

conference

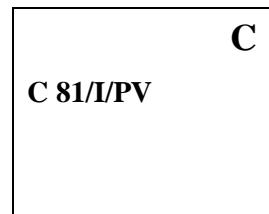
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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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VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I OF THE CONFERENCE
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ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION I DE LA CONFERENCIA

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conference

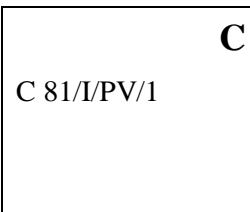
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION

(11 November 1981)

The First Meeting was opened at 9. 55 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 9 h 55, sous
La présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 9. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

LE PRESIDENT: Messieurs les délégués, le Secrétariat me signale que nous sommes 67 dans la salle: le quorum est donc atteint et par conséquent nous pouvons commencer notre première séance. Comme vous le savez, la Conférence a confié à la Commission I l'examen de la première partie de l'ordre du jour: c'est-à-dire les points concernant les grandes tendances et politiques dans le secteur alimentaire et agricole. La Commission devra examiner 5 points de l'ordre du jour, à savoir, la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, la stratégie internationale pour la troisième Décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement, les stratégies de développement régional et national et l'énergie en agriculture et le développement rural.

Ce sont là des questions de fond très importantes. La décision et la recommandation que formulera la Conférence à leur sujet constitueront le cadre directeur des actions nationales et internationales et orienteront les activités de la FAO dans ces domaines vitaux. Avant de passer à l'examen des questions de fond je voudrais appeler l'attention des délégués sur le document C 81/INF/11 qui donne la liste des documents relatifs aux divers points soumis à l'examen de la Commission. D'autre part le journal de la Conférence qui apparaîtra tous les jours indiquera les documents nécessaires pour l'examen de chaque point particulier.

Je voudrais aussi signaler à l'attention des délégués l'Annexe D du document C 81/12 qui expose les procédures et critères régissant la présentation et l'examen des résolutions. J'espère que suivant l'usage le nombre des résolutions sera aussi réduit que possible et qu'elles se limiteront à l'essentiel. Je vous signale en outre que la Conférence a élu également deux Vice-Présidents pour notre Commission, il s'agit des représentants de la Belgique et de Grenade. Pour l'instant je note que ces deux représentants ne sont pas présents; dès qu'ils seront arrivés je vous les annoncerai.

Comme le savent les membres de la Commission les débats de fond de la Commission devront être terminés le vendredi 20 novembre, de telle sorte que la Commission puisse adopter son rapport le lundi 23 novembre. Il nous faudra aussi trouver du temps pour les réunions du Comité de rédaction au cours de cette période. C'est pourquoi je vous prie instamment de garder à l'esprit ce calendrier, de façon à tirer le meilleur parti du temps disponible. En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction dont je viens de parler, je voudrais vous dire que les consultations se poursuivent pour sa constitution et dès que ce Comité sera constitué nous pourrons vous l'annoncer. Le Comité de rédaction devrait d'ailleurs commencer son travail au début de la semaine prochaine afin que le rapport puisse être prêt à temps afin d'être soumis à la Commission aux fins d'adoption. Si vous êtes d'accord nous allons passer dès maintenant à l'examen du premier point de l'ordre du jour. Il s'agit en fait du point 6 de l'ordre du jour de la Conférence "Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture". Vous constaterez qu'il s'agit en fait d'un point de l'ordre du jour divisé en deux points subsidiaires, à savoir 6. 1 "Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture" et 6. 2 "Mise en oeuvre du plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale". Comme ces deux points subsidiaires sont importants, je propose que nous les envisagions un par un. Nous allons donc commencer par le point 6. 1, c'est-à-dire la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Le principal document sur la question est la Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1981, document C 81/2. Ce texte a été préparé en août 1981 et distribué avant la session. Le Secrétariat a donc préparé un supplément pour le mettre à jour. Ce supplément, distribué en session sous la cote C 81/2-Sup. 1 rend compte du dernier état de la situation et des perspectives. Je donne maintenant la parole au Prof. Islam, sous-directeur général, responsable du département des politiques économiques et sociales pour qu'il présente cette question.

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation, including:

6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment:

6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo, en particular:

6. 1 State of Food and Agriculture

6. 1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

6. 1 El estado de la agricultura y la alimentación

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr. Chairman, You have before you two documents comprising the Secretariat's analysis and assessment of the State of Food and Agriculture 1981, The first is document C 81/2. The second document, C 81/2, Supp. 1, based on information available up to early October 1981, both updates and supplements the earlier document. In addition to analysing the current world food and agricultural situation, the document also provides a longer term view of trends in population growth, food production and food consumption and nutrition.

