predecessor. As a personal note, I would like to state that I greatly look forward to close collaboration with Dr. Bukar Shaib as Independent Chairman and with Mr. Bula Hoyos as he looks forward to his work with us as a colleague, as Permanent Representative of Colombia.

H. MAURIA (Finland): On behalf of the five Nordic countries, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland and Finland I want to congratulate Dr. Bukar Shaib warmly on his election as the new Independent Chairman of the Council. We believe that under his chairmanship and guidance the Council will work efficiently and make good decisions. For our part we will try to be short and concise and to the point, as he has just requested.

To Mr. Bula Hoyos we would say wholeheartedly thanks for the fine work he has done under his two periods as Independent Chairman of the Council, and welcome again to this side of the podium, Mr. Bula Hoyos.

M. J. de OLIVEIRA RUIVO (Portugal): I wish to join the congratulations of the Portuguese delegations to those already expressed by the delegates of other countries to Dr. Bukar Shaib for his election to the post of Independent Chairman of the Council. His curriculum vitae has been mentioned and reveals the vast extent of his experience and his knowledge of the problems that face FAO. His participation in many FAO activities at all levels makes the Portuguese delegation certain that much can be expected from him in his chairmanship of the Council and of his ability to bring together different points of view.

On behalf of my delegation I wish to greet our good friend Mr. Bula Hoyos who will leave the chairmanship of the Council. We have appreciated in the past years the wise, competent and tactful way in which he has conducted the work of the Council. If it is with sorrow we see him leave that post, it is with satisfaction that we note that he will continue among us as the Colombian Permanent Representative.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation would just like to register its appreciation on the outgoing Independent Chairman, Mr. Bula Hoyos. We would like to thank him for a job well done. It is also a privilege to congratulate Dr. Bukar Shaib of the great continent of Africa on his election to the position of Independent Chairman of the Council. We would like to let him know that our delegation, and for that matter all the other countries of Asia who have not spoken, shall give him full support in his endeavours. His brief speech today shows he is able to distinguish between substance and creaming. This gives us hope that he will be able to guide the Council in its deliberations so that it will be able to come to grips with the real problems facing the developing world. We therefore congratulate him and welcome him.

F, AHMED (Bangladesh): On behalf of the Bangladesh delegation I wish to congratulate the new Chairman, Dr. Bukar Shaib, on his unanimous election. The fact that there was no other candidate demonstrates the strong confidence we have in him. We have no doubt that under his chairmanship and guidance the Council will be benefited and by electing him we are paying our great tribute to a great country, with whom we have excellent relations, and to Africa as a whole. It is befitting that the first African Chairman should come from Nigeria.

I also take this opportunity to pay our very warm tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Bula Hoyos who rendered outstanding service to the Council. We have no doubt that the fine tradition established by him will be continued by his worthy successor. We note with particular pleasure that Mr. Bula Hoyos will be continuing to associate with FAO in a different capacity and we wish him every success.

Sra. D. G. RIVERA M. DE ITURBE (Mexico): Me permito hablar en nombre de la delegación de mi país para dar la bienvenida al Dr. Bukar Shaib como nuevo Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Estimamos, señor Presidente, que el reconocimiento que hemos hecho aquí de la distinguida personalidad del Dr. Bukar Shaib es, además de un reconocimiento a título personal de todos sus merecimientos, un reconocimiento al Africa, región del mundo que lucha ahora por obtener su total independencia, no sólo en el campo de la libertad política, sino también en el campo de su libertad económica y social.

Por otra parte, considera también nuestra delegación que la presencia del Dr. Bukar Shaib ha de ser una garantía más para el mundo en desarrollo en el sentido de que nuestra Organización ampliará sus esfuerzos para desterrar el hambre y la malnutrición de las regiones del mundo que aun las padecen.

Y ahora, hablando de nuestra Región latinoamericana, he de decir que el vacío que deja en el Consejo nuestro amigo el Sr. Bula Hoyos, será compensado, con ventaja nuestra, con un nuevo y distinguido delegado dentro del Grupo Latinoamericano, donde será y es ya desde este momento, muy bien venido para que continúe ilustrándonos con su gran experiencia y su gran bonhomía.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Esta delegación desea felicitar al Dr. Bukar Shaib por su elección de Presidente Independiente el Consejo.

En varias Conferencias, señor Presidente, tuve el privilegio de compartir de cerca con el Dr. Bukar Shaib las experiencias que han contribuido a formar en parte el conocimiento que tengo de FAO, y siempre he admirado! en él su calma, su equilibrio y su inteligencia.

En el discurso que el Dr. Bukar Shaib ha pronunciado esta mañana, esas cualidades que comprobé en él como vecino se repitieron en forma más amplia. Su discurso puso en evidencia nuevamente su equilibrio y su inteligencia, y algo que no le había conocido aquí muy a menudo, pues se dedicaba con afán al trabajo: su sentido del humor.

Muy pocas veces, señor Presidente, hemos tenido ocasión de escuchar en esta Pien aria un discurso que fuera, no solamente serio, sino que además tuviera sentido del humor. Creo que estas cualidades van a contribuir mucho a que los trabajos del Consejo se beneficien de ello.

En cuanto al Dr. Bula Hoyos, no me cabe decir sino que he escuchado con gran satisfacción los testimonios aportados acerca de los veinte años que él ha dedicado a la FAO. Creo que no puedo decir lo mismo, pues hace veinte años yo era un adolescente. Sin embargo puedo dar también testimonio de que siempre he apreciado su dedicación y sus esfuerzos en pro de la Organización.

Señor Presidente, creo que, aun como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, el Sr. Bula Hoyos siempre mantuvo parte de sí mismo en nuestra Región, así como el Dr. Bukar Shaib no sólo es un hijo dilecto de Africa sino también de América Latina.

O. R. BORÍN (Italie): Je voudrais joindre ma voix en ma qualité de représentant du pays note de la FAO à celles des orateurs qui m'ont précédé, pour féliciter M. B. SHAIB de son élection plébiscitaire au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil, et lui souhaiter une chaleureuse bienvenue. Je désire l'assurer d'ores et déjà de l'appui et de la collaboration cordiale de la délégation italienne pour son travail si important.

J'ai beaucoup apprécié son discours d'investiture si équilibré, réaliste et concret. Je vois là une garantie de l'esprit constructif avec lequel M. B. SHAIB assurera l'exercice de ses fonctions. Tous nos vœux l'accompagnent.

Je saisis enfin cette occasion pour renouveler encore une fois au Président sortant du Conseil.

M. BULA HOYOS, les sentiments d'estime de la délégation italienne et de mon amitié personnelle. Nous

serons heureux de le retrouver bientôt parmi nous comme représentant de son pays et de continuer avec lui dans le même esprit et la même collaboration.

E. S. STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie): Etant le dernier orateur, je voudrais non moins chaleureusement, au nom de ma délégation et de plusieurs délégations de pays socialistes amis, exprimer nos félicitations au nouveau Président élu du Conseil, le Dr. B. SHAIB. Nous nous associons également aux remerciements présentés à M. Bula Hoyos, non seulement pour son travail de vingt années auprès de l'Organisation mais tout spécialement pour son travail comme Président du Conseil, en nous réjouissant de pouvoir le rencontrer comme représentant permanent de son pays auprès de l'Organisation.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 2 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE (la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 2 (de la Comisión III)

CHAIRMAN: We will now proceed to the second item on our agenda, adoption of the second part of the report of Commission III, contained in document C 77/REP/2. This document contains inter alia the proposed new structure of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee which, as you know, the Conference must now adopt in order that the nomination forms for these Committees can be filled in and submitted by the deadline required. I am told that these forms are already available in document CL 73/5 and that the deadline for the submission of nominations to all Council committees is Wednesday, 30 November 1977 at 18.00 hours.

I would also like to remind you that the Commission report has been adopted in Commission III which, as you know, is a body of the whole. Its substance and form have been extensively discussed there and we are not expected to reopen the discussion here, I shall therefore proceed section by section for our formal adoption of the document and would ask you to refrain from raising matters of substance. If there is disagreement on any point we will simply have to vote by a show of hands. Those countries who object to one or another part of our report may have their reservations recorded in the verbatim and, should they so insist, even in the report. Any drafting amendments of a correctional nature should be handed directly to the Secretary-General on the understanding that only amendments of pure form can be retained.

You will notice that the three draft resolutions contained in the document call for amendments to the Constitution and/or the General Rules of the Organization. Such amendments must be carried by a two-thirds majority of the vote passed, provided that such a majority is more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. When a two-thirds majority is required the vote must be by roll-call. May I first ask whether there would be any objection if, in order to be in time, we do one roll-call vote on all three resolutions together.

I see no objection. Let us now proceed to the adoption of the report, paragraph by paragraph, leaving the resolutions for one single roll-call vote at the end.

Paragraphs 1 to 7 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7 son aprobados

Paragraph 8, including Resolution, not concluded

Le paragraphe 8, y compris la résolution, est en suspens

El párrafo 8, incluida la Resolución, queda pendiente

Paragraphs 9 to 11 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 11 son aprobados

Paragraph 12, including Resolution, not concluded

Le paragraphe 12, y compris la Résolution, est en suspens

El párrafo 12, incluida la Resolución, queda pendiente

Paragraphs 13 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 19 son aprobados

Paragraph 20, including Resolution, not concluded

Le paragraphe 20, y compris la Résolution, est en suspens

El párrafo 20, incluida la Resolución, queda pendiente

Annex approved

L'annexe est approuvée

El Anexo es aprobado

Vote

Votation

Votacion



Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETINS  
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Vote on:  
Vote sur:  
Votación para:

Resolution on the Composition of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee  
Résolution sur la composition du Comité du Programme et du Comité Financier  
Resolución sobre la Composición del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas

Resolution on the Authentic Chinese Text of the FAO Constitution  
Résolution sur le texte chinois de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO  
Resolución sobre el texto en chino de la Constitución de la FAO

Resolution on Amendments to Rule XLI of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO)  
and consequential amendments to Rule IV.2 and other provisions of the Basic Texts  
Résolution sur les amendements à l'Article XLI du Règlement général de l'Organisation  
(RGO) et amendements corollaires à l'Article IV.2 et à d'autres dispositions des  
Textes fondamentaux  
Resolución sobre las enmiendas al Artículo XLI del Reglamento General de la  
Organización (RGO) y enmiendas consiguientes al Artículo IV.2 y a otras  
disposiciones de los Textos Fundamentales

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
					Total brought forward Report Suma anterior					Total brought forward Report Suma anterior				
Afghanistan				-	Ghana	X				Niger	X			
Albania				-	Greece	X				Nigeria	X			
Algeria	X				Grenada				-	Norway	X			
Angola				-	Guatemala	X				Oman				-
Argentina	X				Guinea	X				Pakistan	X			
Australia	X				Guinea-Bissau				-	Panama	X			
Austria	X				Guyana				-	Papua New Guinea	X			
Bahamas				-	Haiti	X								
Bahrain	X				Honduras				-	Peru	X			
Bangladesh	X				Hungary	X				Philippines				-
Barbados	X				Iceland				-	Poland	X			
Belgium	X				India	X				Portugal	X			
Benin	X				Indonesia	X				Qatar				-
Bolivia	X				Iran	X				Romania				-
Botswana	X				Iraq	X				Rwanda	X			
Brazil	X				Ireland	X				Sao Tome and Principe				-
Bulgaria	X				Israel				-	Saudi Arabia	X			
Burma	X				Italy	X				Senegal	X			
Burundi	X				Ivory Coast	X				Seychelles				-
Cameroon	X				Jamaica	X				Sierra Leone				-
Canada	X				Japan	X				Somalia	X			
Cape Verde				-	Jordan	X				Spain	X			
					Kenya	X				Sri Lanka	X			
Chad	X				Korea (Republic of)	X				Sudan	X			
Chile	X				Kuwait	X				Surinam				-
China	X				Lao	X				Swaziland	X			
Colombia	X				Lebanon	X				Sweden	X			
Comoros				-	Lesotho	X				Switzerland	X			
Congo	X				Liberia	X				Syria	X			
Costa Rica				-	Libya	X				Tanzania	X			
Cuba	X				Luxembourg				-	Thailand	X			
Cyprus	X				Madagascar	X				Togo	X			
Czechoslovakia				-	Malawi	X				Trinidad and Tobago				-
					Malaysia	X				Tunisia	X			
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	X				Maldives				-	Turkey	X			
Denmark	X				Mali	X				Uganda	X			
Djibouti				-	Malta	X				United Arab Emirates				-
					Mauritania	X				United Kingdom	X			
Ecuador				-	Mauritius				-	U.S. of America	X			
Egypt	X				Mexico	X				Upper Volta	X			
El Salvador	X				Mongolia	X				Uruguay	X			
Ethiopia	X				Morocco	X				Venezuela	X			
Fiji				-	Mozambique				-	Viet Nam	X			
Finland	X				Namibia				-	Yemen Arab Republic				-
					Nepal	X				Yemen (People's Dem. Rep. of)				-
France	X				Netherlands	X				Yugoslavia	X			
Gabon	X				New Zealand	X				Zaire	X			
Gambia				-	Nicaragua	X				Zambia	X			
Germany (Fed. Rep. of)	X													
	33					37					35			

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

SHOW OF HANDS VOTING  
☐ VOTE A MAIN LEVEE  
VOTACION A MANO ALZADA

ROLL CALL VOTING  
☒ APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on: Resolution on the Composition of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee  
Vote sur: Résolution sur la composition du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier  
Votación para: Resolución sobre la Composición del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas

Resolution on the Authentic Chinese Text of the FAO Constitution  
Résolution sur le texte chinois de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO  
Resolución sobre el texto en chino de la Constitución de la FAO

Resolution on Amendments to Rule XLI of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO)  
and consequential amendments to Rule IV.2 and other provisions of the Basic Texts  
Résolution sur les amendements à l'Article XLI du Règlement général de l'Organisation  
(RGO) et amendements corollaires à l'Article IV.2 et à d'autres dispositions des  
Textes fondamentaux  
Resolución sobre las enmiendas al Artículo XLI del Reglamento General de la  
Organización (RGO) y enmiendas consiguientes al Artículo IV.2 y a otras disposiciones  
de los Textos Fundamentales

1 Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés .....105..... Número de votos emitidos	4 Votes against Voix contre .....0..... Votos en contra
2 Majority required Majorité requise .....73..... Mayoría requerida	5 Abstentions Abstentions .....0..... Abstenciones
3 Votes for Voix pour .....105..... Votos favorables	6 No reply Aucune réponse .....35..... Ninguna respuesta

Adopted  
☒ Adoptée  
Aceptada

Rejected  
☐ Repoussée  
Rechazada

.....28.11.77.....

Date  
Fecha

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

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

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

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



Paragraph 8, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 8, y compris la resolution, est adopté

El párrafo 8, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 12, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 12, y compris la resolution, est adopté

El párrafo 20, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 20, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 20, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 20, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 2, was adopted

ProJet de rapport de la plenièrè, deuxième partie, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 2, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 12. 45 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h. 45

Se levanta la sesion â las 12. 45 horas



**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**C**

C 77/PV/20

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING  
VINGTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
20ª SESION PLENARIA

(29 November 1977)

The Twentieth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10. 30 hours,

O. R. Borin, Vice-chairman of the Conference, presiding

La Vingtième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 50 sous la présidence

de O. R. Borin, Vice-President de la Conference

Se abre la 20ª sesión plenaria a las 10. 50 horas, bajo la

presidencia de O. R. Borin, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

## PARTE V - OTROS ASUNTOS

### CINQUIEME PARTIE - QUESTIONS DIVERSES

## PARTE V - OTROS ASUNTOS

### RETIREMENT OF ROY I. JACKSON

#### DEPART A LA RETRAITE DE ROY I. JACKSON

#### JUBILACIÓN DEL SR. ROY I. JACKSON

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: Before this Nineteenth Session of the Conference concludes, I should like to pay tribute to Mr. Roy Jackson, the retiring Deputy Director-General.

Mr. Jackson came to FAO in 1964 after many years of distinguished service in international fisheries. In 1966, he became the first Assistant Director-General of our Fisheries Department, and it was because of his diligence that FAO gained its reputation as the world's technical authority in this field.

He became Deputy Director-General in 1972 under my predecessor, and I was delighted when he agreed to remain for my first two years in office. He has been an unfailing, loyal, and most effective deputy, and I am personally deeply grateful to him.

You all know Roy Jackson. You all know him as a dedicated international civil servant and as a highly respected senior officer of this Organization. Those of you who know him well know him as a man with a warmth of human understanding and a tremendous capacity for friendship.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, I am sure you will join with me in extending to Mr. Jackson our deepest appreciation of the outstanding contribution he has made to the work of FAO, and on your behalf as well as on my own, I wish him and his charming life-long partner, Mrs. Jackson, good health and happiness in the years ahead. (Applause)

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais maintenant donner la parole au Secrétaire général qui va nous lire un projet de résolution que, j'en suis certain, la Conférence voudra adopter.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Voici le projet de résolution sur le départ à la retraite de M. Roy I. Jackson: LA CONFERENCE,

Notant que Monsieur Roy I. Jackson quittera l'Organisation à la fin de décembre 1977, après six années de service en qualité de Directeur général adjoint,

Rappelant également les fonctions qu'il avait assumées auparavant, d'abord comme Directeur de la Division des pêches, puis comme premier Sous-Directeur général du Département des pêches,

Rendant hommage à ses états de service remarquables et à son indéfectible dévouement aux objectifs de l'Organisation,

Exprime à Monsieur Roy I. Jackson sa profonde reconnaissance pour la contribution permanente qu'il a apportée aux travaux de la FAO ainsi que ses vœux chaleureux de santé et bonheur pour l'avenir.

LE PRESIDENT: Je me demande si vous êtes d'accord pour approuver ce projet de résolution par acclamations.

Le projet de résolution est adopté par acclamation.

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): This is not an explanation of vote but a statement to add to your very appropriate Resolution, a very welcome and very well-deserved tribute which has been paid to Roy Jackson by the Director-General.

Roy has dedicated a substantial part of his professional career to the FAO. He came to the Organization bringing a wealth of experience and expertise in this field, and he soon expanded this across the whole range of the activities of FAO as he rose in the Organization to become Deputy Director-General.

I, as a new arrival at the FAO, was particularly impressed and delighted with the manner in which Roy Jackson helped me to understand the Organization and to start my efforts to work with this Organization in pursuit of its objectives.

I know that with his good judgment and his unfailing sense of humour, which we need in a body of this kind, he has provided good counsel and good advice to many of us. I would like to join in wishing him every success and every happiness for himself and his wife as he moves on from this most significant and fruitful stage of his career.

F. J. SPECKS. (Federal Republic of Germany) (interpretation from German): On behalf of the Member Countries of the European Economic Community I would like to associate myself with the previous speakers and I would like to express to Mr. Jackson our gratitude for the activities which he has carried out in this Organization over many years. We have the deepest appreciation for all he has done, and we have always admired his judgment and objectivity. Also we always enjoyed his sense of humour. We appreciate all that he has done and we regret greatly that he is leaving the Organization now, but of course this is what always happens in the life of people in leading positions, the time comes when they lay down their burden. We would like to wish him and his wife the greatest happiness in the future and we do hope that we will meet again now and then.

E. HRAOUI (Lebanon) (interpretation from Arabic): I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Jackson and to thank him on behalf of my country for all that he did when he held these important positions in FAO. We wish him good health and happiness in his retirement.

A. F. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh): We also join to offer our heartfelt thanks and felicitations to Mr. Roy Jackson on this day. We heard the Director-General pay the highest tributes to one who acted as he, is Deputy during the first two years of his tenure as Director-General of this Organization. We note the Resolution that Mr. Roy Jackson was the first Assistant Director-General officially of this Organization. He brought with him experience and expertise in the field of fisheries from which all Member Nations of this Organization, and particularly the developing countries, have benefited. Today is the day to say goodbye. It is very hard to say goodbye to anybody, but particularly to one who has contributed so much to the success of this Organization but, as we know, go you must and we must one day. So today is the day when Roy Jackson, after so much success in this Organization, must go. But he is going from this Organization with flying colours. We from the delegation of Bangladesh wish him godspeed, happiness and health. We also pay our compliments to Mrs. Jackson.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): After the speech of the Director-General many of my colleagues spoke about the great merits of Mr. Jackson in the service of this Organization. I would like to speak as perhaps one of his oldest colleagues, first as a staff member and then as permanent representative to FAO. I do not need to emphasize and stress his great merits in the Organization. Rather I should like to put the accent on his friendship, on his very friendly nature and how kind he was to everybody. We regret very much that he is leaving the Organization. We wish happiness to him and to his charming wife who was always at his side to help him.

J. ROSA (Tchécoslovaquie): Au nom de ma délégation et de plusieurs délégations des pays socialistes amis, nous aussi nous voudrions présenter nos meilleurs voeux à M. et Mme R. I. JACKSON et remercier M. R. I. JACKSON pour ses longues années de travail dévouées au but humanitaire de cette importante Organisation de la famille des Nations Unies.

O. LUCO E. (Chile): La delegación de Chile se adhiere a lo dicho por las otras delegaciones que han hecho uso de la palabra para manifestar su agradecimiento al Sr. Jackson por la eficiente y abnegada labor que ha prestado a esta Organización.

Asimismo mi delegación desea para el Sr. Jackson y para su esposa un futuro colmado de prosperidad y felicidad.

S. ESSIMANGANE (Gabon): Je voudrais, au nom des pays de l'Afrique, et aussi au nom de la délégation gabonaise, ajouter à toutes les bonnes paroles qui ont été adressées à M. R. I. JACKSON au moment où, après de louables services rendus à l'Organisation, il doit aujourd'hui nous quitter et nous lui assurons qu'il laisse des amis dans le groupe africain en récompense des relations qu'il a su établir et entretenir dans l'exercice des activités qu'il a pu mener au sein de notre Organisation. Nous lui souhaitons, à lui et à son épouse, une agréable retraite et pensons qu'il continuera à coopérer et à nous aider dans notre tâche au sein de l'Organisation.

B. MANSURI (Iran): On behalf of the Government of Iran I would like to thank Mr. Jackson and express our deep appreciation for his hard work and sincere dedication to the work of FAO. I would like to tell Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, through you, Mr. Chairman, that wherever they will be God will be with them, and our best wishes go with them.