It also highlights the need to improve and expand a wide sharing of access to resources, inputs and services for alleviating poverty.

I would like to first briefly touch on the current world food situation including world food security, which shows both positive and negative aspects. Taking the positive aspects first, Mr. Chairman, world food production recovered somewhat in 1981 from the poor levels of the previous two years to record an increase similar to the average rate achieved for the 1970s, 2.5 percent, but still below the trend for that period: to get back on trend it would have needed an increase in 1981 of over 4 percent to compensate for the poor food production years of 1979 and 1980. In terms of food production, and with some exceptions, the developing countries of Asia have done well this year, and those of Latin America moderately well.

This increase, which includes significantly larger harvests of wheat, and coarse grains and another large output of rice, has averted the immediate threat of a world crisis which was causing us so much concern this time last year. Total cereal production is expected to increase by between 60 million and 100 million tons. As a consequence, stocks of cereals which were drawn down to dangerously low levels at the end of the 1980/81 season last June, are likely to be a little higher by the end of 1981/82. This improvement in cereal supplies also has had a consequential easing effect on cereal prices in international markets, although the magnitude of the declines which were less than 20 percent over the year, were more than offset by the appreciation of the US dollar against most other currencies during the same period. So, by and large, cereal importers would have paid similar if not higher prices in terms of their domestic currencies.

A very welcome sign of improved food production has been the decline in the numbers of countries reported by FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System of Food and Agriculture to be suffering from food shortage or emergency situations since earlier this year: the number has fallen to 21 from 31 in the month of May. This now excludes China, which has recently informed FAO that it no longer requires emergency aid owing to this year's better crops, although it may need food assistance for agricultural rehabilitation purposes.

Another positive feature improving food security has been the decision of the International Monetary Fund in May to extend financial assistance to its member countries should they experience balance of payments difficulties in meeting their exceptional cereal imports needs. Already this compensatory financing facility has been put into operation.

This time last year we drew attention to the upward trend in the export prices of fertilizers which had taken place through 1979 and into 1980. These prices have since tended to have levelled off or declined in some cases although, as with cereal prices, quite major shifts in current exchange rates which have taken place render real price comparisons over time difficult.

Despite these positive aspects of the current food situation, there are negative aspects which seem to persist. Food production which accelerated in the world as a whole in 1981 and also in some developing regions, decelerated in others. In Africa the increase was no better than it had been for the 1970's, a rate of increase which is inadequate in relation to the region's population growth of about 3 percent per annum; in the Near East, according to our provisional estimates, the increase dropped to less than 1 percent.

The volume of cereal imports of low-income developing countries continues to rise and may have reached 41 million tons in the 1980/81 season: four years ago it was only 26 million tons. The value of their commercial imports of cereals has trebled. With stagnating export earnings and rising costs of other developmental imports, increasing costs of cereal imports impose heavy burdens on the balance of payments of these countries. The current account deficits of low income food deficit countries has increased almost eight-fold between 1976 and 1980, reducing their capacity to import.

Although we expect an increase in cereal stocks by the end of the 1981/82 season almost 16% of world cereal consumption, the increase will be mainly in coarse grains and will be held by developed countries.

Shipments of food aid in 1980/81 amounted to 8.6 million tons, the lowest level since 1975/76 and allocations for 1981/82 are only 8.9 million tons which, if reached, would mean a recovery to the level of 1979/80. However, past experience indicates that actual shipments invariably fall short of allocations. Four years ago, food aid covered over one quarter of these countries' cereal imports but in 1980/81, the proportion fell almost to only one sixth.

Recent trends in external assistance to agriculture give rise to some concern: in 1980 official commitments of such assistance declined in real terms by about 6%. While the decline in 1979 was largely accounted for by the commitments of multilateral agencies, in 1980 it was the result of a reduction in bilateral commitments, not only in real, but also in current prices. The prospects for 1981 do not appear to be particularly bright given the present climate for development assistance in general. However, concessional

aid for agriculture to the least developed countries has recently been increasing in real terms and this is a welcome development in line with recommendations of the recent United Nations Conference on Less Developed Countries.

Another trend inhibiting agricultural progress has been the deterioration in agricultural trade in 1980 mainly as a consequence of declining demand for some agricultural products because of world recession and, in other cases, the effects of continued protectionism.