U. TINT HLAING (Burma): I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Roy Jackson for rendering his untiring services to this Organization. He has always given me the inspiration to be present at this Conference and to participate in all the technical fishery committees during the past sessions. I find in him a very pleasant personality and I find him a very friendly fishery officer of this Organization. I would like to pay tribute by wishing him every success and health and prosperity, together with a happy life with his wife.

M. EL-DALATI (Syria) (interpretation from Arabic): On this occasion all I can do is to join with previous speakers in thanking Mr. Jackson for the services which he has rendered the Organization and for the way he has cooperated with all Member Countries of the Organization to achieve its objectives. On behalf of my delegation I would like to express my great gratitude to Mr. Jackson and say how sorry I am to see him leave the Organization. Finally, I wish him every happiness in the future.

G. VASTA (Observateur de l'OCDE): Je voudrais aussi au nom des pays de l'OCDE, remercier M. Jackson pour la collaboration qu'il a apportée à notre Organisation pendant les années de son travail à la FAO. Je suis heureux, en ces circonstances, d'entendre des mots comme "chaleur humaine", "humour", "nature très amicale" qui ont été prononcés par le Directeur général et par d'autres délégations présentes. Ce sont des dons si rares aujourd'hui, ceux de M. Jackson! Je désire au nom de l'Organisation que j'ai l'honneur de représenter ici, lui présenter nos remerciements, nos meilleurs voeux, et souhaiter qu'il soit toujours dans sa retraite, accompagné de notre souvenir de gratitude et d'amitié.

A. LOCHEN (Norway): Even though Roy Jackson is a US citizen, we in the northern countries of Europe consider him as one of us because of his ancestry: his ancestors came from our part of the world and we, like the United States, have been prodd of the work he has done for FAO. I would like to thank him for his dedication and contribution. We wish for him and his wife happiness in the years to come.

R. I. JACKSON (Deputy Director-General), Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me the right of reply. May I first of all express appreciation to all those of my friends in the governments represented here today, to my colleagues with whom I have worked with such pleasure for so many years, and, most of all, to the Director-General for his kind words and for his friendship and cooperation in these two years during which we have been closely associated.

This is - if you will spare me a moment - a time of some retrospection. In my fourteen years with FAO, this is my seventh Conference. There were 106 Member Nations when I came in 1964; there are 144 today. I looked up the budget of that biennium this morning and I found that it was less than \$39 million; that the field programme at that time amounted to approximately \$12 million a year as contrasted with more than \$200 million a year today.

I am happy and privileged to have been part of that growth and of that development. Mr. Director-General, however, I do hope that tomorrow you will have somewhat more success in getting your budget approved than they did twelve years ago, and I am sure you will because the indications of support are clear.

I have noted also that over the years I have been with this Organization, almost one billion more people are now on earth than when my work here began. For that reason alone the problems we all face have greatly increased. But I believe, Mr. Chairman, that there is more sensitivity now to basic human needs, more awareness of the acute problem of poverty which lies behind the difficulties of so many people, more awareness of the right to food which is as fundamental as to the right to life itself. I believe that FAO is moving strongly and in a dynamic way under new leadership in the right direction. I am proud to have been associated with this period, proud of having worked with so many outstanding colleagues from so many countries. And I have seen with great pleasure that the things which unite us in this Organization are much more important than the factors - superficial for the most part - which divide us.

As for my own future, I want to continue working. My wife, who is modestly sitting in the back of the Plenary Hall, says that she married me for better or for worse, but not for lunch! So, I shall return to fisheries. I shall try to keep my lifelong association with international development activities. And I hope to continue some form of association with the United Nations system as a whole and with all of its objectives.

I thank you once again for all that you have brought to our lives. And, finally - if I may address a personal word to you, Ambassador Borin - I am delighted that you are in the Chair today because, through you, my family and I would like to express to Italy our gratitude, our affection and our esteem for your country, for its beauty, for its warmth and for the life we have enjoyed here.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Permettez-moi d'ajouter quelques mots, parce que, comme délégué de l'Italie, j'ai eu des rapports suivis et très fréquents avec M. Jackson. J'ai admiré en lui le fonctionnaire international de haute qualité. J'ai admiré son équilibre, sa cordialité dans les rapports; il a toujours été un homme de bon conseil pour moi. Je regrette beaucoup de le voir partir, parce que, si un grand fonctionnaire de haute qualité quitte l'Organisation, je perds aussi en même temps un ami, un ami dont j'ai admiré les qualités humaines, la cordialité, l'amitié, l'esprit d'amitié, la loyauté. C'est pour cela que je le vois partir avec un grand regret et que je ne lui dis pas adieu mais au revoir, à très bientôt en Italie encore et meilleurs souhaits pour lui, sa retraite et pour Mme Jackson.

Après les déclarations des délégations que nous venons d'entendre, je considère le projet de Résolution que vous avez entendu comme adopté à l'unanimité par acclamations. Il figurera donc à notre rapport final.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III

PROJET DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE, TROISIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA, PARTE III

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant au deuxième point de notre rapport de ce matin, c'est-à-dire l'adoption du projet de rapport de la Plénière qui figure au document C 77/REP/3.

Comme vous le savez, il nous reste très peu de temps avant la fin de cette Conférence. Je me permettrai donc de rappeler ce que le Président nous avait dit lundi matin, à savoir que les rapports de nos trois Commissions ont déjà été adoptés au sein des Commissions elles-mêmes, qui, comme vous le savez, sont des organes pléniers: le fonds et la forme en ont donc été déjà longuement discutés, et il ne nous appartient pas ici de rouvrir le débat.

Je procéderai donc section par section de ce document pour leur approbation formelle, et je vous demanderai de ne pas soulever de questions de fond. S'il y a désaccord sur un point quelconque, nous voterons à main levée. Les délégations qui objecteraient à l'une ou l'autre section de ce Rapport peuvent demander que leur objection figure au Procès-verbal et également si elles le désirent, au Rapport même.

Toute correction de style devra être remise au Secrétaire général et je l'examinerai avec lui, étant entendu que sont seuls recevables les amendements de pure forme pour des questions linguistiques.

Je suis certain qu'après nos débats exhaustifs en Commission, nous n'aurons pas à voter ici. Si tel était le cas toutefois, nous passerions au vote tout d'abord sur le texte présenté par la Commission, et ce à main levée. Il n'y aura de vote par appel nominal que sur demande expresse d'une délégation, ou, bien entendu, le cas où une majorité des deux tiers est requise.

Pour gagner du temps, je prie instamment les délégations qui voudraient donner des explications de vote, de les faire insérer au Procès-verbal.

Paragraphs' 1 to 29 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 29 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 29 son aprobados

Paragraph 30 including Resolution adopted

Le paragraphe 30 y compris la résolution est adopté

El párrafo 30 incluida la Resolución aprobado

Paragraph 31 approved

Le paragraphe 31 approuvé

El párrafo 31 aprobado

Paragraph 32 approved

Le paragraphe 32 est approuvé

El párrafo 32 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 3, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, troisième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 3, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 4

PROJET DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE, QUATRIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA, PARTE 4

PARAGRAPHS 1-4 INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHES 1-4 COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PÁRRAFOS 1-4 INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCIÓN



LE PRESIDENT: Je me permets de vous rappeler que nous avons dans ce texte plusieurs résolutions et que nous devons voter à la majorité des deux tiers les amendements aux Actes constitutif et fondamentaux de l'Organisation.

Le paragraphe 4 prévoit le projet de résolution que nous allons maintenant voter à la majorité des deux tiers par appel nominal. Le premier pays est la Jamaïque. Je prie le Secrétaire, général · adjoint de commencer la lecture des noms des pays.

Vote

Votation

Votacion



Session of the Conference  
Sesión de la Conferencia  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

SHOW OF HANDS VOTING  
☐ VOTE A MAIN LEVEE  
VOTACION A MANO ALZADA

ROLL CALL VOTING  
☒ APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on Amendments to the Article VII of the Constitution  
Vote sur Amendements à l'Article VII de l'Acte constitutif  
Votación para Enmienda al Artículo VII de la Constitución

1 Number of votes cast  
Nombre de suffrages exprimés  
Número de votos emitidos

91

4 Votes against  
Voix contre  
Votos en contra

0

2 Majority required  
Majorité requise  
Mayoría requerida

73

5 Abstentions  
Abstentions  
Abstenciones

1

3 Votes for  
Voix pour  
Votos favorables

91

6 No reply  
Aucune réponse  
Ninguna respuesta

48

Adopted  
☒ Adoptée  
Aceptada

Rejected  
☐ Repoussée  
Rechazada

29.11.77  
Date  
Fecha

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

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

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

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

Après lecture des résultats du vote sur le projet de résolution relatif à la durée du mandat du Directeur général, nous pouvons considérer ce projet de résolution comme adopté à l'unanimité. Je propose donc que le paragraphe 4 du rapport soit amendé et libellé comme suit:

"La Conférence adopte à l'unanimité la résolution suivante recommandée par le Conseil".

Paragraphs 1 to 3 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 3 sont approuvés

Lös párrafos 1 a 3 son aprobados

Paragraph 4 including Resolution adopted

Le paragraphe 4 y compris la résolution est adopté

El párrafo 4 incluida la Resolución aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 5-7 INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHS 5-7 Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PÁRRAFOS 5-7 INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

Voté

Voté

Votación

Session of the Conference  
Sesión de la Conferencia  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

SHOW OF HANDS VOTING

☐ VOTE A MAIN LEVEE

VOTACION A MANO ALZADA

ROLL CALL VOTING

☒ APPEL NOMINAL

VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on

Vote sur

Votación para

Amendment to Rule XXXVII-4 of the General Rules of the Organization

Amendement à l'Article XXXVII-4 du Règlement Général de l'Organisation

Enmienda del Artículo XXXVII-4 del Reglamento General de la Organización

1 Number of votes cast

Nombre de suffrages exprimés

Número de votos emitidos

96

4 Votes against

Voix contre

Votos en contra

0

2 Majority required

Majorité requise

Mayoría requerida

64

5 Abstentions

Abstentions

Abstenciones

0

3 Votes for

Voix pour

Votos favorables

96

6 No reply

Aucune réponse

Ninguna respuesta

44

Adopted

☒ Adoptée

Aceptada

Rejected

☐ Repoussée

Rechazada

29.11.77

Date  
Fecha

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

Paragraphs 5 and 6 approved

Les paragraphes 5 et 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 y 6 son aprobados

Paragraph 7, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 7, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 7, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 8 AND 9 INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHS 8 ET 9 Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PÁRRAFOS 8 Y 9 INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCIÓN

Vote

Vote

Votación

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

SHOW OF HANDS VOTING  
☐ VOTE A MAIN LEVEE  
VOTACION A MANO ALZADA

ROLL CALL VOTING  
☒ APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on Amendments to Rules XXIV and XXVII of the General Rules of the Organization  
Vote sur Amendements aux Articles XXIV et XXVII du Règlement Général de l'Organisation  
Votación para Enmiendas a los Artículos XXIV y XXVII del Reglamento General de la Organización

1 Number of votes cast 91  
Nombre de suffrages exprimés  
Número de votos emitidos

4 Votes against 0  
Voix contre  
Votos en contra

2 Majority required 61  
Majorité requise  
Mayoría requerida

5 Abstentions 0  
Abstentions  
Abstenciones

3 Votes for 91  
Voix pour  
Votos favorables

6 No reply 49  
Aucune réponse  
Ninguna respuesta

Adopted  
☒ Adoptée  
Aceptada

Rejected  
☐ Repoussée  
Rechazada

Date 29.11.77  
Fecha

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

Paragraph 8 approved  
Le paragraphe 8 est approuvé  
El párrafo 8 es aprobado  
Paragraph 9, including Resolution, adopted  
Le paragraphe 9, y compris la résolution, est adopté  
El párrafo 9, incluida la, Resolución, aprobado  
Paragraph 10 approved  
Le paragraphe 10 est approuvé  
El párrafo 10 es aprobado  
PARAGRAPHS 11 TO 21 INCLUDING RESOLUTION  
PARAGRAPHS 11 A 21 Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION  
PÁRRAFOS 11 A 21 INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION  
Vote  
Vote  
Votación

Session of the Conference  
Sesión de la Conferencia  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

SHOW OF HANDS VOTING  
☐ VOTE A MAIN LEVEE  
VOTACION A MANO ALZADA

ROLL CALL VOTING  
☒ APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on Amendments to the Financial Regulations  
Vote sur Amendements au Règlement Financier  
Votación para Enmiendas al Reglamento Financiero

1 Number of votes cast  
Nombre de suffrages exprimés .....92.....  
Número de votos emitidos

4 Votes against .....0.....  
Voix contre  
Votos en contra

2 Majority required .....62.....  
Majorité requise  
Mayoría requerida

5 Abstentions .....1.....  
Abstentions  
Abstenciones

3 Votes for .....92.....  
Voix pour  
Votos favorables

6 No reply .....47.....  
Aucune réponse  
Ninguna respuesta

Adopted  
☒ Adoptée  
Aceptada

Rejected  
☐ Repoussée  
Rechazada  
29.11.77  
Date  
Fecha

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

Paragraphs 11 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 20 son aprobados

Paragraph 21, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 21, y compris la résolution est adopté

El párrafo 21, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 22 TO 34, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS

PARAGRAPHS 21 A 34 Y COMPRIS LES RESOLUTIONS

PÁRRAFOS 11 A 34, INCLUIDAS LAS RESOLUCIONES

Paragraphs 22 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 a 27 son aprobados

Paragraph 28, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 28, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 28, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

Paragraph 29 approved

Le paragraphe 29 est approuvé

El párrafo 29 es aprobado

Paragraph 30, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 30, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 30, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

Paragraphs 31 and 32 approved

Les paragraphes 31 et 32 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 31 y 32 son aprobados

Paragraph 33, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 33, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 33, incluida la Resolución, aprobado

Paragraph 34 approved

Le paragraphe 34 est approuvé

El párrafo 34 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 4, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, quatrième partie, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 4, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to the observer for the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe.

DR. N. SHANUYARIRA (Observer for the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe): Mr. Chairman, Director-General and distinguished delegates, I would like to bring to your attention the grave situation that has developed in Mozambique in the last three days when the armed forces of the Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia have crossed the border to attack the camps of the Zimbabwe African National Union. Distinguished delegates will remember that on 8 August 1976 the Rhodesian armed forces again attacked a refugee camp at Nyadzonya in Mozambique, killing 800 people and wounding and maiming thousands of others; some were permanently disabled. They killed everyone in sight, men, women, children and patients.

After the Rhodesians had finished their wanton murder of our people on that occasion, they drove through Mozambique destroying bridges and shooting at random Mozambiquan civilians who were going to Church. The dead at Nyadzonya were buried in two mass graves. Since Nyadzonya, however, using the superior air power the enemy has got, Rhodesians have made four major attacks on our camps and settlements in Mozambique and they have napalmed children and crops. The atrocities they have committed in Mozambique were recounted very ably by the Mozambiquan Government before the special session of the Security

Council of the United Nations which was called in June this year. On that occasion, the Security Council called on all Member States of the United Nations to support financially and materially the Government of Mozambique and the front-line States of Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana and Angola. The Patriotic Front would like on this occasion to underline that the Government of Mozambique, which is bearing the major brunt of this war, needs your assistance as much as we do. As the papers and the news agencies have reported today, a major attack was mounted against four of our camps in Mozambique over the week-end. It is the biggest military operation the Rhodesians have ever mounted across the Mozambique border. It was conducted by 90 troop-carriers, and thirty helicopters. Taking advantage of the Anglo-American proposals they have attacked four of our camps using air and ground forces which penetrated one hundred miles into the People's Republic of Mozambique. I have been informed by our office in Dar-Es-Salaam this morning that more than one thousand people have been killed and buried in mass graves, including children, who were attending school and patients who were in clinics. It has been reported in the press that an ambulance was stopped, the patients in it dragged out and shot, and the ambulance itself set on fire. The Dar-Es-Salaam office says that bodies are still being recovered in the forests near Chimólo as well as in Tembue but about a thousand people have now managed to reach hospitals and clinics in Mozambique, and others are still trying to do so. More information is still coming in.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very grave and serious situation. I had not intended to speak; I arrived at this Conference late and I indicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference that I had no intention to speak, but this morning I had to ask for the floor because of this very grave and serious situation, and I am very glad that the organizers have given me this short time to speak. Essentially I would like to make an appeal to this Conference for urgent humanitarian and material aid to relieve suffering and distress.

We have been making serious efforts to make our communities in Mozambique self-sufficient. We have about 100, 000 Zimbabweans in Mozambique as refugees, dependents, children and non-combatants. This year we had ploughed several hectares of land which were ready for planting. We will need more seeds fertilizers and tools to continue the planting already planned. We have also established a minimum welfare services, clinics and schools, some of which have also been destroyed in this raid. All these programmes have now been disrupted by the raid.

We now need large material and humanitarian aid urgently. The Patriotic Front appeals to FAO through the Director-General for emergency aid of food, clothing and medicines for the survivors; Land Rovers, trucks and ambulances; and emergency seeds, fertilizers and farming tools. We need seeds, fertilizers and farm implements to replace those that have been destroyed and to begin the process of planting afresh in the fields that have already been prepared. We appeal to the World Food Programme to expedite the requests that have already been made by the Patriotic Front but held up by technical problems. The enemy attacked our whole people irrespective of their being refugees, children, patients, non-combatants, etc. Because of the known ferocity of the enemy we had few combatants guarding refugee camps. They were attacked and some of them killed together with refugees, children, and non-combatants. In this situation, a distinction between combatants and non combatants appears artificial and in any case immaterial. A FAO mission has just visited us and identified our immediate and long-term needs and problems and we now believe that the implementation of the food production programme contained in their observations should be treated as a matter of extreme urgency.

We appeal to the governments of the Scandinavian countries and Holland which have assisted us with inance and humanitarian materials in the past, to redouble their efforts and increase their much needed id to the Patriotic Front. We appeal to all members of FAO to provide us material and financial aid n humanitarian grounds. We appeal to the members of the Organization for African Unity and especially o frontline States to increase their material and diplomatic support for our cause. We have suffered a ajor set-back, but that has come about not because we are weak but because we are increasing our military trength within Zimbabwe. Clarly this action has killed what was left of the so-called Anglo-American roposals for a peaceful settlement of the Zimbabwe situation. On all occasions we have initiated peaceful discussions, Ian Smith has used those occasions to strengthen his regime militarily and iplomatically. You will remember that when we attended the Geneva Conference in November-December 1976 e again attacked our camps and now that we are again engaged in discussing the Anglo-American proposals, which our leaders took very seriously, Ian Smith has again taken that opportunity to attack our camps. his is ample evidence that our analysis of the insincerity of Ian Smith and the ferocity of the enemyhas been correct and we therefore call upon the OAU States and the frontline States in particular to ack us in the intensification of the armed struggle because Ian Smith, we are convinced, will not ettle peacefully with the Africans. The only way to bring about independence and peace to Zimbabwe is to upport the course charted by the Patriotic Front.

Finally, I should repeat that we are appealing from a position of strength. We have liberated several large areas of our countryside and we have started activity in urban areas. It is this intensification of the war inside Zimbabwe that has wounded the enemy to the extent of now attacking our bases across the border. It must be clear also that independence cannot be had in Zimbabwe as long as the security

forces of Ian Smith which are attacking our people so viciously are still in existence. The analysis of Mr. R. G. Mugabe and Mr. J. M. Nkomo, co-leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, that the security forces of Ian Smith will have to be disbanded before there is true and genuine independence, has now been vindicated beyond all shadow of doubt.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me a chance to speak.

LÉ PRESIDENTE: Avec la déclaration de l'Observateur du Front Patrotique du Zimbabwe se termine notre séance de ce matin.

The meeting rose at 12. 40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a lãs 12. 40 horas





## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/21

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### TWENTY-FIRST MEETING VINGT ET UNIEME SÉANCE 21ª SESION

(29 November 1977)

The Twenty-first Meeting was opened at 15. 50 hours,  
S. Juma'a, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingt et unième séance est ouverte à 15 h 50 sous la présidence de  
S. Jumaba, Vice- Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 21ª sesión a las 15. 50 horas, bajo la presidencia de  
S. Juma'a, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 5 (from Commission I)

PROJET DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE, CINQUIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I)

PDE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA, PARTE 5 (de la Comisión I)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 15

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 15

PÁRRAFOS 1 a 15

CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, may I call the meeting to order. We have Part 5 of the report of the Conference, which we can adopt. I hope that everybody has got the document, Agenda item number 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation from Commission I. As usual we are going to start our work by adopting this part of the report paragraph by paragraph, and I hope that we don't have interventions with regard to the substance of the subject. This has been discussed thoroughly during the Commission meeting and I don't think we should open discussion now as far as the substance is concerned. In case any delegate likes to make an intervention with regard to other types of intervention we will give him the right to do so, and I hope that the interventions will be very brief so that we can adopt this part of the report in time.

We have now on page 2, paragraph 1. No comment. Adopted. Paragraph 2, no comment. Adopted. Paragraph 3, no comment. Adopted. Paragraph 4.

RAM SARAN (India): I have a very small correction to suggest, it is not a matter of substance. The line 5 from below "the Conference also recommended" because the first sentence "This required study by FAO" - therefore the Conference also recommended.

CHAIRMAN: Well then the amendment introduced by India is accepted and the paragraph now is adopted after adding the word "also". Now we take paragraph 5. No comment. Paragraph 6, no comment. Adopted. Paragraph 7, no comment. Paragraph 8.

R. GARRELL CARRO (Cuba): Para advertir de una omisión en el texto español, en el primer renglón del párrafo 8.

Falta la expresión "pocos". Dice el texto "que se han hecho progresos", y debe decir "que se han hecho pocos progresos". Así estaba en el documento original que discutió el Comité de Redacción.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The Secretariat will take note of this intervention and the Spanish text will be examined to put it in order with the other in the English text. So paragraph 8 is adopted after having accepting The small amendmerrrt to the Spanish text only.

J. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Je voulais signaler qu'il y a une erreur dans le texte français: à la troisième vant-dernière phrase, "bien que la baisse des prix des produits alimentaires à la consommation ait alenti e crois que c'est "bien que la hausse des produits alimentaires. . . "; il faut dire hausse" au lieu de "baisse" en français'

CHAIRMAN: I hope the Secretariat will note this and make the right corrections. Any other comments with regard to paragraph 8? If there are no comments then paragraph 8 is adopted after the two interventions which are noted by the Secretariat as far as the Spanish and the French texts are concerned, the same paragraph. We move now to paragraph 9.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Esta delegación propone una pequeña modificación en la penúltima oración del párrafo 9.

Se dice "La Conferencia recomendó que la FAO siga estudiando la cuestión del aumento y la inestabilidad de los precios de los insumos en relación con los precios percibidos por los agricultores e insistió en que se suministraran insumos a precios razonables para los agricultores de los países consumidores".

Nosotros creímos y seguimos creyendo que se suministraran a precios iguales a los vigentes en los países en desarrollo.

Durante el debate en la Comisión I, muchas delegaciones hicieron hincapié en que los precios de los fertilizantes suministrados a los países en desarrollo, importadores, deberían ser iguales a los precios de oferta en el mercado en los países desarrollados.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this same paragraph has been discussed in Commission I and has been agreed to by all delegates, and if it is going to be debated by all delegates on every paragraph we will not be able to finish our work on time. Therefore I appeal to you not to insist on this. So I will ask our friend from Pakistan to make his intervention to find out if it would be roughly the same issue or a new one. But first I will ask our friend from Nicaragua if he is going to agree.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Creo que si consultáramos el informe de la Comisión de Fertilizantes lo que yo estoy pretendiendo incorporar en dicho informe, recoge literalmente lo que en el mismo se decía. Lo que yo estaba proponiendo no es un nuevo elemento sino algo que ya había sido decidido durante los debates de esta Comisión. Pero si es algo tan diferente, yo también acogería su sugerencia, señor Presidente, pero la razón por la que yo he insistido es porque es algo que, a nuestro concepto, ya estaba aceptado y en lo que nosotros, los países en desarrollo, insistimos. Yo había entendido que ya había sido aceptado por parte de los países desarrollados.

CHAIRMAN: The floor is open for discussion, and I have no objection to finding out if this amendment is accepted by the other delegates. We will now ask the delegates all around to say whether they have any objection to including the amendment introduced by Nicaragua with regard to paragraph 9.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): As far as I understand it we are still dealing with the amendment suggested by Nicaragua. If I remember the discussion correctly in the Commission, and also the discussion of this particular report, the wording of the paragraph was discussed at length and I do not remember that anyone suggested a wording according to which prices for fertilizers in developed and developing countries should be equal or fixed at the same level for the farmers in the two groups of countries.

Therefore, I consider we should accept the text as adopted in Commission I.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Yo le voy a proponer una solución intermedia al delegado de Alemania, que parece ser la única delegación que no está de acuerdo con nuestra enmienda. En vez de "precios iguales", podría ser "precios similares". Yo creo que esto quizá le satisfaría.

CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether Germany will speak again on this issue or whether he will accept the new proposal.

M. ISHAQUE (Bangladesh): I agree with the Federal Republic of Germany. I too was present and if my memory is not failing me paragraph 9 is worded as was decided in Commission I when the report was being discussed there.

A. M. BESHIR (Egypt): I propose to accept this statement as it is, because we cannot make the prices of imports similar as the prices of the outputs are not similar, and I do not think this was raised in Commission I. We all agreed on this statement, and I hope we will accept it as it is.

CHAIRMAN: It seems that we do not have enough support, so I will appeal to you again to withdraw the amendment so that we can listen to Pakistan now with a new intervention.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I do not think that Nicaragua is totally without support, as the amendment I was going to suggest is something on the same lines. I suggest in line 10 of paragraph 9 of the English version of document C 77/REP/5 we should delete the words "for farmers in" and the sentence would then read "and urge that imports be supplied at reasonable prices to consuming countries".

While I have the floor, I do not want to raise a matter of substance, but I would like it recorded in the verbatim record that the Pakistan delegate noted with regret that although a point was made in relation to the storage in developing countries there is no mention in the final report which has been presented to the Plenary.

CHAIRMAN: As far as your second intervention is concerned, it will be noted in the verbatim records.

As far as your first intervention is concerned, I will ask the Secretary-General to read it out and we will write it down and find out if it is accepted by others.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Paragraph 9, the third line from the bottom would read "be supplied at reasonable prices to consuming countries. It agreed. . . " etc.

RAM SARAN (India): I support the delegate of Pakistan on the amendment suggested by him.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no other comments, I take it the amendment introduced by Pakistan is accepted. It is the case, then, that paragraph 9 is amended as suggested by the distinguished. delegate from Pakistan. Now we move on to paragraphs 10-15. No comment. Adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 5, 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 5, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 6 (from Commission I)

PROJET DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE, SIXIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA, PARTE 6 (de la Comisión I)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHEs 1 à 10, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PÁRRAFOS 1 a 10, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

P. J. BYRNES (United States of America): We have just received this document, Mr. Chairman. May I suggest that we have five minutes to read the document before proceeding?

CHAIRMAN: I had the impression that this had been discussed very thoroughly during our debates in the Commission, and here we are just formally adopting this Report. If you feel that we should have a short break we will do so by all means; I have no objection to that.

The meeting was suspended from 16. 15 hours to 16. 30 hours

La sêancê est suspendue de 16 h 15 à 16 h 30

Se suspende la sesión de las 16. 15 a 16. 30 horas

CHAIRMAN: I hope everybody has had time to read the document and we can now proceed with our work and start adopting the report, C 77/REP/6, paragraph by paragraph. Paragraphs 1-2.

R. CONTRERAS (España): En la penúltima frase del párrafo 2 se habla de celebrar consultas de expertos-para crear tecnología.

Esta delegación estima que los expertos no crean tecnología; lo que pueden hacer es estudiar y recomendar nuevas tecnologías. Y por ello propongo que en vez de "para crear tecnología", se diga "para estudiar y aconsejar nuevas tecnologías".

CHAIRMAN: Since there are no comments to this amendment, I take it as agreed upon by everybody.

N. AL-SALEH (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I did not actually want to make any comments now but I note that in the first paragraph there is reference to the setting up of a fund. We had said that this was not a fund but an account and I would like to say that before we discuss the Draft Resolution we should understand that there is an error in the first paragraph and in all the other paragraphs as well, because we speak not about an account but about a fund. The English document also says "fund". It is not therefore an error in translation, nor is it an error in wording: it is an error of substance. The document to be submitted to my government will be in Arabic and there should therefore be a readjustment so that the English version and the other texts are in line. That is why I would like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, and the Secretariat, to give us an explanation with regard to this error and to tell us how it can be corrected. Could I tomorrow have a document in Arabic which would already be corrected?

CHAIRMAN: I would like to explain - and even on behalf of the Secretariat - that in paragraph 1 we are talking about the past, when it was discussed in the Council; at that time it was considered to be a fund. But when you go back to the rest of the document you will find, especially in the resolution, that we are not talking about a fund but about a special account. So if there is something wrong with the Arabic translation, I hope the Secretariat will take note of it and then we shall make the necessary corrections as regards changing the word "fund" in order to meet with your point of view, to be replaced by the words "special account", where applicable.

N. AL-SALEH (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I quite agree with you, Mr. Chairman, with regard to what is stated in paragraph 1, but I wanted to avail myself of this opportunity to raise the problem so that I will not have to re-discuss it when we come to the rest of the report. I should like to have an answer from the Secretariat to the questions I have already raised.

CHAIRMAN: I think it is noted but I will give the floor to the Secretariat to answer your remarks.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I believe there is a mistranslation of the Arabic of the resolution and it should be put in line with the English and refer only to "special account" and not "fund".

CHAIRMAN: I hope the delegate from Saudi Arabia is satisfied now with the answer given by the Secretary-General.

N. AL-SALEH (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I am terribly sorry, Mr. Chairman, to have to speak again but I already asked the Secretariat to tell me when I could have a document in Arabic which would be corrected and in line with the English text.

CHAIRMAN: I am being told just now that tomorrow morning you will have the correct text in Arabic.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Je suis maintenant un peu désorienté concernant les modifications qui seront apportées suite à l'intervention de l'Arabie Saoudite. Est-ce que, dans tous les textes, au paragraphe 1, nous allons enlever le terme "fonds spécial" pour le remplacer par "compte spécial"? Je n'ai pas le texte anglais, mais je crois que dans le paragraphe 1, on va laisser le terme "fonds spécial". Je vois que M. de Caprona opine, donc nous sommes du même avis.

CHAIRMAN: I think I have said that with regard to the Special Fund mentioned in paragraph 1 it will continue to be the same thing because we are talking about the past; but as to the other paragraphs, when we come to them, we can say whether we are going to keep the same wording or change it to "special account".

M. ZUHUR (Syria) (interpretation from Arabic); There has been an amendment in paragraph 2. Where is this amendment going to be put in?

CHAIRMAN: I think it is the third line from the bottom: "to build up a technology" has been changed to "to study and advise on new technology". Paragraph 3. No comments? Approved. Paragraphs 4 a 5? Approved. Paragraph 6?

P. MASUD (Pakistan): In the first line I would like to know what R. P Budget stands for. Presumably they are talking about the Regular Programme Budget. If that is true then I think that we could state it clearly instead of just writing R. P. Budget.

CHAIRMAN: We will make the right correction as far as this is concerned.

R. CONTRERAS (España): La última frase del párrafo sexto tiene una redacción que en castellano nos parece desafortunada.

Voy a leer despacio tal como debe quedar para que se comprenda bien, sin que en realidad haya variación de fondo: "se intensificarán las actividades previstas en el Programa Ordinario en compilar y difundir información en tecnología postcosecha, en proyectos satisfactorios y en recursos necesarios", etc.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Une cuestión de forma solamente. En el texto en francés, cuando se hace referencia al Grupo GASCA, se menciona con todo detalle y se hace en lengua francesa y en lengua inglesa; pero en la versión española solamente se hace en lengua inglesa, por lo que solicito que la Secretaría haga la corrección oportuna.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no other comments I take it that Paragraph 6 is now adopted after the small intervention as far as R. P. is concerned and the Spanish version of the text of this Paragraph.

RAM S ARAN (India): This paragraph has attracted a lot of attention in the Commission's meeting. In fact it appears to me that there is an error because the -last sentence would read " Several Delegations noted that the projects to be implemented under the FAO Action Programme would not be intensified with any donor countries and would be financed by FAO on a truly multilateral basis", that was not to be a part of the Report. In fact I had mentioned at the meeting that we would raise this issue at the meeting of the Plenary. That was the factual position.

Coming to the point that I want to make now, this is something which is basic with all FAO Action Programmes that have to be financed on a multilateral basis and they have not to be identified with any donor countries as such. That is something basic. There is nothing new about it. Therefore, this recommendation has to be that of the Conference and not something which is mentioned by a few or by several delegations. Therefore, I would suggest that this sentence should start with "the Conference noted" and not "several delegations".

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Il y a dans la FAO un programme d'assistance spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire; il y a un programme des semences, il y a un IFS, le Programme des engrais. Tous ces programmes sont financés, en partie en tout cas, par des contributions multilatérales, en particulier par des fonds fiduciaires. Le délégué de l'Inde le sait aussi bien que nous et dans les discussions que nous avons eues au COAG, il a toujours été question que le Programme d'action pour la réduction des pertes alimentaires pourrait aussi être financé par des contributions multilatérales.

Nous ne sommes pas d'accord et l'avons déjà dit hier, de commencer cette phrase par "La Conférence" et si cette phrase doit rester dans ce texte il faudra la commencer par "plusieurs délégations", ou "de nombreuses délégations", mais en tout cas, par "La Conférence".

J. TROUVEROY (Belgique): Pour les raisons exposées par notre collègue suisse, je voudrais dire que la Belgique marque son accord sur ce qui a été exposé par le représentant de la Suisse.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): I fully agree with what was said by the delegate of Switzerland.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): As this sentence has been drafted it does not make any sense at all because it says "Several delegations noted that the projects to be implemented under the FAO Action Programme would not be identified with any donor countries and would be financed by FAO on a truly multilateral basis". The point that these several delegations wish to urge is that the programme should be on a truly multilateral basis and therefore their simply noting does not make any difference, so in case this sentence has to be retained then either it should be "the Conference" or "the majority", but it cannot be "Several delegations", because reading that it does not make any sense at all.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Deseo apoyar la propuesta de la India, que ha aducido razones muy válidas. También los comentarios de mi colega del Pakistán han corroborado nuestra opinión.

Estimamos, señor Presidente, que este programa, por su característica, debiera de ser endosado por la Conferencia como tal y no ser circunscrito al contenido que se le da en el párrafo séptimo como una notación de carácter marginal que hicieron algunas delegaciones.

Por tanto, nos adherimos a las opiniones expresadas por las delegaciones de India y Pakistán.

RAM SARÁN (India): I agree that there will be bilateral programmes or projects also but they will be over and above the programmes to be financed by the FAO Action Programme. We are not objecting to the bilateral programmes. What we are trying to say is that these projects to be financed under the FAO Action Programme will be on a truly multilateral basis, therefore, in our view it should be "the Conference noted", or I can go along with what the Pakistan delegate suggested.

M. ISHAQUE (Bangladesh): Here we are adopting the views of the Conference not of certain delegates or delegations. This is the view of the Conference or what is said after the words "Several delegations noted" etc. This is a concern of all the countries and all the delegations, therefore I would suggest that this is the Conference viewpoint and that should be recorded and not be recorded in the name of "Some delegations", or "Several delegations".

R. GARCELL CARRO (Cuba): Nuestra delegación sugiere que se adopte por la Conferencia; y lo hacemos a pesar de la aclaración de la Secretaría, toda vez que en este momento nos estamos refiriendo al programa de acción para la pérdida de alimentos. Es decir, que no excluimos que para otras actividades existan estos programas bilaterales, pero en este caso lo que hacemos ahora se refiere exclusivamente a la pérdida de alimentos. En esto basamos nuestra sugerencia.

M. A. GOMES PEREIRA (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation fully supports the amendment presented by the delegate of India, as supported by Nicaragua, first because this was what was said in the Commission and also there is no sense in accepting a Programme financed by FAO on a non-multilateral basis.

Mrs. V. P. WIGHTMAN (Canada): I have the impression I have heard all this before, having started in the drafting group. Obviously we cannot state that the Conference says or decided anything unless it is unanimous. May I suggest we use the terminology we often do that several delegations stated or stressed, or whatever verb would appear to be the most suitable. Such terminology as "Several delegations stated or stressed that the projects to be implemented under the FAO Action Programme should not be identified with any donor countries", this covers the position of any countries which made such a statement but obviously it is not an unanimous view.

A. A. MANSOOR (Bahrein) (interpretation from Arabic): As far as the point raised by the preceding speakers goes I believe that the Arabic wording of this sentence, I am not a linguist but not very exact since it is stated "Several delegations noted that the projects to be implemented under the FAO Action Programme should not be identified with any donor countries". I believe that this does not reflect what was said by the delegate of Canada because according to what she said some delegates or several delegates were of the opinion or stated that such projects should not be considered to be identified with any donor countries but that they would have to be considered as being financed on a truly multilateral basis.



P. MASUD (Pakistan): I am sorry for taking the floor again but after hearing the delegate from Canada I thought that I would suggest another way which has been adopted on many occasions when there has not been total unanimity. I would say the sentence should read "The majority of delegations noted that the projects to be implemented under the FAO Action Programme would not be identified with any donor countries and would be financed by FAO on a truly multinational basis". This is also a way out that has been adopted on many previous occasions.

CHAIRMAN: I hope this last amendment introduced by Pakistan will meet the requirements of other delegations not in favour of using the word "several". I see Canada approving the new amendment, and Germany and Belgium approve - everybody is nodding and are happy to adopt this amendment. I hope others are in favour of it so that we move to the next paragraph. Accepting the change of the word, instead of "several" delegations to "majority" delegations, and then we go on with the same words as are already in the text. I see no problem in this regard so we move to paragraph 8.

R. CONTRERAS (España): La segunda frase de este párrafo dice: "La FAO deberá ayudar a movilizar más recursos, por ejemplo, por medio del Fondo Fiduciario, Banco Mundial y FIDA". Esto parece querer decir que los fondos del Banco Mundial y FIDA dependen de la FAO, lo cual, por desgracia, no es exacto. Habría que decir "ayudar a movilizar más recursos en colaboración o de acuerdo con el Fondo Fiduciario, Banco Mundial o FIDA".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your remarks, I think they are valid and I hope that we will observe this small change in the second sentence of paragraph 8. The same paragraph 8 is adopted after amending it according to the Spanish intervention. We now move to paragraph 9.

d. richter (germany, , fed. rep. of) (interpretation from german): my delegation yesterday in the discussion in commission i proposed an addition to paragraph 9, and this proposal was unanimously adopted. in the fourth line of the english text after the word "resolution" the following words should be added, "agreed upon as a compromise". mr. chairman, i am a little bit surprised that this wording, which was unanimously adopted, does not appear in the text we have before us.

CHAIRMAN: I don't know whether we use this term when adopting Resolutions - we say this has been through a compromise solution. . It has been known that it was a compromise, it has been mentioned many times during the interventions, whether in the Council or in the Commission. I don't know whether we have to keep it in the Conference record, to say it has been reached by compromise. Anyhow, I will give the floor back to the Federal Republic of Germany to put forward his point of view.

D. RICHTER (germany, fed. rep. of) (interpretation from german): it is quite true this was a. compromise and that is why my delegation feels that this needs to be expressed in the wording of the report. indeed this was the unanimous view of commission i in the course of yesterday's discussion, so i would like to insist that this wording be re-introduced into the report.

CHAIRMAN: Since you have heard the intervention of the Federal Republic of Germany for the second time if there are no observations or comments I don't think we have a problem in accommodating this proposal, but I would say again that in all Resolutions a compromise has been reached. If we are going to insist that in every Resolution we have to introduce this element I don't think it would be very wise to insist on it, because we are talking about a compromise all the time, and putting it in writing, black and white, we may say it in the corridors and lobbies but we don't want to say it in the record. But anyhow, if you insist, I will leave it to the Conference to decide whether it shall be or not.

A. M. BESHIR (Egypt): Well the word "compromise" if it has to be placed I propose it comes in paragraph 9, not paragraph 10, so after the end of paragraph 9 we can say, "a compromise has been reached" and in paragraph 10 then we will not note that there was a compromise in this case.

CHAIRMAN: I think we are playing with words here. The meaning will be the same whether we put it after 9, 10 or 11. I think it will be the same. Anyhow, we will listen to the other speakers.

R. CONTRERAS (España): Yo deseo defender el texto del párrafo nueve tal como está, puesto que dice "la Conferencia considero que sobre la base de la resolución que sigue". Esta implícito que ha habido un compromiso y no hace falta recalcarlo más.

RAM SARÁN (India): In fact this was to agree with you on your observation. Most other Resolutions emerge as the result of compromise. I have not seen such a phrase coming in in other drafts. Therefore, we should have a similar approach for all the Resolutions, and we should not bring in this idea of compromise. It is understood that it is based on compromise. How is a Resolution presented here? It must have been compromised, that is very clear. There is no need to add the words, "as a compromise".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for supporting me.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I apologise in advance if I sound a little philosophic when I say, Sir, that life itself is a big compromise. This Conference is a compromise, and I fully agree with you when you say that there is no need to stress the obvious. Because we have a compromise, everybody knew that this was a compromise Resolution so I don't think there is any need to mention it specifically.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I am also supporting you because I think the words, "after careful consideration and full exchange of views" means compromise, it is not necessary to say it again.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Mi delegación también le apoya a usted, en el sentido de que queremos mantener el texto tal como figura. Cualquier otra decisión que tomáramos nosotros creemos que sería improcedente, como muy bien dijo mi colega de Pakistán. Alguna vez en la vida, incluso aquí, nuestra presencia es un compromiso entre nuestro deseo de irnos y el deber de tener que quedarnos aquí. Creo que las resoluciones algunas veces son así en nuestro deseo de aprobarlas y en nuestro deseo de rechazarlas. En estas circunstancias, yo sugiero que mantengamos el texto tal como está.

M. ISHAQUE (Bangladesh): We have had a lot of lobbying here and there and a lot of discussion and parleys and then we came to a decision. Whether we had one lobbying or three compromise sessions I personally feel, and on behalf of my delegation that it should not come into the text. Therefore, Sir, I am with you.

J. TROUVEROY (Belgique): Bien sûr, je crois que la grande majorité des délégués estime qu'une résolution est un compromis. Evidemment si l'on supprime cette proposition, qui est présentée par notre collègue de l'Allemagne, je dirais que toute résolution est également prise "après mûre réflexion". Il faudrait donc supprimer "après mûre réflexion" et "à l'issue d'un débat" il faudrait supprimer aussi "à l'issue d'un débat". Toute résolution est toujours prise après mûre réflexion et après un débat complet. Je pose alors la question sans vouloir prendre part à cette proposition, ais c'est pourtant un point logique.

A. A. MANSOÖR (Bahrain) (interpretation from Arabic): I feel that this expresses very clearly the Resolution. All resolutions, or at least the majority of resolutions, are indeed a compromise between divergent ideas and, therefore, every delegate has a right to maintain his own convictions. That this should be stated in the report of the Plenary, or the report of the Commissions, this is quite normal, but to have it reflected in the resolutions I think is not reasonable.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Je pense que du fait qu'il s'agit d'un compromis particulier et non pas d'un compromis habituel, l'adjonction demandée par l'Allemagne est bonne et je la soutiens. Mais j'ai autre chose à dire. Hier en Comité de rédaction nous avons adopté un texte et le texte contenait l'amendement fait par l'Allemagne, Or maintenant le Secrétariat présente un texte où cet amendement ne paraît pas. Je me demande de quel droit le Secrétariat modifie un texte adopté à l'unanimité par un Comité de rédaction. Il aurait fallu au moins présenter le texte tel qu'amendé de manière à ce qu'aujourd'hui certaines délégations puissent demander de retirer l'amendement établi par l'Allemagne.

CHAIRMAN: We are talking about the Commission, not the Drafting Committee, because in the Drafting Committee you can raise whatever issue you like, but we are interested to know what happened in the debate in the Commission. I was not present at that time, but I hope someone from the Secretariat will come and say a few words in this regard as you have already requested an answer from them. If the delegate from Switzerland will agree, we will get someone to answer his request later on, but we will now move to the next speaker on my list so that we can continue our work.

M. A. GOMES PEREIRA (Brazil): I was in doubt as to whether I should participate in the rather philosophic exercises which have been going on for some time, or to alter the historic part of the exercise. As to what happened in the Commission, of course, the Plenary can decide one way or the other - that is quite clear. My own feeling is that this paragraph possibly leads to the main action taken by the Conference, so I wonder if we are doing a good service to the Organization and the Conference if we somehow give an impression we are not fully supporting this Resolution.

This is the point I would like to bring to my colleague of the Federal Republic of Germany. This is one of the corner stones of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the FAO. We are starting in a bad way. Both sides have made such an effort to come to this Resolution, which is a compromise, but why put it like that and make it explicit? The text makes it clear something goes on, so I would appeal to my colleagues from the Federal Republic of Germany. Maybe he is quite right, the text has been amended and we are not disputing that point; but we are doing a disservice at the beginning of this very important programme by disputing this,

RAM SARAN (India): I am repeating what other delegations have said, but I think the words "full exchange of views" which are in the English draft take into account the idea of compromise, and that is already there.

CHAIRMAN: Having listened to all the interventions I take it the Conference would like to adopt the text as it stands here. I would appeal to our distinguished colleague from the Federal Republic of Germany to say whether he agrees with me, so that we can move on to the next item of our agenda.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of) (interpretation from German): Obviously there is not a clear majority in favour of this proposal. I will not insist on it but I do want to state as an explanation that this addition was intended to show there was a very definite process of arriving at an agreed opinion of the long discussions. It led to a solution which was acceptable to everyone, and I would like, to say to the delegate of Brazil that this was not intended to indicate that we had any doubts with regard to the compromise solution.

We are perfectly right to agree to it, but as the delegate of Switzerland said quite clearly, it is very surprising. I am surprised myself at the wording which appears in paragraph 9, since yesterday in Commission I we had very clearly decided upon a text which included this addition. If delegates did not want it it should have been discussed in Plenary whether this wording should be deleted.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your explanation. I take it you do not insist on your proposal and we can move now to the Resolution itself. We are very grateful to our friend from the Federal Republic of Germany for accepting our suggestion.

We move now to the text of the Resolution itself which was of course reached by compromise.

K. OLZVOY (Mongolia): I have just one question: I would like to ask the Secretariat through you, Mr. Chairman, to give an explanation of the meaning of the operative paragraph 2. I would like to know what kind of contribution should be made - obligatory or voluntary.

CHAIRMAN: Although we have not reached that part of the Resolution, it is voluntary contributions, of course.

K. OLZVOY (Mongolia): If it is voluntary contributions then it is better to add the word "voluntary" before the word "contributions".

CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the amendment - introduced by Mongolia.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I just want to know where exactly we are at the moment, as I seem to have lost track of the debate for the moment.

CHAIRMAN: We are at page 5, paragraph 2 which "Invites Member Nations. . ."

P. MASUD (Pakistan): Paragraph 2, which states: "Invites Member Nations of FAO and other contributors accordingly to make contributions amounting to at least \$20 million to the Special Account: " - if I am not mistaken, a closer study of the Resolution would indicate that all contributions are not strictly voluntary, and therefore to include the word "voluntary" here would add more meaning to the text than is required.

CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether Mongolia will accept it should be left as it is,

K. OLZVOY (Mongolia): If we put the word "voluntary", it would better clarify the meaning of this paragraph, but I would not insist on this.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for not insisting,

W. JURASZ (Poland): I would like to ask that a statement that it is a voluntary contribution should be fully recorded in the minutes of this Conference,

H. A. I. HAKIM (Indonesia): I am sorry to intervene, but does the delegate of Poland only want this to be fully recorded, but not put in the Resolution?

CHAIRMAN: It is the same in the sense we are not going to change the Resolution text. I take it everybody is happy with this text, and the Resolution is adopted by the Conference.

M. ATRIA RAWLINS (Chile): Sólo para hacer una aclaración. En el texto español, en el párrafo tercero de la resolución, figura la fecha 31 de marzo de 1978, y en el texto inglés figura la fecha de 31 de enero de 1978. Quisiera saber cual es la correcta.

CHAIRMAN: It is a mistake in the Spanish text which will be corrected.

Paragraphs 1 to 9, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9, ainsi amendes, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 10, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 10, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 10, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 6, as amended was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Sixième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 6, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 7 (from Commission I)

PROJET DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE, SEPTIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I) PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA, PARTE 7 (de la Comisión I)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 7

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 7

PÁRRAFOS 1 a 7

CHAIRMAN: We now have Part 7 of the Conference Report which deals with agenda item 8 - Progress in International Agricultural Adjustment. This subject was discussed in Commission I.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: A line dropped out from the English in the printing at the top of page 3. Paragraph 4 continues and the following words should be inserted at the beginning of page 3 - it is a new sentence: "Delegates from some developed countries emphasized the increase in their agricultural imports from developing countries as a result. ..", and the sentence continues, "of improved trade and stabilization arrangements. "

CHAIRMAN: I hope those who have English texts now have the sentence which was mentioned by the Secretary-General. We now start our Report. Paragraphs 1 and 2, approved. Paragraph 3.

L. RITTERSHAUS (Pays-Bas): Seulement une correction concernant le texte français. Je me demande s'il ne serait pas souhaitable de souligner le mot "approuve" au singulier dans la première ligne du paragraphe. Dans le texte anglais, il est indiqué: "The Conference agreed. . . ."

M. A. GOMES PEREIRA (Brazil): In paragraph 3 we referred to "some progress". We think that "solid" in paragraph 4 is a little exaggerated. There is very little progress which is a reality. So perhaps we could delete the word "solid" in paragraph 4, because it gives too rosy a picture. I suggest therefore that we delete the word "solid" and just say "achievements", and even so I think perhaps we are going a little far.

CHAIRMAN: There is a proposal to delete the word "solid". If there are no comments I take it that the amendment is accepted. I am sorry, it seems that we have other speakers.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): En relación con el párrafo cuarto, esta delegación tiene que presentar algunas enmiendas.

En este momento creíamos que se estaba considerando solamente la enmienda presentada por Brasil a la primera línea; enmienda con la cual nosotros coincidimos.

En la tercera línea se habla de la recuperación de la producción alimentaria. Nosotros calificaríamos esta recuperación como ligera, pues todos sabemos que no ha sido uniforme y satisfactoria para todos los países productores, particularmente para los países en desarrollo.

Por lo expuesto, esta delegación preferiría que dijéramos "con una ligera recuperación de la producción alimentaria, "

A la página tercera del texto en español del mismo párrafo cuarto también deseamos formular algunas observaciones. En la segunda oración, cuando dice: "No obstante, muchos delegados expresaron su profunda preocupación por la persistencia de algunos obstáculos", nosotros preferiríamos suprimir la palabra "algunos" y que se diga "por la persistencia de obstáculos. "

En la misma oración dice el texto: "qu impiden una mejora más rápida de la situación respecto a la producción". Nosotros cancelaríamos las palabras "más rápida".

Posteriormente, señor Presidente, tendríamos que hacer otros comentarios en relación con este párrafo. No sé si convendrá ahora que nos pronunciemos primero sobre estas enmiendas. El señor Presidente dirá qué procedimiento seguimos.

CHAIRMAN: I think we had better take them one by one so that the delegates can respond to these amendments and say whether they agree or not. We will start with your first amendment. Could you repeat it slowly so that delegates can note it in their text?

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Lo que proponemos es que se diga "una ligera recuperación de la producción alimentaria". Es en la cuarta línea del texto en español.

Mrs. V. F. WIGHTMAN (Canada): I merely wish to ask a question here, Mr. Chairman. You were referring to the Director-General's assessment of programmes. Could we ask the representative of the Director-General if that is what was said in his statement or in the report, that he referred to a slight recovery? I should have thought the situation was a little brighter than that. Could we have information on this?

CHAIRMAN: I think it would be very difficult for us now to bring to the attention of delegates the full statement of the Director-General, nor do I think we remember much of it now. At any rate I do not believe the word "slight" was mentioned but if you feel that way, I will bring the text of the Director-General's statement and try and find out whether these words have been used or not. I do not know whether the delegate of Nicaragua will insist in using the word "slight" for it seems that is the view of those of us who still remember whether this word was used by the Director-General in his statement, to the Commission, Shall I say that you are not insisting, in the first amendment, on putting the word "slight" before the word "recovery"?

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Mi memoria es tan mala como la del delegado de Canadá, y preferiría que en cuanto se refiere a la enmienda dejásemos a la Secretaría específicamente este punto.

CHAIRMAN: I think it is fair enough. If you find that the Director-General has been using this word we will put it there; if not, we will leave it as it is. Could we have your second amendment and see what can be done about it, since you have so many?

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): La segunda oración del numero 4, del texto español, dice: "No obstante, muchos delegados expresaron su profunda preocupación por la persistencia de algunos obstáculos que impiden", etc. Nosotros omitiríamos "algunos". Diríamos "su profunda preocupación por la persistencia de obstáculos).

Sigue la oración: "que impiden una mejora más rápida de la situación en lo que respecta a *la* oroducción". Nosotros suprimiríamos las palabras "más rápida".

En resumen, nuestra propuesta en relación con esta oración es la siguiente: que se diga "No obstante, la mayoría de las delegaciones expresaron su profunda preocupación por la persistencia de obstáculos que impiden una mejora de la situación", etc.

CHAIRMAN: As far as the first part of the intervention goes, I think it was only in the Spanish text; but in regard to the second part of your second - or third - amendment, you want "improvement" without "more rapid".

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Me refiero solamente a la primera enmienda. Por- lo que respecta a la segunda enmienda, creo que ha habido un lapsus mental, y la damos por cancelada.

Z. OWIRO (Kenya): I do not want to comment on the previous amendments but I have an amendment on the last sentence of the English text. Instead of the sentence beginning with the word "Various", I would propose that the word "Various" be changed to "Many": "Many delegations from developing countries" instead of "Various delegations from developing countries".

CHAIRMAN: There is no problem in accommodating this small amendment, I think, it seems that it is accepted.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): My amendment relates to the same sentence, the second line from the bottom on page 2 in the English text. It says, "which have a negative effect on the economy of the developing countries because they limit or render problematic the access of their agricultural products to the markets in the developed countries". I regard this "render problematic" as a probably not too successfull translation of the French text introduced by the Algeria delegate: "rendent aléatoires". I would suggest, if it is the opinion of the Conference, to change the words "render problematic" with "make uncertain": "make uncertain the access of their agricultural products to the markets in the developed countries".

CHAIRMAN: I am informed by the Secretary-General that is a better translation.

M. A. GOMES PEREIRA (Brazil): I fully agree with that but there is an amendment related to it. The sentence first says impede, second to limit, third is the problematic business. I would therefore suggest that before "limit" we add "impede": "they impede, limit or" and then the new version of the problematic business.

CHAIRMAN: There are two small amendments concerning these last two lines of this paragraph, at least on this page: first by Yugoslavia concerning a translation error from French to English, and the second one just introduced by the delegate of Brazil. Seeing that nobody is against accepting this amendment, we take it as accepted.

A. M. BESHIR (Egypt): Really the report we are dealing with here was not very bright concerning the increase of production in many developing countries but there was no reference to this here. This report emphasized that in many countries the increase in production was very slight and even fell short of the increase in population, but there is no indication at all of this in paragraph 29.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you can give us this amendment in writing so that we can then find out whether it will be acceptable. Or shall we leave it to the end and find out if you can put it down for us and then bring it to the attention of the delegates?

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Estamos de acuerdo con las enmiendas propuestas. Acerca del encabezamiento de este párrafo, estamos conformes con la delegación de Kenya, pero preferiríamos que dijera: "Los delegados de países en desarrollo", en vez de decir "La mayoría de los delegados de países en desarrollo". No sé qué delegación de país en desarrollo no iba a mostrar su preocupación ante la persistencia de esos obstáculos.

En cuanto a la última oración de este mismo párrafo, mi delegación no logra comprender exactamente cómo se puede poner al mismo nivel la situación de gravedad en que están afectados los agricultores en los países en desarrollo y los agricultores en los países desarrollados.

Estimo que esta frase debería modificarse y reflejar la situación particularmente grave de que están afectados los agricultores en los países en desarrollo por las características estructurales de nuestras economías.

No comprendo cómo pueden ser asimilados, cómo se pueden poner en un plan de igualdad los pequeños agricultores de los países en desarrollo con los de los países desarrollados.

CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether you can give us your text so that we can replace the last sentence or find out whether we can accommodate the new ideas. But I am afraid that if we are going to discuss it like this, we are not going to reach any conclusion because we do not know exactly where we are going to introduce this new point of view. Are we going to replace a sentence by a new sentence, and where, and how? So perhaps you will be kind enough to give us your exact opinion in this regard.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Voy a leer la oración tal como nosotros sugerimos que figure en el texto, y lo voy a hacer lentamente.

"Se llamó también la atención sobre la gravedad de los problemas que tienen los pequeños agricultores, particularmente en los países en desarrollo durante el reajuste estructural de la agricultura. "

Se cancelaría lo de la gran mayoría de los países desarrollados.



CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether we are going to open the debate with regard to all issues concerning this very important item. I am afraid if we are going to get into a detailed debate it will bring so many new ideas and I am afraid that this is not the right place or the proper place to introduce a new way of thinking. This could be done easily in the Commission but here in the Plenary if we are going to bring out some new elements I am afraid everybody will be encouraged to introduce new ideas and I am afraid things will get very much complicated, not only for the Secretariat but for the delegates themselves to understand where we stand. I would rather appeal to all the delegates, and I am not just saying this to my friend from Nicaragua but to everybody, not to start introducing new ideas. I wonder whether we can accept the text as it stands?

A. LOCHEN (Norway): I will not introduce any new ideas but a new word. In Paragraph A, in the sentence which was dictated to us in the English text at the top of Page 3 I propose the inclusion of the word "countries" after "their". That means that the sentence would read "Delegates from some developed countries emphasized the increase in their countries agricultural imports".

CHAIRMAN: I think this is a valid point so that there will be no problem in accepting this small amendment.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Just commenting on the sentence "Attention was also drawn to the severity", perhaps here the best solution was simply to drop "in the large majority of developed and developing countries", just drop that and say "severity of problems faced by small farmers in the course of structural adjustments in agriculture". The reason is very simple, in fact the problems of small farmers in adjustment in the developed countries is usually on subsidised agriculture and there is the basic problem of adjustment and therefore I would feel in this particular case to take out completely "developed countries" is not appropriate. The difficulties with the community, common agricultural policy is because of that, therefore I think one can just delete the insertion "in the large majority of developed and developing countries" and leave the sentence without that part and we could live with that,

CHAIRMAN: Is there anybody not in favour of deleting these few words at the top of Page 3 of this document?

Paragraphs 1 to 7, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7, ainsi amendés sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 7, as amended was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Planiere -Septième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria- Parte 7, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: I see that Switzerland is asking for the floor. I do not think we can open, this discussion again as far as any part of the Report is concerned although I know you are still waiting for an answer to your question, but I am afraid that there is nobody from the Secretariat to do this, I am sure they will tell you in private probably something which will meet with your requirements. We can leave it until tomorrow morning. I am afraid there will be nobody to answer your questions for the time being.

G. DUCOMMUN (Suisse): Si J'ai posé une question en public, c'est pour qu'on me réponde en public. Le Secrétariat a enlevé un amendement qui avait été adopté. Il faut qu'il nous explique pourquoi.

CHAIRMAN: I hope it will be possible to provide an answer in the Plenary Meeting tomorrow. At all events, the Secretariat will certainly get in touch with you as soon as possible.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPONSE

DERECHO DE REPLICA

CHAIRMAN: Before closing the meeting I have a request for the floor from the delegate of the United Kingdom to use his right of reply.

G. W. THOM (United Kingdom): At the end of this morning's session we were addressed by the Observer from Zimbabwe. In the course of this he made a statement to the effect that the British Government had been supplying arms to the Smith Regime. I would like to put on record that there is no question whatsoever of the British Government having supplied any arms to the Smith Regime at any time.

The meeting rose at 18. 10

La séance est levée à 18 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 10 horas

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/22

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

TWENTY-SECOND PLENARY MEETING  
VINGT-DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
22ª SESION PLENARIA

(30 November 1977)

The Twenty-Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 09. 45 hours  
T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingt-deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous  
la présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 22ª sesión plenaria a las 9. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia  
de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

Eighth Report of the General Committee

Huitième Rapport du Bureau

Octavo informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: I declare the Twenty-Second Plenary Meeting open. The first item on our agenda is the adoption of the Eighth Report of the General Committee. I will ask the Secretary-General to read it section by section.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Premièrement, le règlement des arriérés de contributions du Congo et de la Mauritanie. Les versements effectués récemment par la République populaire du Congo étant supérieurs au montant requis aux termes du paragraphe 4 de l'Article III de l'Acte constitutif concernant le droit de vote, et eu égard à la demande faite par le gouvernement, le Bureau attire l'attention de la Conférence sur le fait que le projet de résolution figurant à son troisième rapport, le document C 77/LIM/30 n'est plus nécessaire, et recommande en conséquence que cette question ne figure plus au rapport de la Conférence.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this proposal, the withdrawal of the resolution on the Congo? If there are no comments, then it is adopted.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le Bureau par ailleurs a été également informé que la République islamique de Mauritanie avait effectué un versement supérieur au montant requis aux termes du paragraphe 4 de l'Article III de l'Acte constitutif et avait donc régularisé sa situation.

CHAIRMAN: This second item is just to be noted, but if there are no comments, then please continue.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Supplément au deuxième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs.

Le bureau a pris note que le Président de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs avait bien reçu les pouvoirs de l'Observateur d'une autre Organisation non gouvernementale jouissant du statut consultatif auprès de la FAO et qui figure au document C 77/LIM/43-Sup. 1.

CHAIRMAN: It is just to be noted. Since there are no comments, please continue with the report of the General Committee.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il reste encore une dernière section qui concerne les élections des membres du Conseil, à laquelle nous allons procéder maintenant.

Le bureau a pris note du retrait de la candidature de la République arabe syrienne à un siège au Conseil, en faveur du Liban, pour la période novembre 1977-novembre 1979. Ceci figure au document C 77/LIM/45-Sup. 1.

Enfin, afin de ne pas interrompre la procédure de vote pendant les élections des membres du Conseil, le bureau recommande à la Conférence qu'il ne soit donné la parole à une délégation désirant recourir à une déclaration de vote sur l'une quelconque des périodes, qu'une fois clos l'ensemble des tours de scrutin et les élections terminées.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General. Distinguished delegates, after the reading of the report by the Secretary-General, since there are no comments, I take it that the Eighth Report of the General Committee has been adopted.

Adopted

Adopte

Aprobado

#### PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

#### QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

#### PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

25. Election of Council Members

25. Elección de miembros del Conseil

25. Elección de miembros del Consejo

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le Journal de la Conférence d'aujourd'hui comprend en première page un modèle de bulletin de vote pour l'élection des membres du Conseil, avec naturellement des pays fictifs, mais qui indique la manière dont les bulletins qui sont distribués au moment du vote doivent être remplis.

Comme l'a décidé la Conférence en adoptant le septième rapport de son bureau, qui figure au document C 77/LIM/45 et son supplément, la première étape des votes comprendra les scrutins concernant les régions dotées de sièges supplémentaires pour les deux premières périodes, à savoir novembre 1977-31 décembre 1978, et novembre 1977-novembre 1979. Il s'agit de l'Afrique, de l'Asie-Extrême-Orient, et le Proche-Orient. Les trois autres régions, à savoir l'Europe, l'Amérique latine, l'Amérique du Nord et le Pacifique Sud-Ouest, n'ont pas de sièges vacants pour ces périodes. Il n'y a qu'une seule région, Asie-Extrême-Orient, pour laquelle deux candidats se présentent à un seul siège pour la période novembre 1977-31 décembre 1978. Dans les trois autres cas, le nombre des candidats est égal à celui des sièges à pourvoir.

Aux termes de l'article 12, paragraphe 9<sup>a</sup>, du Règlement général de l'Organisation, l'élection des membres du Conseil a lieu au scrutin secret. Cette disposition est applicable même lorsque le nombre de candidats est égal à celui des sièges à pourvoir. Il est donc nécessaire de procéder également à un scrutin secret dans ces dernier cas. Chaque bulletin de vote doit être rempli conformément aux instructions qui y figurent.

Il ne faut pas oublier que le nombre de sièges vacants varie de région à région. Dans les cas où il y a plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir, il faut marquer une croix dans le cadre figurant au regard du nom de chacun des pays que l'on désire élire aux sièges vacants, ainsi qu'il apparaît dans le bulletin modèle donné dans le journal.

Il importe de rappeler qu'aux termes de l'article 12, paragraphe 11 (a) du Règlement général, chaque électeur, à moins qu'il ne s'abstienne de prendre part au scrutin, exprime son suffrage pour chacun des postes électifs à pourvoir en désignant un candidat différent pour chaque poste.

Tout bulletin qui ne remplit pas ces conditions est nul.

Aux termes de l'article 12, paragraphe 4 (c) du Règlement général, est enregistré comme une abstention tout bulletin blanc.

Aux termes du paragraphe 4 (d) dudit article 12, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autres que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

Tout bulletin de vote portant des suffrages pour un nombre de pays supérieur au nombre de sièges à pourvoir est nul.

Est également nul tout bulletin de vote portant des suffrages pour un nombre de pays inférieur au nombre de sièges à pourvoir.

Pour être valide, un bulletin de vote doit donc porter un nombre de croix égal au nombre de postes vacants.

Le premier scrutin, qui se réfère à la première étape du document C 77/LIM/45, paragraphe 8, sera suivi de tout scrutin supplémentaire qui pourra être nécessaire en liaison avec les périodes mentionnées dans

cette étape. Il sera ensuite procédé au scrutin concernant les régions qui ont des sièges à pourvoir pour la troisième période, c'est-à-dire novembre 1977-novembre 1980, et ce scrutin sera, à son tour, suivi, le cas échéant, de scrutins supplémentaires, toujours pour cette deuxième étape. Ensuite auront lieu les scrutins concernant les régions qui ont des sièges à pourvoir pour la quatrième période, la troisième étape du document C 77/LIM/45, c'est-à-dire la période janvier 1979-novembre 1981, et le cas échéant, des scrutins supplémentaires pour cette période.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General.

I would like to draw the attention of the delegates to paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, which specifies that once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a Point of Order in connexion with the voting.

I should like to suggest that we appoint four tellers instead of two so that the counting of votes can proceed more rapidly. I am told there are 113 countries present in the Hall. I call upon the following delegations: Norway, Panama, Papua and New Guinea and Sierra Leone to act as tellers for these elections. Would they please proceed to the voting area.

If there are no comments, I will ask the Assistant Secretary-General to call the Member Nations to proceed to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

Session of the Conference  
19 Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.77  
Fecha

REGION AFRICA  
AFRIQUE

PERIOD Nov.1977 - 31 Dec.1978  
PERIODE Nov.1977 - 31 déc. 1978  
PERIODO Nov.1977 - 31 diciembre 1978

REPORT OF  
RESULTAT DU I  
RESULTADO DE LA  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas Number of ballot papers deposited	123 121	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables Papeletas de votación válidas	118
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Asientos a cubrir	1
3 Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	118

More-than-half majority in accordance with  
Rule XII-3 (a)

CI 11 1071 6543X - C 1969 - c

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	GHANA	118
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

Signature W.B. Munn  
Teller  
(Sierra Leone)

P.G. Stavnum  
Teller  
(Norway)

B. Linley  
Elections Officer

Session of the Conference  
19 Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.77  
Fecha

ASIA AND FAR EAST  
REGION ASIE ET EXTREME-ORIENT  
ASIA Y LEJANO ORIENTE

PERIOD Nov. 1977 - 31 Dec. 1978  
PERIODE Nov. 1977 - 31 déc. 1978  
PERIODO Nov. 1977 - 31 diciembre 1978

REPORT OF I  
RESULTAT DU  
RESULTADO DE LA

BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués 123 Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas Number of ballot papers deposited 122	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables 115 Papeletas de votación válidas
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls 2 Papeletas defectuosas	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir 1 Asientos a cubrir
3 Abstentions Abstentions 5 Abstenciones	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés 115 Votos emitidos

More-than-half majority in accordance with  
Rule XII-3(a)

=  
58

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	SRI LANKA	75
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría	KOREA, Republic of	40
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432K - C1969 - c

Signature G.K. Graham  
Teller  
(Papua New Guinea)

Mayra Ivan Kovich  
Teller De Arosemena  
(Panama)

R. Linley  
Elections Officer



Session of the Conference  
19 Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RÉSULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.77  
Fecha

REGION AFRICA  
AFRIQUE

PERIOD Nov. 1977 - Nov. 1979  
PERIODE  
PERIODO

REPORT OF  
RESULTAT DU I  
RESULTADO DE LA  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	123	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables Papeletas de votación válidas	101
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Asientos a cubrir	1
3 Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	22	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	101

More-than-half majority in accordance with  
Rule XII-3(a)

1/2 majority 51

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	UGANDA	101
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CE 11 1071 65432K - C 1969 - c

Signature W. B. Munn P. G. Stavnun B. Linley  
Teller (Sierra Leone) Teller (Norway) Elections Officer

Session of the Conference  
19 Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.77  
Fecha

REGION NEAR EAST  
PROCHE-ORIENT  
CERCANO ORIENTE

PERIOD Nov. 1977 - Nov. 1979  
PERIODE  
PERIODO Nov. 1977 - Nov. 1979

REPORT OF  
RESULTAT DU I  
RESULTADO DE LA  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas Number of ballot papers deposited	123	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables Papeletas de votación válidas	114
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Asientos a cubrir	1
3 Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	6	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	114

More-than-half majority in accordance with  
Rule XII-3(a)

58

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	LEBANON	114
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

Cf II 1071 6543X - C1969 - c

Signature G.K. Graham  
Teller  
(Papua New Guinea)  
Mayra Ivankovich  
Teller De Arosemena  
(Panama)  
B. Linley  
Elections Officer

CHAIRMAN: We must now proceed to the voting on the period for November 1977 to December 1980.

VOTE

VOTE

VUTACION

Session of the Conference  
19 Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.77  
Fecha

REGION AFRICA PERIOD Nov. 1977 - 31 Dec. 1980  
AFRIQUE PERIODE Nov. 1977 - 31 déc. 1980  
PERIODO Nov. 1977 - 31 diciembre 1980

REPORT OF  
RESULTAT DU ..... I .....  
RESULTADO DE LA  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN .....  
VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués ..... 124 ..... Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables ..... 113 ..... Papeletas de votación válidas
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls ..... 8 ..... Papeletas defectuosas	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir ..... 5 ..... Asientos a cubrir
3 Abstentions Abstentions ..... 3 ..... Abstenciones	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés ..... 565 ..... Votos emitidos

Majority =  $\frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$   
Majorité =  $\frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$   
Mayoría =  $\frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$

=  $\frac{565}{5+1} + 1 = 95$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected	ALGERIA	113
Elus	CHAD	113
Elegidos	LIBERIA	113
	TANZANIA	113
	ZAIRE	113
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432K - C 1969 - c

Signature W. B. Munn ..... P. A. G. STAVRUM ..... B. Linley .....  
Teller (Sierra Leone) Teller (Norway) Elections Officer

Session of the Conference  
19 Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.77...  
Fecha

REGION EUROPE ..... PERIOD Nov. 1977 - 31 Dec. 1980  
EUROPA ..... PERIODE Nov. 1977 - 31 déc. 1980  
PERIODO Nov. 1977 - 31 diciembre 1980

REPORT OF ..... I ..... BALLOT  
RESULTAT DU ..... TOUR DE SCRUTIN .....  
RESULTADO DE LA ..... VOTACION

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Number of ballot-papers issued<br>Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués ..... 124<br>Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas | 4 Valid ballot-papers<br>Bulletins de vote valables ..... 118<br>Papeletas de votación válidas |
| 2 Defective ballots<br>Bulletins nuls ..... 6<br>Papeletas defectuosas   | 5 Seats to be filled<br>Sièges à pourvoir ..... 3<br>Asientos a cubrir                         |
| 3 Abstentions<br>Abstentions ..... 0<br>Abstenciones   | 6 Votes cast<br>Suffrages exprimés ..... 354<br>Votos emitidos                                 |

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

$$= \frac{354}{3+1} + 1 = 89$$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	BELGIUM HUNGARY	103 94
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría	PORTUGAL MALTA	80 77
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432K - C1969 - c

Signature G.K. Graham ..... Mayra Ivankovich ..... B. Linley .....  
Teller Teller de Arosemena Elections Officer  
(Papua New Guinea) (Panama)

Session of the Conference  
19 Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS  
RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL  
RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO

Date 30.11.77...  
Fecha

REGION LATIN AMERICA  
AMERIQUE LATINE  
AMERICA LATINA

PERIOD Nov. 1977 - 31 Dec. 1980  
PERIODE Nov. 1977 - 31 déc. 1980  
PERIODO Nov. 1977 - 31 diciembre 1980

REPORT OF RESULTAT DU I  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Number of ballot-papers issued<br>Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués ..... 124<br>Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas | 4 Valid ballot-papers<br>Bulletins de vote valables ..... 114<br>Papeletas de votación válidas |
| 2 Defective ballots<br>Bulletins nuls ..... 9<br>Papeletas defectuosas   | 5 Seats to be filled<br>Sièges à pourvoir ..... 5<br>Asientos a cubrir                         |
| 3 Abstentions<br>Abstentions ..... 1<br>Abstenciones   | 6 Votes cast<br>Suffrages exprimés ..... 570<br>Votos emitidos                                 |

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

$$= \frac{570}{5+1} + 1 = 96$$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	MEXICO BRAZIL COLOMBIA JAMAICA	108 104 103 99
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría	CUBA EL SALVADOR	86 70
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432K - C 1969 - c

Signature W.B. Munn  
Teller (Sierra Leone)  
P.G. Stavnum  
Teller (Norway)  
B. Linley  
Elections Officer

Session of the Conference  
19 Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.77  
Fecha

NEAR EAST  
REGION PROCHE-ORIENT  
CERCANO ORIENTE

PERIOD Nov. 1977 - 31 Dec. 1980  
PERIODE Nov. 1977 - 31 d'éc. 1980  
PERIODO Nov. 1977 - 31 diciembre 1980

REPORT OF ..... I .....  
RESULTAT DU ..... I .....  
RESULTADO DE LA .....  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN .....  
VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués ..... 124 Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables ..... 116 Papeletas de votación válidas
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls ..... 3 Papeletas defectuosas	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir ..... 2 Asientos a cubrir
3 Abstentions Abstentions ..... 5 Abstenciones	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés ..... 232 Votos emitidos

$$= \frac{232}{2+1} + 1 = 78$$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	AFGHANISTAN IRAQ	116 116
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CT 11 1071 65432X - C 1969 - c

Signature	W.B. Munn Teller (Sierra Leone)	P.G. Stavnum Teller (Norway)	B. Linley Elections Officer
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Session of the Conference  
19 Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.77  
Fecha

NORTH AMERICA  
AMERIQUE DU NORD  
REGION AMERICA DEL NORTE

PERIOD Nov. 1977 - 31 Dec. 1980  
PERIODE Nov. 1977 - 31 déc. 1980  
PERIODO Nov. 1977 - 31 diciembre 1980

REPORT OF  
RESULTAT DU I  
RESULTADO DE LA

BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Number of ballot-papers issued<br>Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués .....124.....<br>Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas | 4 Valid ballot-papers<br>Bulletins de vote valables .....114.....<br>Papeletas de votación válidas |
| 2 Defective ballots<br>Bulletins nuls .....6.....<br>Papeletas defectuosas   | 5 Seats to be filled<br>Sièges à pourvoir .....2.....<br>Asientos a cubrir                         |
| 3 Abstentions<br>Abstentions .....4.....<br>Abstenciones   | 6 Votes cast<br>Suffrages exprimés .....228.....<br>Votos emitidos                                 |

$$= \frac{228}{2 + 1} + 1 = 77$$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	CANADA UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	114 114
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1073 65432K - C1969 - c

Signature	G.K. Graham Teller (Papua New Guinea)	Mayra Ivankovich Teller de Arosemena (Panama)	B. Linley Elections Officer
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ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 8 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE (de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8 (de la Comisión I)

CHAIRMAN: May I again stress that all Reports of all three Commissions have been adopted in the Commissions which are bodies of the whole. Their substance and form has been extensively discussed there, and we are not expected to re-open the discussion on them here.

I shall therefore proceed section by section for the formal adoption of these documents, and will ask you to please refrain from raising matters of substance. If there is disagreement on any point, we shall simply have to vote by a show of hands. Those countries who object to one or another part of our Report may have their reservations recorded in the Verbatim Records, and if they so insist, even in the Report.

Any drafting amendments of a corrective nature should be handed directly to the Secretary-General, and I will examine them with him on the understanding only amendments of pure form can be retained. I trust that after your lengthy debates in the Commissions we will not have to vote unnecessarily.

PARAGRAPHS 1 – 7

PARAGRAPHES 1-7

PÁRRAFOS 1-7

CHAIRMAN: There is a mistake in the last sentence of paragraph 3 of document C 77/REP/8. The word "would" should be replaced by "could"

In paragraph 4, page 2, second sentence, the word "updating" should be inserted after the word "providing training, ".

In paragraph 4, on page 3, the word "and" should be inserted between the word "natural resources" and "that assistance. . . ".

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I wonder in the last sentence of paragraph 4 if it is not more appropriate to say "when it is foreseen that it will have beneficial repercussions". I think that is the real meaning.

J. R. PEREZ FERNANDES (Cuba): Es en relación con la última oración del punto 4 que aparece tal y como fue acordado por todas las delegaciones ayer. Lo único es que le han agregado, a nuestro juicio innecesariamente, la palabra "probablemente", que nuestra delegación plantea que se suprima, porque ninguna delegación, ni la Mesa, mencionó ayer añadirla al párrafo propuesto.

Así que planteamos concretamente suprimir la palabra "probablemente" de esa oración.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My amendment is precisely the same as Cuba in Spanish, the effect is precisely the same, to take out "likely" and "probablemente" in Spanish. "Foreseen" that is already an indication on estimation so "likely" is unnecessary. It is precisely the same amendment as that of Cuba.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 7 on page 4, there is some small mistake, the fifth line "within the area of jurisdiction of any state without the state's express request as has so far been the practice of FAO. ", not "as has as".



A. DEUSTUA (Peru): Mi intervención era respecto al párrafo 4. El pulsante parece que no funciona y por eso no fui visto por la Mesa.

Tenemos que hacer alguna observación a la última oración del párrafo 4. Mi delegación no tiene ningún inconveniente en la sugerencia formulada por la delegación de Cuba, pero el interés nuestro es que parece ser que con la discusión habida al respecto de esta última frase en la Comisión, pasó sin tomarse debida nota una precisión que mi delegación formuló en la Comisión. Voy a leer el texto tal como está en mi versión española. Dice: "Recordó que la asistencia sólo puede concederse previa solicitud, en la forma indicada por los países interesados, y teniendo en cuenta los derechos soberanos de los estados ribereños., etc. ". Lo que creo que se acordó en la Comisión es que era "en la forma indicada por los países ribereños interesados". Hay que agregar la palabra "ribereños" y seguiría ". . . y teniendo en cuenta los derechos soberanos de los estados ribereños. . . ". Eso es todo.

CHAIRMAN: There is no objection to the proposal made by the delegate of Peru.

J. R. PEREZ FERNANDEZ (Cuba): En el penúltimo párrafo del punto 7 que dice: "varias delegaciones recomendaron a la FAO que estimulara a los países en desarrollo a participar, etc., etc. "; en el texto español se escribió la palabra "estimulara" y la palabra acordada ayer fue "propiciar", que tiene un significado diferente a estimular, ya que la palabra propiciar incluye el estímulo y otra serie de acciones; por lo tanto entendemos importante que se escriba "propiciar", tal y como se acordó ayer por todos los países que discutimos el texto.

CHAIRMAN: It is only in the Spanish, the English text stays as it is.

Paragraphs 1 to 7, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7, ainsi amendés/sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 8 (from Commission I) as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la pléniere - Partie 8 (de la Commission I) ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte 8 (de la Comisión I) así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 9 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - NEUVIEME PARTIE (de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 9 (de la Comisión III)

PARAGRAPHS 1-4

PARAGRAPHES 1-4

PÁRRAFOS 1 - 4

SECRETARY-GENERAL: This affects only the English text. A sentence was dropped out at the end of paragraph 2 and a corrigendum is being issued and is in circulation, REP. 9-Cor. 1. I will read out this sentence which was dropped out in the typing, so at the end of paragraph 2 of REP. 9, "In particular the delegations of Cuba and Algeria expressed the view that Article 9 should provide for the resolution of disputes through diplomatic channels between the parties concerned, and that Article XI reflected aspects of a colonial situation which might be contrary to Resolution 1514(XV) of the United Nations General Assembly".

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Para una corrección muy breve. En la segunda oración se dice "algunas delegaciones expresaron su preferencia por el mantenimiento del modelo de certificado fito-sanitario en su forma actual". Durante el curso de este debate muchas delegaciones expresaron su preferencia para que el modelo del certificado se mantuviera; por lo tanto nosotros solicitamos que al inicio de esa oración en vez de decir "Algunas delegaciones", se diga "Muchas delegaciones", en inglés "many delegations".

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): Solamente para recalcar que lo que expreso nuestra delegación y que no se ha recogido textualmente, al final del párrafo que se ha añadido al inglés, dice "pudieran ser contrarios a la resolución 1514" y lo que expresó nuestra delegación, y fue apoyado, es que "son contrarios".

A. LOCHEN (Norway): My delegation cannot agree with the amendment proposed by Nicaragua that "some" should be changed to "many". I think it was only very few who expressed their preference for maintaining the Model Phytosanitary Certificate. I think the report should reflect what actually took place in the Commission, so I urge that we maintain "some".

J. S. CÁMARA (Guinée): Je voudrais dire que je ne suis pas d'accord avec ce qu'a dit l'orateur précédent, le délégué de la Norvège. Le délégué du Nicaragua a parfaitement raison. Lorsqu'il s'est agi de voter, un vote massif s'est prononcé en faveur des thèses défendues par la délégation du Nicaragua. Il faudrait donc dire "de nombreuses délégations" et non pas "certaines délégations".

CHAIRMAN: May I first go back to the proposal made by Cuba. Instead of "might be" it should be "are". If there is no objection we will change the words "might be" to "are".

A. LOCHEN (Norway): When Commission III voted, it was only on the question of whether adoption of the new text should be postponed or not and not on the question of whether the Model Phytosanitary Certificate should be maintained, only on the question of postponement. I am sure that the Secretariat can confirm this, and I would like to have this confirmed.

LEGAL COUNSEL: What Norway has just said is correct, and it is reflected in the first sentence of paragraph 4 of the report before you.

A. A. W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): I pressed my button when you raised the matter of approval of the Cuban amendment. I just have one small point, and that is the wording must remain in reported speech so that we continue to read the speech of the views of Cuba and Algeria, and to convey that in English, you cannot say "are", you must say "were".

CHAIRMAN: I would like to elaborate that in paragraph 2, according to the Secretariat, the words "some delegations" have been confirmed and not "many".

B. deAZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): There is a small point which was perhaps omitted by mistake. In paragraph 2 perhaps we should say something regarding the position of some delegations on the question of new obligations, yes or no. I would suggest that to take care of this point we add after the first sentence on the following lines. The exact text can be adjusted, the English can be amended. "Some delegations considered that the proposed amendments constituted new obligations to the fact of Article XIII of the Convention". That could come just after the first sentence of paragraph 2.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Legal Counsel has proposed a slightly different wording which may find the approval of Brazil. This would be a new sentence which would come as the second sentence of paragraph 2. "Some delegations considered that the proposed amendments involved new obligations within the meaning of Article XIII of the Convention".

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Mi delegación está de acuerdo con la enmienda presentada por Brasil, pero me parece que quizá podríamos agregar a esta enmienda, "y otras disposiciones relativas a los

artículos del convenio", porque no creo que sea necesario en este momento puntualizar cuáles eran esos otros artículos; varias delegaciones se refirieron a la necesidad de aclarar otras disposiciones vigentes en los otros artículos del convenio. Yo creo que es necesario incorporar también estos conceptos.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The question of new obligations arises only in connection with specific amendments that have been proposed to the Conference. Now, the question of other amendments that some countries may find desirable is covered, I believe, in the penultimate sentence, of paragraph 2, where it is stated that "A few delegations felt that other provisions, for which no amendments had been proposed, should also be re-examined. " I think therefore that to speak of new obligations as long as no amendments have been proposed might not be quite correct.

M. A. BENDJENNA (Algérie): Il s'agit du paragraphe 4. Ma délégation avait proposé à la Commission III un amendement à ce paragraphe et elle voudrait justement, pour mieux préciser de quel type de disposition auquel elle a voulu se référer, proposer d'ajouter à la septième ligne du paragraphe 4, après les mots: "de caractère purement juridique" ce qui suit: "allant à l'encontre de l'évolution du droit international.

LE CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE: Je crois qu'il faut tenir compte du fait que ce membre de phrase commence par: "le Directeur général transmettra à toutes les parties de la Convention et aux autres Etats Membres de la FAO un document, etc. . qui fera ressortir les principales vues formulées à cette session, y compris des dispositions de caractère purement juridique".

Le délégué de l'Algérie propose, si j'ai bien compris, d'insérer à ce point "allant à l'encontre de l'évolution du droit international". J'estime que ceci confie une tâche très difficile au Directeur général, parce que ceci inclurait une espèce de jugement de valeur sur ce qui est conforme et ce qui est contraire à l'évolution du droit international.

Nous avons envisagé, lorsque la Commission a recommandé de renvoyer à la prochaine session de la Conférence la considération définitive de projet d'amendement, de distribuer aux gouvernements non seulement des extraits du rapport que vous êtes maintenant en train d'adopter, mais également les procès-verbaux de la Commission et de la Plénière sur ce sujet. Ceci permettrait à tous les Etats intéressés d'arriver à leurs propres conclusions plutôt que de confier la tâche au Directeur général. de se prononcer sur la question de savoir si une disposition ou une proposition d'amendement de caractère juridique est conforme ou contraire à l'évolution du droit international.

M. A. BENDJENNA (Algérie): Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer mes remerciements à Monsieur le Conseiller juridique, mais je ne suis pas tout à fait d'accord avec lui étant donné qu'il est dit, dans le projet que le Directeur général devra transmettre aux Etats Membres, de faire ressortir les principales vues formulées sur cette question, notamment celles formulées par certains Etats Membres à cette session. Donc, ce n'est pas au Directeur général de donner un jugement de valeur, mais c'est à lui de dire simplement que des Etats Membres ont pris position sur telle ou telle disposition juridique et j'ai bien dit, dans mon intervention de tout à l'heure, qu'il s'agissait justement de préciser mon intervention à ce sujet-là.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any support for the proposal made by Algeria?

C. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Simplemente para decir que nos parece una buena propuesta y que la apoyamos.

E. DIAZ BUSTABAD (Cuba): Solamente para apoyar la propuesta de la delegación de Argelia.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to the proposal made by Algeria and supported by Argentina and Cuba? Then we will include it in the text. As I do not see any further comments on paragraphs 1 - 4 we take them as adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 4, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 5 and 6 approved

Les paragraphes 5 et 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 y 6 son aprobados

Paragraph 7, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 7, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 7, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 8 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 10 son aprobados

Paragraph 11 including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 11, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 11, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 12 and 13, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHES 12 et 13, Y COMPRIS RESOLUTION

PÁRRAFOS 12 y 13, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCIÓN

H. BAYENS (Belgique): C'est pour une clarification. Je voudrais savoir s'il sera procédé à un vote sur les résolutions qui sont incluses dans le rapport?

CHAIRMAN: We are not going to vote, because this has been extensively discussed in the Commission,

B. SAMANEZ CONCHA (Perú): Es para una cuestión formal que parece que sólo corresponde a la versión en español. En el párrafo 13 se dice "los efectos de esos costos suplementarios no presupuestados en el bienio 1978-79". Todavía no estamos en el bienio 1978-79; debería cambiarse la frase diciendo: "para el bienio 1978-79 y para los bienios subsiguientes".

Paragraph 12 approved

Le paragraphe 12 est approuvé

El párrafo 12 es aprobado

Paragraph 13, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 13, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 13, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 9, (from Commission III) as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière - Partie 9, (de la Commission III), ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte 9, (de la Comisión III así enmendado, es aprobado

W. JURASZ (Poland): As we are coming to the end of the adoption of the reports of Commission III I would like to make the following statement. On behalf of Poland and several delegations of the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe I would like to explain the vote. We voted in favour of the Resolution containing amendments to the General Rules of the Organization concerning the composition of the Programme and Finance Committees. The above-mentioned delegations voted in favour of the Resolution contained in the Report of the Plenary, C 77/REP/2 on the clear understanding that the

Socialist countries of Eastern Europe would be duly represented in the Programme and Finance Committees in accordance with the principle of the well-established practice in the United Nations of securing an equitable geographical distribution. I would ask for this statement to be fully recorded in the Report of the Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Poland. Delegations wishing to explain their vote are kindly requested to insert their statements in the verbatim record in order to save time, but your suggestion is accepted.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 10 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENTERE - DIXIEME PARTIE (de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PART 10 (de la Comisión II)

PARAGRAPHS 1-18, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS

PARAGRAPHES 1-18, Y COMPRIS LES RESOLUTIONS

PÁRRAFOS 1-18, INCLUIDAS LAS RESOLUCIONES

H. M. CARANDANG (Philippines): In connexion with document C 77/REP/10 I would like to make an observation in relation to the offer that the Philippines has made to host the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. As this august body heard yesterday, there are several reasons why the Philippines has offered to host the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. They have already been stated and, briefly, they are that the problems on agrarian reform and rural development are located in developing countries and in the Philippines we could see a microcosm of this. Therefore, by holding this Conference in a developing country such as ours we would be able to see the magnitude of the problems encountered and the participants in the Conference both of the developed and developing world would have an opportunity to see for themselves at first hand the magnitude of the problems encountered and the programmes that are being undertaken as a solution to them.

In this connexion I should like to mention the commitment of our Government to agrarian reform and rural development programmes. The main thrust - and the head of our delegation has stated this - is in the programmes that are ongoing. Nevertheless, after consulting with our colleagues here in this Conference and finding out their will, and after consulting with the technical assistants of the Director-General, I have discovered that there are many difficulties involved in holding this Conference in Manila.

Therefore, in deference to the will of the members of this Conference and also after realizing the technical reasons why it should be held in Rome, because we need the technical backstaffing of practically the whole staff of FAO, the Philippines withdraws its offer to host this Conference, in spite of the fact that we thought there were valid reasons for it. I wish to thank everybody for their cooperation in this matter.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Government of the Philippines and in that case the footnote on the bottom of page 6 referring to that matter, should be deleted.

LI CHEN-HUAN (Chine) (interpretation du chinois): La delegation chinoise a déjà exprimé, hier à la Commission II son point de vue sur le paragraphe 9 de la résolution concernant la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Elle voudrait réaffirmer sa position sur cette question à l'occasion de la séance plénière d'aujourd'hui. Elle espère que la Conférence tiendra compte de sa position.

CHAIRMAN: Certainly your proposal will be inserted in the record.

Sra. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Solamente para llamar la atención nuevamente en la versión española respecto a la Resolución de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural - Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Rural, que está en la página 6 del texto en español.

Pedimos en la Comisión II que se suprimieran los últimos cuatro renglones para que quedara acorde con las versiones francesa e inglesa, y se ha vuelto a repetir. Nos entregaron ahora este documento con los cuatro renglones nuevamente incluidos.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Mexico, it will be corrected according to your proposal.

M. A. BENDJENNA (Algérie): Ma délégation voudrait proposer un léger amendement au paragraphe 7 à la troisième ligne où il est dit "que la FAO est prête à apporter son aide aux Etats Membres". Après "son aide" ma délégation propose d'ajouter "technique et matérielle", étant donné qu'il est prévu d'une part la préparation des rapports nationaux et d'autre part des officiers de liaison qui devront être en contact entre l'Organisation et les Etats Membres, C'est pour cela que je voudrais insérer les mots "technique et matérielle".

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je remercie le délégué de l'Algérie de l'intérêt qu'il porte à l'aide de la FAO, qu'il veut à la fois technique et matérielle. Je ne vois aucun inconvénient à accepter cet amendement, étant bien entendu que je resterai limité par les fonds disponibles. De toute évidence, je ne pourrais pas accorder une telle aide technique et matérielle à tous les pays qui me la demanderaient, et c'est donc seulement dans la mesure du possible et dans le cadre de l'enveloppe budgétaire qui me sera accordée que j'essayerai de faire face aux demandes qui me seront présentées.

M. A. BENDJENNA (Algérie): Je tiens d'abord à remercier M. le Directeur général pour ce qu'il vient de me dire, mais les préoccupations de ma délégation concernent surtout certains pays qui ne sont pas à même justement de supporter certains frais. C'est là, M. le Président, la raison pour laquelle j'étais intervenue.

H. M. CARANDANG (Philippines): There seems to be some error in the printing of the Report as it was adopted yesterday. If you would allow me to make this observation now I would be willing to do so, otherwise I will abide by your ruling and will hope to be allowed to do it later on.

Yesterday when we were discussing Resolution 77 it was agreed that this would be made to conform with the wording that is in paragraph 14 - in other words, that in the last paragraph of the Resolution on page 6 the words: "representatives of local government agencies" should be included.

I would therefore request that this should be done as it was adopted yesterday, as this might be a misprint.

CHAIRMAN: Will you please repeat on which line that should be brought in.

H. M. CARANDANG (Philippines): As you will notice in paragraph 14, the words are: "It recognized the importance of the participation of the IGOs and NGOs in the World Conference and the desirability of including representatives from the farmers' and agricultural workers' organizations and representatives of local government agencies in national delegations. " In the last paragraph of the Resolution these same words: "representatives of local government agencies" should be inserted after the words: "rural workers". It is paragraph 6, the last line of the Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this proposal made by the delegate of the Philippines?

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I am grateful to the delegate of the Philippines for drawing our attention to this. There is obviously an amendment which was passed in Committee, and I was looking around to see whether the Chairman of Commission II was present. In fact, I suggested a re-wording of paragraph 14 which does not appear to have been carried through in the text, and which is consistent with the wording of the final paragraph of the Resolution.

What was agreed in Committee was a recommendation that governments should consider the inclusion in their national delegations of representative bodies. I was responsible for suggesting "representative bodies" because we would then not exclude anyone and it would be open to governments

We then went on to say; "for example, farmers, rural workers and representative organizations" and paragraph 14 of the Report had been amended in that sense. That is why there is an inconsistency, but perhaps it is simply because the Secretariat missed that particular amendment of paragraph 14. That was my clear understanding, however.

CHAIRMAN: Would you please read me the sentence according to the proposal made during the Commission meeting.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I do so on the basis of memory, but it is the second sentence of paragraph 14 which deals with the importance of IGOs and NGOs in the World Conference, and then it reads: "the desirability of including representative bodies, for example, farmers, rural workers, and representative organizations, " It is exactly the same wording as in the final paragraph of the Resolution.

H. M. CARAHDANG (Philippines): I am sorry to interrupt the discussion, but if I have the correct recollection of what happened yesterday it was an interchange between Jordan and the Philippines, and I do not recollect that the words "agricultural workers" organizations and representatives of local government agencies" were included. These should also be included now.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I apologize for slightly misleading you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the re-wording of the next to last sentence of paragraph 14 was as I had given you, but that the final line "and representatives of local government agencies in national delegations" should remain. I apologize for the misunderstanding.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any comment from the Philippines?

H. M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I have no objection, provided the same wording is included in the Resolution.

B. E. MATAMOROS HUECK (Nicaragua): Creo que se trata de una cuestión de traducción solamente. En el texto español, el último párrafo de la resolución dice: "de órganos representativos". Si no me equivoco la interpretación sobre la propuesta que se hizo era: "Organizaciones representativas".

Solicito únicamente que se corrija en el texto español y se diga tal como figura en el texto inglés, "Organizaciones representativas" y no "órganos representativos".

Paragraphs 1 to 16, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 16, ainsi amendés sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 17, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le paragraphe 17, y compris la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 17, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

Paragraph 18, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le paragraphe 18, y compris la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 18, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 10 (from Commission II), as amended, was adopted

L'è-projet de rapport de la plénière, dixième partie (de la Commission II), ainsi amendé, est adopté  
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 10 de la Comisión II así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 12, 45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 45 horas





## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 77/PV/23

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

TWENTY-THIRD MEETING  
VINGT-TROISIEME SÉANCE PLENIERE  
23ª SESIN PLENARIA

(30 November 1977)

The Twenty-Third Meeting was opened at 15. 40 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingt-troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 40 sous la  
présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 23ª sesión plenaria a las 15. 40 horas, bajo la presidencia  
de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART II (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - ONZIEME PARTIE (de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE II (de la Comision II)

CHAIRMAN: We now proceed to adopt the Report which has been distributed this afternoon, C 77/REP/11. Before going through this document, may I please again ask for your attention. Any drafting amendments or correction of linguistic nature should be handed directly to the Secretary-General, and we will examine them, on the understanding that only amendments of pure form can be retained. May I now invite you to consider the item Review of Field Programmes and invite your comments.

Paragraphs 1 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 19 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 20 TO 28, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHES 20 A 28, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

LOS PÁRRAFOS 20 A 28, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCIÓN

CHAIRMAN: We shall now proceed to the item Medium-Term Objectives

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): As we are making such good progress could I make a point on the Resolution on Nutrition? It occurs to me, reading the two operative paragraphs, that the first one expressed concern about the nutritional status of the rural and urban poor. Clearly, we all support that. But paragraph 2<sup>a</sup> asks the Director-General to review the impact on the nutritional status of population groups. I have a feeling that "population groups" is a term used by statisticians. It is something I do not really understand. I wonder if it might be worth making the two paragraphs consistent by referring in both cases to the rural and urban poor. If that thought were followed it would simply mean changing the words "population groups" to the words "the rural and urban poor" in paragraph 2<sup>a</sup>.

CHAIRMAN: I see no objection. The proposal made by the United Kingdom is accepted. If there are no other comments I take it that paragraphs 26 - 28 are adopted.

Paragraphs 20 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 20 a 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 20 a 27 son aprobados

Paragraph 28, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le paragraphe 28, y compris la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 28, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

Paragraphs 29 to 41 approved

Les paragraphes 29 a 41 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 a 41 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 42 TO 52, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHES 42 A 52, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

LOS PÁRRAFOS 42 A 52, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCIÓN

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I am sure the Secretariat will have noticed that there is a mis-spelling on the fourth line of paragraph 46.

CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat will take care of that spelling mistake.

P. CELAN (Roumanie): Je me réfère à la résolution qui nous est présentée sous le paragraphe 52, page 18 du texte français.

Je voudrais tout d'abord signaler une petite erreur dans la note en bas de la page. Il ne s'agit pas de l'appui, mais de la présentation par les pays mentionnés. Il paraît donc nécessaire de remplacer le mot "soutenue" par le mot "présentée par l'Argentine, l'Inde, le Pérou, la Roumanie et la Yougoslavie".

En second lieu, nous avons formulé, dans les débats de la deuxième Commission, le souhait que l'on mentionne dans le rapport de la Conférence le fait que la Roumanie est prête à appuyer l'une des deux réunions dont il s'agit dans la résolution.

Nous proposons donc d'inclure une deuxième note en bas de page, pour que le premier alinéa du paragraphe 52 reflète cet esprit.

Avec votre permission, je voudrais formuler un texte à ce propos dont le contenu est le suivant: "La Conférence a pris note du fait que la Roumanie est prête à appuyer l'une des réunions dont il est fait mention dans cette résolution".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the proposal made by Romania? As there are no comments, the proposal made by Romania is adopted.

J. L. TOFFIN (Prance): Ma remarque porte sur le paragraphe 48 du texte français.

A la deuxième ligne, on indique: "il importe de tirer parti. . . des "votages" du personnel du siège. . ."

Je voudrais savoir ce que sont l'es "votages" du personnel, car ce n'est pas un mot français. Les votes ne me paraissent pas non plus le terme qu'on a voulu employer.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: C'est une erreur de frappe, il s'agit: t de "voyages".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other comments on these last paragraphs? If there are no other comments, then ' I declare the item Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries in the Field of Agriculture and Food adopted.

Paragraphs 42 to 51 approved

Les paragraphes 42 ft, 51 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 42 a 51 son aprobados

Paragraph 52, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le paragraphe 52, y compris la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 52. incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 53 TO 63. including RESOLUTION

uts abadftapfiës 53 A 63, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 53 A 63, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL 1 II s'agit d'une correction qui est faite, à la demande du pays intéressé, au paragraphe 58 du document que nous venons dl adopters

J'ai ici le texte"en anglais.

"In this connexion, the delegates of Hungary, Norway, Denmark and Kuwait declare the intention of their governments", etc. The words "and Kuwait" should be deleted at the request of the country concerned.

Paragraphs 53 to 62, as amended, approved-

Les paragraphes 53 & 62, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 53 a 62, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 63 including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 63 y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 63, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 64 to 67 approved

Les paragraphes 64 à 67 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 64 a 67 son aprobados

Paragraph 68 approved

Le paragraphe 68 est approuvé

El párrafo 68 es aprobado

Paragraph 69 approved

Le paragraphe 69 est approuvé

El párrafo 69 es aprobado

Paragraphs 70 to 74 approved

Les paragraphes 70 à 74 sont approuvés

Los Párrafos 70 a 74 son aprobados

Paragraphs 75 and 76 approved

Les paragraphes 75 et 76 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 75 y 76 son aprobados

Paragraph 77, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 77, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 77, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 78 to 82 approved

Les paragraphes 78 à 82 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 78 y 82 son aprobados

Paragraph 83, including Resolution, adopted.

Le paragraphe 83, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 83, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 84 and 85 approved

Les paragraphes 84 et 85 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 84 y 85 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 86

PARAGRAPHE 86

PÁRRAFO 86

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): Paragraph 86 of the draft report of Plenary, Part II is related to the establishment of an International Food Corps, As regards this matter we need further study. Therefore, the Chinese delegation reserves its position on paragraph 86.

CHAIRMAN: Your comment will be inserted in the record. If there are no other comments, then the item on relations and consultations with international organizations is adopted.

Paragraph 86 approved

Le paragraphe 86 est approuvé

El párrafo 86 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part II, as amended, was adopted

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

#### PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

#### QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

#### PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

25. Election of Council Members (continued)

25. Election des Membres du Conseil (suite)

25. Elección de miembros del Consejo (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Further to the results of this morning's meeting, we have to vote again for the Latin America and European Regions for the period 1977 - 31st December 1980 in order to elect the remaining members in each of these two regions.

Ballot papers will be distributed, one for Latin America with two candidates, Cuba and El Salvador, with one seat to be filled; and one for Europe with two candidates, Malta and Portugal, with one vacancy to be filled. In order to save time we would like to suggest they proceed simultaneously with the election of the members of the Council for the period January, 1979 to November 1981 for the following regions: Asia and Far East, where we have four candidates for the three seats; the Near East, where we also have four candidates for the three seats to be filled; and Southwest Pacific, where there is one candidate for one seat.

If you agree, distinguished delegates, we can proceed as suggested, and we will then distribute five ballot papers. I see no objection, so we can proceed with the voting with five ballot papers.

N. A. ODARTEY-WELLINGTON (Chana): I want to find out whether the African Region has been left out intentionally or whether it is just an omission. This is in the voting for the period 1977 until 31st December, 1981.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: After these elections we will have to proceed with a further election for the regions of Europe, Latin America, and Africa for the period going from January, 1979 until November, 1981, so we will have a further vote.

CHAIRMAN: Now we can proceed to the voting.

Vote

Vote

Votación

The meeting was suspended from 16. 50 to 17. 30 hours.

La seance est suspendue de 16 h 50 à 17 h 30

Se suspende la sesión de las 16. 50 horas a las 17. 30 horas

CHAIRMAN: May I now invite the Secretariat to bring forward the results of the voting.

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS  
RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL  
RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO

Date 30.11.1977  
Fecha

REGION EUROPE  
EUROPA

PERIOD Nov. 1977 - 31 Dec. 1980  
PERIODE  
PERIODO Nov. 1977 - 31 diciembre 1980

REPORT OF  
RESULTAT DU II  
RESULTADO DE LA  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

- |  |     |  |     |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| 1 Number of ballot-papers issued<br>Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués<br>Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas | 125 | 4 Valid ballot-papers<br>Bulletins de vote valables<br>Papeletas de votación válidas | 125 |
| 2 Defective ballots<br>Bulletins nuls<br>Papeletas defectuosas   | 0   | 5 Seats to be filled<br>Sièges à pourvoir<br>Asientos a cubrir                       | 1   |
| 3 Abstentions<br>Abstentions<br>Abstenciones   | 0   | 6 Votes cast<br>Suffrages exprimés<br>Votos emitidos                                 | 125 |

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

= More-than-half majority in accordance with Rule XII-3(a)

63

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	MALTA	67
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría	PORTUGAL	58
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432X - C 1969 - c

Signature G.K. Graham  
Teller (Papua  
New Guinea)

Signature Mayra Ivanovich  
Teller Arosemena  
(Panamá)  
Elections Officer B. Linley

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS  
RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL  
RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO

Date 30.11.1977  
Fecha

REGION LATIN AMERICA  
AMERIQUE LATINE  
AMERICA LATINA

PERIOD  
PERIODE Nov. 1977 - 31 Dec. 1980  
PERIODO Nov. 1977 - 31 diciembre 1980

REPORT OF  
RESULTAT DU II  
RESULTADO DE LA  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

- |  |     |  |     |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| 1 Number of ballot-papers issued<br>Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués<br>Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas | 125 | 4 Valid ballot-papers<br>Bulletins de vote valables<br>Papeletas de votación válidas | 122 |
| 2 Defective ballots<br>Bulletins nuls<br>Papeletas defectuosas   | 0   | 5 Seats to be filled<br>Sièges à pourvoir<br>Asientos a cubrir                       | 1   |
| 3 Abstentions<br>Abstentions<br>Abstenciones   | 3   | 6 Votes cast<br>Suffrages exprimés<br>Votos emitidos                                 | 122 |

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

= More-than-half majority in accordance with Rule XII-3(a)

62

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	CUBA	76
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría	EL SALVADOR	46
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432X - C 1969 - c

Signature  
Teller  
W.B. Munu  
(Sierra Leone)

Teller  
D. Mork Ulnes  
(Norway)

Elections Officer  
B. Linley

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.1977  
Fecha

REGION ASIA AND FAR EAST PERIOD 1 Jan. 1979 - Nov. 1981  
ASIE ET EXTREME-ORIENT PERIODE 1 enero 1979 - Nov. 1981  
ASIA Y LEJANO ORIENTE PERIODO  
REPORT OF BALLOT  
RESULTAT DU I TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued 125 4 Valid ballot-papers 119  
Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Bulletins de vote valables  
Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas Papeletas de votación válidas  
2 Defective ballots 4 5 Seats to be filled 3  
Bulletins nuls Sièges à pourvoir  
Papeletas defectuosas Asientos a cubrir  
3 Abstentions 2 6 Votes cast 357  
Abstentions Suffrages exprimés  
Abstenciones Votos emitidos

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1 = \frac{357}{3 + 1} + 1 = 90$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	INDIA PAKISTAN	111 111
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría	SRI LANKA KOREA, RFP OF	76 59
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432K - C 1969 - c

Signature Teller W.B. Munu (Sierra Leone)  
Teller D. Mork Ulness (Norway)  
Elections Officer B. Linlay



Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.1977  
Fecha

REGION NEAR EAST  
PROCHE-ORIENT  
CERCANO ORIENTE

PERIOD 1 Jan. 1979 - Nov. 1981  
PERIODE 1 enero 1979 - noviembre 1981  
PERIODO

REPORT OF  
RESULTAT DU ..... I .....  
RESULTADO DE LA .....  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN .....  
VOTACION

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Number of ballot-papers issued<br>Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués ..... 125<br>Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas | 4 Valid ballot-papers<br>Bulletins de vote valables ..... 120<br>Papeletas de votación válidas |
| 2 Defective ballots<br>Bulletins nuls ..... 2<br>Papeletas defectuosas   | 5 Seats to be filled<br>Sièges à pourvoir ..... 3<br>Asientos a cubrir                         |
| 3 Abstentions<br>Abstentions ..... 3<br>Abstenciones   | 6 Votes cast<br>Suffrages exprimés ..... 360<br>Votos emitidos                                 |

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1 = 91$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	SAUDI ARABIA KUWAIT EGYPT	111 103 98
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	48
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432X - C 1969 - c

Signature G.K. Graham  
Teller  
(Papua New Guinea)

Mayra Ivankovich  
Teller de Arosemena  
(Panamá)

Elections Officer B. Linley

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.1977  
Fecha

REGION SOUTHWEST PACIFIC PERIOD 1 Jan. 1979 - Nov. 1981  
PACIFIQUE DU SUD-OUEST PERIODE 1 enero 1979 - noviembre 1981  
PACIFICO SUDOCIDENTAL PERIODO 1 enero 1979 - noviembre 1981

REPORT OF ..... BALLOT  
RESULTAT DU ..... TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
RESULTADO DE LA ..... VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués ..... 125 Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables ..... 121 Papeletas de votación válidas
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls ..... 1 Papeletas defectuosas	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir ..... 1 Asientos a cubrir
3 Abstentions Abstentions ..... 3 Abstenciones	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés ..... 121 Votos emitidos

Majority =  $\frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$

Majorité =  $\frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$

Mayoría =  $\frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$

= More-than-half majority in accordance with Rule XII-3 (a)

61

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	AUSTRALIA	121
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432K - C 1969 - 4

Signature .....  
Teller W.B. Munu (Sierra Leone) Teller D. Mork Ulnes (Norway) Elections Officer B. Linley

CHAIRMAN: Now we can proceed to the next voting. May I ask Mr. Tedesco, the Assistant Secretary-General, to give some explanation.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: Further to the results that have been read out we shall proceed first with a second ballot for Asia and the Far East for the period January 1979 - November 1981 to fill the remaining seats. The two candidates for these seats are the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka.

In addition, we shall also proceed with the following elections: Africa for the period January 1979 -November 1981, four seats, for which we have four candidates; Europe, January 1979 - November 1981, four seats, for which we also have four candidates and Latin America, the same period, January 1979 -November 1981, one seat and one candidate.

CHAIRMAN: May I again call the four tellers to proceed to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.77  
Fecha

REGION ASIA AND FAR EAST  
ASIE ET EXTREME-ORIENT  
ASIA Y LEJANO ORIENTE

PERIOD 1 Jan. 1979 - Nov. 1981  
PERIODE  
PERIODO 1 enero 1979 - noviembre 1981

REPORT OF II  
RESULTAT DU II  
RESULTADO DE LA II  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	125	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables Papeletas de votación válidas	123
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Asientos a cubrir	1
3 Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	123

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

= 62

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	SRI LANKA	67
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría	KOREA, REP. OF	56
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1007 654304 - C1969 - c

Signature Teller S.P.Saville Teller Mayra Ivankovich Elections Officer B. Linley  
(Papua New Guinea) de Arosemena (Panamá)

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS  
RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL  
RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO

Date 30.11.77  
Fecha

REGION AFRICA  
AFRIQUE

PERIOD 1 Jan. 79 - Nov. 1981  
PERIODE 1 enero 1979 - noviembre 1981  
PERIODO

REPORT OF I  
RESULTAT DU  
RESULTADO DE LA  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	125	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables Papeletas de votación válidas	117
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Asientos a cubrir	4
3 Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	468

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

$$= \frac{468}{4+1} + 1 = 94$$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	BOTSWANA GHANA MADAGASCAR SENEGAL	117 117 117 117
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432K - C 1969 - c

Signature Teller A.R. Siaffa (Sierra Leone) Teller D. Mork Ulnes (Norway) Elections Officer B. Linley

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



**RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL**  
**RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO**

Date 30.11.1977  
Fecha

REGION EUROPE  
EUROPA

PERIOD 1 Jan. 1979 - Nov. 1981  
PERIODE 1 enero 1979 - noviembre 1981  
PERIODO

REPORT OF RESULTAT DU I  
RESULTADO DE LA  
BALLOT TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

- |  |     |  |     |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| 1 Number of ballot-papers issued<br>Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués<br>Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas | 125 | 4 Valid ballot-papers<br>Bulletins de vote valables<br>Papeletas de votación válidas | 119 |
| 2 Defective ballots<br>Bulletins nuls<br>Papeletas defectuosas   | 4   | 5 Seats to be filled<br>Sièges à pourvoir<br>Asientos a cubrir                       | 4   |
| 3 Abstentions<br>Abstentions<br>Abstenciones   | 2   | 6 Votes cast<br>Suffrages exprimés<br>Votos emitidos                                 | 476 |

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

$$= \frac{476}{4 + 1} = 96$$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected	FRANCE	119
Elus	ITALY	119
Elegidos	SWEDEN	119
	UNITED KINGDOM	119
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

Cf 11 1071 6543X - C 1969 - c

Signature Teller D.Mork Ulnes  
(Norway)

Teller A.R. Siaffa  
(Sierra Leone)

Elections Officer B. Linley

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS  
RESULTATS - ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL  
RESULTADOS - ELECCION DE MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO

Date 30.11.1977  
Fecha

LATIN AMERICA  
REGION AMERIQUE LATINE  
AMERICA LATINA

PERIOD  
PERIODE 1 Jan. 1979 - Nov. 1981  
PERIODO 1 enero 1979 - noviembre 1981

REPORT OF  
RESULTAT DU I  
RESULTADO DE LA  
BALLOT  
TOUR DE SCRUTIN  
VOTACION

1 Number of ballot-papers issued Nombre de bulletins de vote distribués Número de papeletas de votación distribuidas	125	4 Valid ballot-papers Bulletins de vote valables Papeletas de votación válidas	118
2 Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5 Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Asientos a cubrir	1
3 Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	7	6 Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	118

$$\text{Majority} = \frac{\text{votes cast}}{\text{seats} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Majorité} = \frac{\text{suffrages exprimés}}{\text{sièges} + 1} + 1$$

$$\text{Mayoría} = \frac{\text{votos emitidos}}{\text{asientos} + 1} + 1$$

More-than-half majority in accordance with  
Rule XII-3(a)

$$= 60$$

	Nation - Nación	Votes - Votos
Elected Elus Elegidos	EL SALVADOR	118
Majority not obtained N'ont pas obtenu la majorité No han obtenido la mayoría		
Eliminated Éliminé Eliminado		

CI 11 1071 65432X - C 1969 - c

Signature  
Teller  
S.P. Saville  
(Papua New Guinea)

Teller  
Mayra Ivankovich de  
Arosemena (Panama)

Elections Officer  
B. Linley

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPONSE

DERECHO DE REPLICA

CHAIRMAN: I shall now give the floor to the delegate of France as a right of reply.

J. L. TOFFIN (France): Je vous remercie de bien vouloir me donner la parole pour une très courte déclaration.

Au cours de la réunion d'hier en séance plénière, l'observateur du front patriotique du Zimbabwe a fait une déclaration relative à la situation au Mozambique. Dans cette déclaration, il a affirmé que la France et la Grande-Bretagne ont armé jusqu'aux dents le régime de Ian Smith. Je suis en mesure de déclarer, aux fins d'inscription au procès-verbal, que la France, appliquant les sanctions édictées par le Conseil de Sécurité, n'a jamais fourni aucun armement au régime de M. Ian Smith et n'entend ne lui en fournir aucun à l'avenir.

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 18. 15 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 15 horas





## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 77/PV/24

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Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

Nineteenth Session

### TWENTY-FOURTH PLENARY MEETING VINGT-QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 24ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

(1 December 1977)

The Twenty-Fourth Meeting was opened at 09. 55 hours

T. Hadiwijaya, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingt quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 55 sous

la présidence de T. Hadiwijaya, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 24ª sesión plenaria a las 9. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia

de T. Hadiwijaya, Presidente de la Conferencia

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 12 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DOUZIEME PARTIE (de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 12 (de a Comisión II)

CHAIRMAN: May I again stress that all the reports have been adopted in the Commissions. Their substance and form have been extensively discussed there and we are not expected to reopen the discussion on them here. Any drafting amendments of a correctional or linguistic nature should be handed direct to the Secretary-General, on the understanding that only amendments of pure form can be retained.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 to 14 approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 14 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 14 son aprobados

Paragraphs 15 and 16 approved

Les paragraphes 15 et 16 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 y 16 son aprobados

Paragraphs 17 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 19 son aprobados

Paragraphs 21 to 24 approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 24 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 24 son aprobados

Paragraph 25, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 25, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 25, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 26 to 67 approved

Bes paragraphes 26 à 67 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 67 son aprobados

Paragraphs 68 to 82 approved

Les paragraphes 68 à 82 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 68 a 82 son aprobados

Paragraphs 83 to 87 approved

Les paragraphes 83 à 87 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 83 a 87 son aprobados

Paragraph 88, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 88, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 88, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 89 to 95

PARAGRAPHES 89 à 95

PÁRRAFOS 89 a 95

SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il s'agit d'une erreur dans le texte français seulement. Au paragraphe 90, la première phrase devrait être: "La Conférence constate cependant un déséquilibre regrettable dans les langues utilisées. " Le reste du paragraphe reste tel quel.

Paragraphs 89 to 95, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 89 à 95, ainsi amendes, sont approuvées

Los párrafos 89 a 95, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 96 to 100

PARAGRAPHERS 96 à 100

PÁRRAFOS 96 a 100

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Dans la version française, au paragraphe 98 c), le mot "pour" a été barré et cela devrait se lire: "par sujet"; ceci seulement dans la version française.

Paragraphs 96 to 100 approved

Les paragraphes 96 à 100 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 96 a 100 son aprobados

Paragraph! 101 approved

Le paragraphe 101 est approuvé

El párrafo 101 es aprobado

Paragraph 102, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 102, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 102, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 103 TO 108, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHERS 103 A 108, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

LOS PÁRRAFOS 103 A 108, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCIÓN

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La résolution qui figure au paragraphe 108 sur l'ouverture de crédits pour 1978-79 doit être adoptée à une majorité des deux tiers, donc par appel nominal. Le chiffre, au paragraphe 4, qui est en blanc, doit être le chiffre qui figure à la dernière page du document C 77/REP/12-Sup. 1, à savoir 209 140 000 dollars.

Vote

Vote

VOTACIÓN



Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETINS  
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

No.

Vote on Budget Appropriations and Level 1978-79  
Vote sur Ouvertures de crédits et niveau pour 1978-79  
Votación para Consignaciones presupuestarias y nivel del presupuesto para 1978-79

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
					Total brought forward Report Suma anterior					Total brought forward Report Suma anterior				
Afghanistan				-	Ghana	X				Niger	X			
Albania				-	Greece	X				Nigeria	X			
Algeria	X				Grenada				-	Norway	X			
Angola				-	Guatemala				-	Oman	X			
Argentina	X				Guinea	X				Pakistan	X			
Australia	X				Guinea-Bissau				-	Panama	X			
Austria	X				Guyana				-	Papua New Guinea	X			
Bahamas				-	Haiti	X								
Bahrain				-	Honduras	X				Peru	X			
Bangladesh	X				Hungary	X				Philippines	X			
Barbados				-	Iceland				-	Poland	X			
Belgium	X				India	X				Portugal	X			
Benin	X				Indonesia	X				Qatar				-
Bolivia	X				Iran	X				Romania	X			
Botswana				-	Iraq	X				Rwanda	X			
Brazil	X				Ireland	X				Sao Tome and Principe				-
Bulgaria	X				Israel	X				Saudi Arabia	X			
Burma	X				Italy	X				Senegal	X			
Burundi	X				Ivory Coast	X				Seychelles				-
Cameroon	X				Jamaica	X				Sierra Leone	X			
Canada			X		Japan			X		Somalia	X			
Cape Verde				-	Jordan	X				Spain	X			
					Kenya	X				Sri Lanka	X			
Chad	X				Korea (Republic of)	X				Sudan	X			
Chile	X				Kuwait	X				Surinam				-
China	X				Leo	X				Swaziland	X			
Colombia				-	Lebanon	X				Sweden	X			
Comoros				-	Lesotho	X				Switzerland			X	
Congo				-	Liberia	X				Syria	X			
Costa Rica	X				Libya	X				Tanzania	X			
Cuba	X				Luxembourg	X				Thailand	X			
Cyprus	X				Madagascar	X				Togo	X			
Czechoslovakia	X				Malawi	X				Trinidad and Tobago				-
					Malaysia	X				Tunisia	X			
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	X				Maldives				-	Turkey				-
Denmark	X				Mal	X				Uganda	X			
Djibouti				-	Malta	X				United Arab Emirates	X			
					Mauritania	X				United Kingdom	X			
Ecuador				-	Mauritius	X				U.S. of America			X	
Egypt	X				Mexico			X		Upper Volta	X			
El Salvador	X				Mongolia	X				Uruguay	X			
Ethiopia	X				Morocco	X				Venezuela	X			
Fiji				-	Mozambique				-	Viet Nam	X			
Finland	X				Namibia				-	Yemen Arab Republic	X			
France			X		Nepal	X				Yemen (People's Dem. Rep. of)				-
Gabon	X				Netherlands	X				Yugoslavia	X			
Gambia	X				New Zealand			X		Zaire	X			
Germany (Fed. Rep. of)			X		Nicaragua	X				Zambia	X			
	28		3			37		3			38		2	

Session of the Conference  
Session de la Conférence (1977)  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

SHOW OF HANDS VOTING  
☐ VOTE A MAIN LEVEE  
VOTACION A MANO ALZADA

ROLL CALL VOTING  
☒ APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on Budget Appropriations and Level 1978-79  
Vote sur Ouvertures de crédits et niveau pour 1978-79  
I. Votación para CONSIGNACIONES PRESUPUESTARIAS Y NIVEL DEL PRESUPUESTO PARA 1978-79.

1 Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	103	4 Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
2 Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	69	5 Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	8
3 Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	103	6 No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	29

Adopted  
☒ Adoptée  
Aceptada

Rejected  
☐ Repoussée  
Rechazada

1/12/1977

Date  
Fecha

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

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

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

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

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): J'ai été chargé d'exprimer les vues des pays suivants (je donne la liste par ordre alphabétique): l'Allemagne, l'Australie, la Belgique, le Canada, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, la France, l'Italie, le Japon, le Luxembourg, la Nouvelle-Zélande, les Pays-Bas, le Royaume-Uni et la Suisse.

Les délégations de ces pays viennent de participer au vote sur la résolution du budget. Certains l'ont approuvée, d'autres se sont abstenues. Quelle que soit la façon dont ces pays ont voté, nous pouvons assurer à la Conférence et au Directeur Général que nos gouvernements continueront d'apporter leur soutien aux efforts de développement des pays du Tiers monde. Nous apportons un soutien actif à l'OAA, au Programme alimentaire mondial, au FIDA, et aux nombreuses autres institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies.

C'est pour cette raison que nous devons apporter attention non seulement au niveau des budgets, mais aussi à l'utilisation la plus efficace possible de ressources limitées.

En outre, nos pays sont préoccupés de façon générale par l'accroissement des budgets des institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies, accroissement parfois substantiel en termes réels, alors qu'eux-mêmes connaissent de sérieux problèmes financiers et économiques.

C'est pourquoi ces pays ne seront susceptibles d'approuver des augmentations des budgets des institutions des Nations Unies que dans la mesure où elles seront compatibles avec les sévères restrictions budgétaires qu'ils sont eux-mêmes contraints de s'imposer.

Ils considèrent qu'ils doivent faire savoir qu'à l'avenir ils devront examiner attentivement et avec le plus grand soin les propositions budgétaires des institutions spécialisées, y compris celles de la FAO.

Nous espérons, M. le Président, que le fait d'indiquer que nous serons conduits à nous montrer, à l'avenir, attentifs à l'augmentation du budget, ne donnera lieu à aucun malentendu en ce qui concerne l'attitude de nos pays envers l'OAA. Nous demeurons totalement acquis à ses buts et continuerons à apporter tout notre soutien à la stratégie du Directeur général qui met particulièrement l'accent sur le travail concret sur le terrain.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, c'est avec beaucoup d'attention, mais aussi, je ne vous le cacherais pas, avec une certaine déception, que j'ai écouté la déclaration qui vient d'être faite par le distingué représentant de la Belgique au nom de plusieurs pays, qui jouent un rôle important dans notre Organisation.

Je pensais, en effet, les avoir convaincus de ce que mes propositions constituaient un minimum, compte tenu des besoins, si cruels et si urgents, des pays en développement, ainsi que des effets inéluctables de l'inflation.

Je pensais aussi qu'ils avaient reconnu que le programme que vous venez d'approuver est le plus efficace et le plus concret qu'il était possible de concevoir dans la modeste limite - et je tiens à insister sur ce mot de "modeste" - de l'enveloppe budgétaire que je vous ai proposée.

Pour des raisons qu'il ne m'appartient pas de discuter ici, et auxquelles des considérations de politique intérieure ne sont peut-être pas étrangères, quelques pays ont donc tenu à exprimer formellement des réserves sur le niveau du budget, non seulement pour l'exercice 1978/79, mais aussi pour les exercices futurs.

Tout en me félicitant du fait que la très grande majorité de nos pays membres ait approuvé mes propositions, je tiens à dire aux pays qui ont cru devoir exprimer des réserves que je respecte leur position.

Dans l'esprit démocratique qui a toujours présidé à nos assemblées, ils ont, sans nul doute, le droit d'avoir une opinion différente de celle de la majorité et je comprends donc leur désir d'exprimer leur point de vue en toute liberté et de souhaiter qu'il figure aux actes de notre Conférence.

Il va sans dire que je suis également certain que, dans le même esprit démocratique, ces pays sauront accepter de bonne grâce les décisions de la majorité et continueront, comme par le passé, à honorer pleinement leurs obligations constitutionnelles.

Quant aux pays en développement, qui sont les plus susceptibles de pâtir de tout frein imposé à notre action, je voudrais leur dire. Monsieur le Président, mon admiration pour la pondération et la sagesse dont ils ont fait preuve.

Tout au long de nos débats, ils n'ont jamais cherché à utiliser ce que certains décrivent, de façon bien sommaire, comme une "majorité automatique".

Tout au contraire, et en dépit de l'urgence de leurs besoins, ils n'ont cessé de présenter avec calme des arguments rationnels, dans le cadre d'un dialogue qui est toujours resté modéré et constructif. En reconnaissant ainsi à la majorité comme à la minorité les rôles et les droits qui leur reviennent, notre Conférence a donné, une fois de plus, un exemple à l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de vous en remercier très sincèrement.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Chairman, Group of 77): Now that the budget has been approved and we have just heard observations made in the name of some developed countries, let me say that in the view of the Group of 77, not only does the Programme of Work represent an effective use of very limited resources, but the level of the budget constitutes the very basic minimum for the next biennium. This level implies a modest growth rate of less than three and a half percent per year in real terms, not more than that, and even this rate might not perhaps be assured if inflation in the future is taken fully into account. I think I do not need to stress that such a rate of growth is only a dim reflection of the priority now accorded by the International Community to agricultural development.

In the light of what has just been said in the name of a few delegations of "developed countries, may I say that we feel that requirements of each UN Agency must be assessed separately and objectively at each point in time. I am quite sure that the case of FAO is absolutely unique as an Agency devoted to the most basic need of mankind, food, food for millions of people. FAO's requirements must therefore be considered on their own specific merits. Once such requirements are identified and approved by the Conference, we are constitutionally - and I stress the word constitutionally - obliged to support them; it is our duty. May I add that the renewed commitment of the North-South Conference to the target of providing 0.7 percent of the GNP as official development assistance would be incompatible with the idea that the budget of FAO or any other organization of the system be levelled off in the future.

We in the Group of 77 are surely grateful for the efforts made by the Director-General to put forward a meaningful programme, fully attuned with the development priorities and aspirations of our peoples in the developing countries, that in spite of the severe constraints of resources. We are confident that the implementation of this programme during the next biennium will have the full cooperation of all Member Nations, both developed and developing - we do not have any doubt about that - and will thus constitute an important step in the construction of the New International Economic Order. Now it is time for all of us to work together with renewed dedication to the humanitarian ideals of the Organization.

SRA. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Hemos pedido la palabra para hacer una justificación del voto de abstención que México emitió. A lo largo de toda la Conferencia México, la delegación mexicana, apoyó el aumento del nivel del presupuesto y en la misma forma actuamos en las Comisiones para las cuales tuvimos el honor de ser designados y todavía en éste momento, como delegación, estamos convencidos de que este nivel de presupuesto es el requerimiento mínimo que el señor Director General debe de tener en disponibilidad si queremos, como es obvio, que los resultados de los trabajos del próximo bienio conduzcan a nuestra Organización a los fines deseados.

No voy a ahondar más en este tema del cual en repetidas ocasiones he reiterado ya nuestro punto de vista, sin embargo, señor Presidente, hemos recibido instrucciones expresas de nuestro país en el sentido de que nos abstuviéramos de votar el nivel del presupuesto por el procedimiento constitucional que observamos en nuestro país, donde el presupuesto se aprueba en junio, y de esta manera los programas de inversión y gasto deben presentarse a la Cámara de Diputados en el mes de enero para su consideración y aprobación en el mes de diciembre y empezar a hacerse efectivo en enero siguiente. Así tenemos ya presentado en el presupuesto a la Secretaría de Hacienda el nuevo aumento que requiere cubrir las cuotas que ahora van a ser necesarias de acuerdo con el nuevo nivel del presupuesto de nuestra Organización.

Es exclusivamente este procedimiento de tipo constitucional el que nos condujo a abstenernos del voto. El voto personal de la delegación es de total apoyo a la política del señor Director General, el procedimiento constituyente es el que he expresado.

Paragraphe 103 to 107 approved

Les paragraphes 103 à 107 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 103 a 107 son aprobados

Paragraph 108, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 108, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 108, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 12, as amended was adopted

projet de rapport de la Plénière - Douzième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 12, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 13

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TREIZIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 13

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

Paragraph 3 approved

Le paragraphe 3 est approuvé

El párrafo 3 es aprobado

Paragraph 4 including Resolution, adopted (29 November 1977)

Le paragraphe 4, y compris la résolution"!" est adopté (29 novembre 1977)

El párrafo 4, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado (29 noviembre 1977)

Paragraph 5, including Resolution, adopted (29 November 1977)

Le paragraphe 5, y compris la résolution, est adopté (29 novembre 1977)

El párrafo 5, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado (29 noviembre 1977)

PARAGRAPH 6

PARAGRAPHE 6

PÁRRAFO 6

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The date suggested is 10 - 29 November, which is the date which appears in the Council document carrying the provisional calendar of 1978-79 sessions, CL 73/4, so the date is 10 -29 November 1979.

Paragraph 6 approved

Le paragraphe 6 est approuvé

El párrafo 6 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 13, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, treizième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 13, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, we are now coming to the close of this Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference. May I call upon our Director-General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, honourable delegates, observers, friends and colleagues.

We have come to the end of another FAO Conference which was attended by what seems to be a record number of Ministers. The number actually present for some or part of the time was 91.



I met most of them privately as well as other leaders of delegations. This was why I was not able to be present as much as I would have wished in Plenary or Commission.

This was my first Conference as Director-General in office, I am happy that it was such a successful Conference. For, successful it certainly was, - in the work that it did and in the spirit in which this was done.

The work is not measured only by resolutions. In fact, there were significantly fewer than last time.

The spirit is not measured by size of majorities in votes. In fact, apart from obligatory votes in Plenary on such matters as the Budget, there was only one vote in a Commission, on Plant Protection.

I said at the beginning of the Conference that FAO was leaner, stronger, and more able to meet your • needs as you yourselves perceived them.

By your statements, by your debates, by your conclusions, you have endorsed this judgement. It was also endorsed in the discussions with Ministers to which I just referred.

It was evident from these discussions that Member Nations now viewed FAO in a new light, as an organization which has entered a new phase of practical, prompt and direct response to their technical cooperation needs.

You have given us guidance, confidence and encouragement in our work in the great cause for which this Organization exists.

You have shown that it is not only desirable but possible for Member Nations to work together, in this Organization, harmoniously and constructively in the attack on hunger, malnutrition, and rural poverty.

We have not ignored the grim political facts of our time. We have not forgotten those who struggle for freedom and justice. We have not abandoned those who suffer from oppression and deprivation of their human rights and basic needs.

On the contrary, we have taken practical rather than rhetorical steps towards realizing their humble but imperative aspirations. And we have done so in a spirit of international and multilateral cooperation and harmony. We have done this in our Commissions, our Committees, and particularly in our device of contact groups.

Your report shows the important, practical steps on which you have resolved.

They cover not only questions of means. They also cover major matters of substance, such as the State of Food and Agriculture, Prevention of Food Losses, Nutrition, Seed Industry Development, and Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries.

If, however, there was one dominating theme of this Conference, it was the cause of the hungriest and poorest people of the world.

We must measure up to the challenge of this cause. And it is a great challenge! It is not one that can be met by paternalistic prescriptions. It is not one that will be solved by master plans.

It can only be solved by the political will of governments, massive investment of human as well as financial resources, and a practical attack on problems at the village level.

There has to be a solid foundation upon which realistic, feasible economic and social targets can be constructed and practical operational tasks implemented.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, this is the Organization which exists for the purpose of assisting you in these imperatives. This is the Organization which "par excellence" can and will carry out the task.

In my opening statement I spoke of a new march on hunger. The way is hard. It is long. We will meet with disappointments as well as successes. But in the end, succeed we will.

Thank you for all your work here, for your vote of confidence, for your inspiration and guidance for the future.

In this connection, we owe a great deal to the Vice Chairmen of the Conference, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Commissions who have conducted their proceedings with characteristic ability and calm.

The Resolutions Committee and the various Drafting Committees have, as usual, had to overcome obstacles and snags. They were no less protracted than their counterparts in the past. But they did their work very well and we are all very grateful to their Chairmen and members.

To you, Mr. Chairman, we owe a special debt - for your work here, in the General Committee and generally behind the scenes. You have shown your mastery of all the skills and arts necessary to be Chairman of a Conference of the Member Nations of FAO.

I do not suggest that the representatives from those Member Nations with whom you had to deal were unduly difficult! On the contrary, among the old and new friends of FAO - for that is what they generally are - there has been the usual diligence and seriousness of purpose; but also a greater propensity than in the past for dialogue and consensus.

To all of you, I express my heartfelt thanks. To those now going home, I wish you a safe and punctual journey.

To the new members of the Council, my congratulations - and my request that we lose no time in getting down to work together.

To the former Chairmen and members of the Programme and Finance Committees, my deep thanks and best wishes. To those about to be elected, I look forward to our meeting next Spring.

To all of you, my colleagues and I wish a happy and successful New Year.

B. deLAZEVEDO BRITO (Chairman, Group of 77): Now that our Conference is approaching its end I would like, as my last intervention as Chairman of the Group of 77, to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on the excellent leadership that you have provided to this Conference.

Our congratulations and thanks are extended to His Excellency Minister Juma'a, to His Excellency Minister Essim Engaïe of Gabon, to His Excellency Ambassador Borin, as well as to the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference.

I am quite sure that by any assessment - and I do not think we need at this stage recapitulate our achievements - this Conference must be said to have produced good results, excellent results indeed.

FAO is approaching the next biennium with a revitalised, action-oriented programme, a programme of work where the priorities favour the poor and the hungry wherever they are.

The Director-General referred in his statement some time ago to the climate of cooperation which prevails at all times between all groups of countries. We in the Group of 77 are very proud of that; we did our best to contribute to it. At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I must say that you yourself have inspired this cooperation by your patience, your wisdom, your good will, your smile. You can be assured that the Nineteenth FAO Conference, which is so closely associated with your name, will go into the history of FAO as a Conference where new paths, new approaches, both of promises and hopes, were forcefully advanced as very concrete decisive steps in bringing into being the new international economic order. Mr Chairman, you can be sure that you can be proud of it.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Au nom de la région européenne et avec la permission des pays membres de la région, je tiens à vous féliciter et à vous exprimer, Monsieur le Président, notre sincère gratitude pour avoir bien voulu assumer la charge de la présidence de cette session de la Conférence et pour avoir exercé vos fonctions avec autant de courtoisie que d'efficacité. Grâce entre autres à votre sage direction, cette session s'est déroulée dans l'ensemble dans une atmosphère propice à la coopération entre tous les membres de notre Organisation. Certes, il y a eu quelques échanges de vues plus vifs que d'autres, mais peut-être est-ce là le reflet de la franchise avec laquelle chacun, y compris notre Directeur général, a pu s'exprimer, franchise d'ailleurs de mise entre amis. Monsieur le Président, encore une fois un grand merci et que nos bons vœux vous accompagnent lors de votre voyage de retour dans votre beau pays.

R. S. KAMARA (Sierra Leone): I wish to speak on behalf of the African Group and I do so in the absence of my Minister who, as leader of the delegation, is also the Chairman of the African Group. He is now unavoidably absent and I take the opportunity, therefore, to thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and to say - like others who have spoken before me - how impressed we have been at the way you have handled this Conference. We know that this has been largely due to your maturity, the calm and cool way in which you have handled all the debates throughout this Session. You may rest assured, Mr. Chairman, that we have a profound respect for you and we do wish you good health and prosperity and to be able to carry on the hard tasks that lie ahead of you in your own country.

I should also like to take the opportunity, through you, Mr. Chairman, to thank the Director-General and all the other officials who have to a great extent contributed to the success of this Conference: and also to those who may not be here in the hall now but who have also to a great extent contributed in an indirect way towards the success of this Conference. I would like to wish them good luck and prosperity as they leave here, and a safe journey back home.

G. de BARKER (Netherlands): Mr. Chairman, I should very much like to join in the kind words addressed to you in the first place as Chairman of this Plenary Session of our Conference. We feel pleased and honoured that you who come from Indonesia, an important country in that beautiful area of Asia which, being Dutch, we know so well from the past - I dare to say that even here! - that you have been chairing this session. You have done this with great skill and much wisdom so that our delegation has always felt at ease with you and so have many other delegations, I am sure.

I also thank all the other Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Plenary. The Netherlands has spoken about it already: I should like to stress one more point which has been mentioned also by the Director-General and by some other speakers. I had the privilege and, I must say, the honour - I feel it that way - to be part of the Contact Group that was mentioned on several occasions. That contact group sat behind the scenes in the room of the Director-General and has worked very hard and, I must say, with considerable success; perhaps not a hundred percent but at least 95 or 98 percent we were successful in coming to an agreement on those most difficult and important points that threatened to divide our Conference. That Contact Group as well as the members representing the Group of 77, and I believe I can say also those who represented the donor countries, as well as the Director-General who guided us sometimes to a compromise, has been meeting there in a very good spirit.

Since I am going to stay here in the next period - at least I hope so - as Permanent Representative of my country, I should like to express the wish that this good spirit of discretion, of seeing each other's points of view, seeking to achieve compromises, will go on and that we shall have occasions not only to meet separately as 77 on one hand and donor country groups on the other, but also combined, in the same kind of spirit, so that we can overcome problems before the Conference starts; I would rather do that before than during the Conference, and I extend my hand to all the other delegates who are willing to do so.

At any rate I can tell you - and I am sure I am speaking on behalf of a number of other donor countries - that we would very much like to continue that group dialogue that we had during this Conference.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the Netherlands for recalling the long-time ties between the Netherlands and Indonesia which are being continued even up to now, even though in different circumstances,

M. VARGAS JORDAN (Bolivia): Gracias, señor Presidente. Hablo en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano a quien tengo el honor de representar.

Debo manifestar, en primer término, que la medida de la magnitud, capacidad y eficiencia de este 19° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, se ha dado en la permanente permanencia de todas las representaciones, en la concurrencia que podríamos llamar casi masiva de todos los ministros que, representan a sus países congregados en esta Conferencia; ^ es que no podía ser de otra manera, porque la FAO, sin duda alguna, gracias a las políticas de orientación que ha adoptado, viene llamando a todas las representaciones que nos encontramos congregadas en este organismo.

Debo manifestar, tal como decía el señor Director, que la respuesta rápida, práctica y directa en la cooperación técnica a los países desarrollados, que somos los que necesitamos de esta cooperación, no ha dejado de esperarse cuando los planteamientos han venido en su oportunidad.

Debo manifestar también que otro de los propósitos señalados dentro de este organismo y que ha de ser cumplido con la mayor eficiencia, el nuevo rumbo y el cauce que abre el nuevo orden económico internacional llama a la expectativa a todos los países del Tercer Mundo. La eficiencia en los propósitos que han sido practicados en las discusiones para provecho de los países del Tercer Mundo y los temas que se han puesto en discusión han sido con felicidad resueltos; consideramos que este evento ha de marcar nuevos rumbos en el camino de la FAO. Sea, pues, ésta una oportunidad para testimoniar nuevamente, en nombre de la region latinoamericana, nuestro permanente apoyo y consideración a los planes de trabajo esbozados por el señor Director General. Creemos que con esta política impresa en el organismo que se renueva día a día podremos nosotros buscar la felicidad de los pueblos hambrientos; no otra cosa es el resultado de esta Conferencia que luego tendrá que practicar sus resoluciones.

Aprovecho también esta oportunidad para testimoniar de manera muy efusiva y cariñosa nuestra felicitación a la sabia orientación, dirección y capacidad del Presidente de esta Conferencia que en todo momento ha sabido sortear las situaciones difíciles que han podido presentarse para satisfacción y felicidad de todas y cada una de las representaciones aquí presentes, y augurar que las prácticas reconocidas en esta 19 Conferencia de la FAO sean para aliviar el hambre del mundo. Muchas gracias.

P. SAI'I (Papua New Guinea): Mr. Chairman, honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the countries of the South Pacific regions I wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to you for your superb leadership in stimulating and guiding this Nineteenth Conference of FAO to its end. I should also like to convey, through you, Mr. Chairman, my Region's hearty appreciation to all Member Nations, in particular the host country, Italy, for their mutual understanding and cooperation in arriving at compromises in times of deadlock debates.

Mr. Chairman, in taking this opportunity I wish to assure the Independent Chairman of the Council of my Region's utmost support and cooperation during the proceedings leading to the Twentieth Session of this Organization.

Last but not least, we in the South Pacific region express our heartfelt appreciation to the Director-General and his staff for their sincere dedication in providing to this international assembly all the support work required to successfully bring to the end another biennium; for without them we would not have progressed to this day.

H. M. CARADANG (Philippines): On behalf of the Asia group of which the Philippines is now the Chairman, we would like to say a few words at the end of this Conference. We believe that FAO has again shown its vitality, its dynamism and its responsiveness to the needs of the times. The will of all the countries here gathered, although it has not always been unanimously and unequivocally expressed, has been manifested in the Programme of Work. We believe that this Programme is realistic enough to meet the challenge of the times. It is directed - as has already been said - to solving the problems of the small farmers, the majority of whom is located in that part of the world which is Asia. More than one half of the population of the world is located in Asia and about 80 percent of these consist of small farmers who form the backbone of the agriculture of Asia.

We believe that the Programme of FAO as it has been approved is geared to raise the standard of living and nutrition of the small farmers who are located in our part of the world.

I would like to manifest our appreciation to the Director-General who by his firmness in what he knows to be right has guided the deliberations of this Conference and has achieved the results we have seen. We also wish to manifest our appreciation and thanks to the Chairman who has guided the deliberations of this Conference with great wisdom and patience. The Philippines is doubly linked and bound to the Chairman since he belongs to the country which is not only a member of Asia but also of ASEAN with which the Philippines have very strong ties. We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Chairmen of the various Commissions, to the staff, to the interpreters, to the messengers and to all those who have cooperated to make this FAO Conference a success.

We also wish to express our thanks to our friends from the developed countries who, in spite of their difficulties, have approved the budget and last but not least - we should like to thank our brothers from the developing countries who have also manifested their will in the Programme of Work and Budget in the way they believe it is right to solve the problems.

J. A. BAKER (United States of America): I would like on behalf of the Member States for the North-American Region, the United States and Canada, to express our great gratitude to you for the efficient work of this Conference. You should be congratulated, Sir, for your management of the Plenary discussions and for your overall coordination of the work of this body.

Presiding over this Session at which almost 100 countries are represented at the ministerial level is not an easy task, but we knew from the words you addressed to us at the outset of this Conference that you would bring to this task a sense of proportion and purpose capable of guiding our work. You have not disappointed us and we thank you.

Clearly, as the FAO Conference becomes a meeting place for Ministers of Agriculture and other members of governments the burdens of planning which fall on the Secretariat grow. The Secretary-General and staff of this Conference have shown themselves equal to the task, although we have at times, I know, tried their patience and extended their working hours. Nevertheless, the quality of their response has not failed, and we would wish to recognize their competent dedication to our common objectives and the good leadership which the Secretary-General of this Conference has provided.

In particular, I would like to single out the high-quality performance of the interpreters and translators who perhaps have been more heavily burdened than any of us.

I cannot fail, also, to pay tribute to the excellent Vice Chairmen and Chairmen of Commissions which this Conference had the benefit of having present to guide their work. They have led us in an excellent manner through the work of this Conference.

My remarks could not be complete without reference to what is perhaps the most important of all in this Conference, the manner in which the key issues have been handled. We came into the Conference with some differences among us on issues of fundamental importance to the future of this Organization. They were not so much issues involving the future objectives of the FAO, although we have been exchanging views about this in the general debate and in the debate on medium-term objectives. They were rather issues on the method and approach to funding and budgeting of the work of the Organization.

The Director-General, through his capable and successful development of the Contact Group, has led us, through his excellent leadership, to the reconciliation of our differences - to a very large degree thanks also to the constructive spirit of work of delegations to this Conference from all regions represented.

Such differences as remain are not, in our view, issues which would threaten the work of the Organization. They are differences we have chosen to emphasize in order to encourage the Director-General in his commendable emphasis on more action in the field and greater economy in the Organization.

As we work together in these directions, this Organization will have our support.

I cannot conclude without a word about the past and future leadership of the Council, particularly as we will be beginning a meeting of the Council today. As I stated at the time of his election, we find the approach of our new Independent Chairman, Dr. Bukar Shaib, a highly appropriate one. He has also given us things we can usefully think about with respect to future conferences. We look forward to his leadership in the Council.

His distinguished predecessor as Independent Chairman, Mr. Bula Hoyos, has our gratitude for helping to establish the basis on which this Conference has been a success.

J. ROSA (Tchécoslovaquie): Au nom de ma délégation, ainsi qu'au nom de plusieurs pays socialistes européens, je voudrais vous remercier de votre travail en tant que Président d'une des plus importantes conférences de notre Organisation.

C'est avec un sincère intérêt que nous avons écouté votre brillant exposé introductif. Je pense que le Directeur général, dans ses paroles résumant nos débats, a souligné l'esprit coopératif de cette Conférence ainsi que son optimisme pour la réalisation de nos grandes tâches dans le développement international que nous venons d'inscrire dans nos programmes. Ainsi, je pense que la Conférence a répondu à vos souhaits. Nous partageons ce sentiment et nous aussi espérons pouvoir continuer l'excellent dialogue que nous avons entamé au cours de cette Conférence.

A. L. TANIS (Haïti): C'est certainement une très heureuse fortune pour moi que celle de prendre la parole au nom des pays les plus défavorisés du globe et aussi de mon Gouvernement. La satisfaction que j'en éprouve n'a d'égal que le souci avec lequel je m'efforcerai d'exprimer ces quelques idées.

M. le Président, M. le Secrétaire général, en cet univers troublé, dominé par la faim, il est vraiment réconfortant de se retrouver ici où tant de conceptions nouvelles, tant d'idées diverses ont été soulevées et agitées.

La FAO, principal organisme chargé de promouvoir l'agriculture dans le monde, a tenu cette fois-ci à que cette Conférence ne représente pas simplement un formalisme où viennent se réunir certains 'délégués, mais le Secrétariat a tenu à nous proposer des documents valables et satisfaisants, sur lesquels nous avons travaillé et de bons résultats ont été obtenus.

Je prends un plaisir tout particulier à remercier le Président de cette Conférence pour la sagesse et la sérénité dont il fait preuve pendant tout le cours des travaux, ce qui lui a valu de les diriger avec une compétence et une rare maîtrise.

Les remerciements de la République d'Haïti s'adressent également à tous les délégués qui ont pris une part active et efficace à ces travaux, et qui ont fait de cette dix-neuvième session l'une des plus remarquables - je dirai même des plus transcendantes - de la FAO.

Quant aux pays frères qui ont été nouvellement admis à l'Organisation, je prends plaisir à leur souhaiter la bienvenue et j'espère qu'ils seront à nos côtés pour continuer la lutte que nous avons entreprise contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Nos remerciements s'adressent également à l'Italie, pays hôte, pour l'hospitalité dont elle a fait preuve envers les délégués.

Pour finir, je ne peux qu'approuver le programme de travail qui nous a été présenté par le Directeur général, parce que, contrairement aux autres années, une orientation nouvelle s'est profilée, qui tient compte des besoins et des aspirations des peuples, et qui a porté sur les points essentiels qui ont été débattus ici, c'est-à-dire la formation, la préparation des différents programmes. Mais, pour que les exposés qui ont été faits ici ne restent pas lettre morte, je tiens à formuler quand même deux déclarations.

D'abord, nous devons savoir que quelle que soit l'assistance multilatérale et bilatérale que nous pouvons recevoir de la coopération internationale, le principal de l'effort et de l'initiative devra venir de nous-mêmes, peuples sous-développés; et quant aux peuples nantis, nous leur faisons confiance et nous espérons qu'ils ne resteront pas sourds aux appels de milliers d'hommes qui luttent contre la faim et contre la pauvreté.

Je ne peux, en terminant, que formuler des vœux pour le bonheur personnel du Directeur général et le prestige croissant de l'Organisation qu'il dirige avec tant de maîtrise et de compétence.

K. ITANO (Japan): On behalf of the Japanese delegation, first of all I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the excellent chairmanship of the distinguished Delegate from Indonesia in this, our primary meeting. As the delegate of a country in the same region as his country. I am very proud of his chairmanship which has led the whole meeting to great success. I also appreciate the cooperation given by the many delegates to his chairmanship.

As a country in Asia, where small farmers are in the majority and where a stabilized supply of agricultural products is of vital importance, Japan has had a keen interest and cooperated in the activities of this Organization, and will do so in the future.

From this standpoint, on behalf of my Government I fully appreciate the great efforts and leadership given by the Director-General, Dr. Saouma, in the preparations and proceedings of this Conference, with the devoted support of the staff of the Secretariat. We hope that the Director-General will take the initiative in the coming two years for the further development of this Organization.

Finally, I would like to express my warm-hearted thanks to our agricultural colleagues in this room and farmers and fishermen everywhere. Consumers are of the same nature, so in that sense I feel this Organization is unique and humanistic, thanks to the spirit of cooperation shown by our colleagues here today as the representatives of farmers, fishermen and consumers.

We are now at the successful end of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference, I hope that this spirit will lead to a constructive development of FAO activities in the future. Thank you again and goodbye.

S. H. AL-SHAKIR (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of my delegation, on behalf of the Arab Countries, the Near Eastern Countries, I would like to congratulate you warmly on the excellent way in which you have guided the debates of this 19th Session of the FAO Conference which has led to extremely imposing results. We would also like to congratulate your colleagues and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of all the Commissions.

This Conference has been of the greatest importance for all the countries of the world and in particular for the developing countries. This is quite obvious, but what is even more obvious is that some people have worked hard in the background in order to make a success of this -Conference. Others also have participated in this joint effort and I think that we must express our gratitude to the Directors-General for the efforts he has made ever since he was elected and also stress the importance of the resolutions and the way in which the results of the 18th Session of the Conference have been carried out by him.

Today we place a very heavy burden on him, but it is a burden which represents the wishes and aspirations of the developing countries. The next biennium is going to be the occasion in which it will be possible to carry out all the resolutions we have adopted. We are sure that the Director-General will do this in a masterly way and that on the basis of the mandate we have given him.

In conclusion I would like to thank all delegates for the spirit of cooperation and fraternity which they have given proof of in the course of this Session of the Conference and which has made it possible for us to achieve the results.

CHAIRMAN: As the 19th Session of the FAO biennial Conference now draws to a close, it remains for me, as your Chairman, to say a few words of appreciation of the work that has been- accomplished and thank all who have contributed to its success.

When I addressed you at the opening of the debates I pledged my services to help ensure that our deliberations were conducted with what we, in Indonesia, call "MUSYAWARAH" - consultation based on respect and mutual understanding. Looking back on the events of the past few weeks it is gratifying to note that, whatever our differences, our discussions have indeed been inspired by a deep sense of understanding and a true spirit of cooperation. For this, I wish to thank you, each and every one of you, distinguished delegates, and for the unsparing efforts you have made throughout the debates to give substance and quality to your deliberations. You can all go back to your countries with the feeling of a great job well done.

The world today faces a great challenge - how to bring the problem of world hunger under a reasonable measure of control within this generation. The Conference deliberations never lost sight of this. The emphasis on greater investment in agriculture, nationally and internationally, the need to concentrate attention on primary agricultural producers and in particular the small farmers in developing countries, so as to involve them in a meaningful way in the development process, the urgency of coordinated action for prevention of food losses - all this formed the highlights of the deliberations. I feel sure that the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference on these and other relevant issues will bring us a significant step forward in our war against hunger and poverty and thereby in the attainment of the ultimate objective for which this great Organization was created, namely to ensure humanity's freedom from hunger.

This Conference has been unique in many respects. We have witnessed a deep sense of understanding, a marked desire to avoid confrontation and find ways for compromises and consensus. Many difficult questions have been smoothly solved and in this connection we must acknowledge the patient and conciliatory role of our very distinguished and able Director-General in helping the informal "contact groups" to solve contentious questions. This proved to be of immense help in attaining consensus, without procrastinating debates. However, opportunities were always given to those who still like to express their specific views on the matter afterwards. We very much hope that this innovation will become a permanent feature in our future deliberations.

We have also had the opportunity of welcoming no less than eight new members to the FAO family, thereby bringing our membership up to 144 countries. The new members can be assured of the fullest cooperation from all sides.

Delegates, I cannot close this debate without expressing my deep sense of appreciation to all those who have helped make this Session a successful and fruitful gathering: the Vice-Chairmen of the Conference, the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the three Commissions and the Committees, the Rapporteur and all the other officers elected to serve the Session.

I must also convey my warm thanks and sincere appreciation to the Director-General and his colleagues for their invaluable help and support at all times and for the way the work of this Session has been arranged. In particular, I wish to pay tribute to the Director-General for his outstanding leadership and his unfailing defence of the interests of our Organization.

Last but not least, may I extend on my own behalf and, I believe, on behalf of all delegates, our very warm thanks to the interpreters and all members of the Secretariat without whose expertise, unflagging devotion and continuous efforts it would not have been possible to bring this Session to a successful conclusion.

I should like to say thank you for the statements made by the Director-General and the twelve countries, the Chairman of the Group of 77, the delegate of Brazil, the delegates of Belgium, Sierra Leone, Netherlands, Bolivia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, United States of America, Czechoslovakia, Haiti, Japan and Iraq.

Dear friends, as you now all leave the eternal city for your respective destinations I wish you "buon viaggio" and extend you all my very best wishes for the years to come.

Applause

Applaudissements

Apiausos

I now declare this 19th Session of the FAO Conference concluded.

The meeting rose at 11. 45 hours

La seance est levee à 11 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 11. 45 horas