The growth of world trade in agricultural commodities, including fishery and forestry products, at about 11 percent in value in 1980 is below the annual average rate of the 1970's. The real value of the agricultural exports of developing countries actually declined by 3 percent in 1980, and the share of developing countries in world agricultural export earnings has steadily declined to 28 percent. Developments in 1981 indicate a further deterioration in their agricultural trade situation with adverse changes in the agricultural terms of trade, due mainly to declines in the prices of many of their principal agricultural export products. The decline in agriculture's terms of trade in the last two years has taken place in the context of rising costs of production, high interest rates and rising costs of transport. As a consequence, the balance of agricultural trade of non-oil developing countries declined sharply: in 1979 it covered 39% of their non-agricultural merchandise trade gap, but in 1980 this proportion had fallen to only one quarter. It is worthwhile recalling that during 1977-79, there were 35 developing countries where agricultural products contributed more than half of their total merchandise export earnings.

As we look forwards the long term trends in production, distribution and consumption in developing countries, especially in relation to trends in growth of population, there are reasons for concern as well. According to the provisional United Nations estimates in 1980, a further 800 million plus will be added to the population of developing countries in the 1980's. However, fertility rates are declining in some countries, and generally the rates of decline are faster than those that occurred in the developed countries in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Mortality rates have also continued to decline although there is some tendency to a levelling off.

Viewed in the context of trends in population growth, growth rates in cereals production which constitutes a major component of food consumption give cause for concern. Only in 19 developing countries did cereal production keep pace with the growth in cereals demand. In high income developing countries with rising consumption, indirect use of cereals for livestock production has also been on the increase. The use of grains in livestock feed has increased in the world as a whole at an annual average rate of over 4% from the mid-sixties. Under the impact of higher prices and tight supplies of grain, there has been a levelling off of demand for cereals for use as feedstuffs in recent years.

We have attempted to respond to the request made at the 78th Session of the Council, that increasing use should be made of FAO food balance sheet data to monitor the nutrition situation. Despite the limitations of these aggregated data, they indicate a modest improvement during the 1970s in developing countries as a whole in terms of their average daily per caput calorie supply, even though there were fluctuations from year to year. However, the nutrition situation in Africa has not recorded any improvement over the past decade; in the least developed countries it has grown worse. Considerable variations exist in nutritional standards not only between individuals within a country, but also between countries. Seasonal variations in food intake have important implications for nutritional standards.

The susceptibility of certain groups, particularly young children, to nutritional deficiencies is well known. Moderate under-nutrition is prevalent to an average extent of 15-25% of children though in some cases it goes up to 60%. Necessary measures to prevent or cure under-nutrition amongst children range from encouragement for breast-feeding to careful and well-trained use of infant foods, if necessary, as well as measures for nutrition and child health education, etc

Nutrition and poverty are inextricably bound together and, in rural settings, also with the pace of equitable rural development. Practical policy measures towards its alleviation are the essence of the WCARRD Plan of Action, the follow up to which is discussed under Agenda item 13. We intend to pursue the issue of rural poverty and its alleviation as a special chapter in the main edition of the State of Food and Agriculture to be published next year. A part of our recent work has been to throw some light on the difference in agricultural performance between developing countries. The intensity with which land is used is a major factor determining the productive capacity of agriculture. Also crucial is the role of fertilizers and of associated inputs in explaining inter-country differences in yield per hectare and agricultural performance or growth rates.

Developing countries, despite a recent increase in their production capacity, continue to import half of their requirements of nitrogenous and phosphorous fertilizer and 100% of requirement of potash. The increased role of fertilizer imports is evident from the fact that they constituted 5.3 percent of agricultural exports in 1979 as against 3.9 percent in 1965-71. There was a decline in bilateral fertilizer aid to 1.5 million tons in 1979/80 compared with 1.9 million tons in 1978/79 and in 1980/81 it reached barely one-twelfth of its level in 1974-75.

In concluding, I should briefly mention two recent events of relevance to your deliberations. The first was the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy which will be discussed under agenda item 8.

Our analysis confirms that provision of rural fuel supplies and the role of the forestry sector in this context is assuming important dimensions. The Conference urged *inter alia* that tree-planting rates be increased five-fold by the year 2000. Policies influencing the rates of exploitation and the replenishment of forestry resources must be an integral part of the process of planning for agricultural and rural development.

The second event was the UN Conference on the LDCs. All donors agreed at this Conference to make special efforts to increase their assistance to this group of countries and by this and other means to assist in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in which agriculture is prominent.

LE PRESIDENT :Je voudrais, au nom des membres de la Commission remercier le Dr. Islam pour sa présentation claire et complète de cet important point de notre ordre du jour. Les débats sont maintenant ouverts et je vais passer la parole au premier inscrit.

P. M. AMUKOA (Kenya):I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election and also thank the Secretariat for producing document C/81/2 and its supplement on the State of Food and Agriculture for the year 1980/81. The message which comes out very clearly in this document is that:(1)there was a very small increase of food production in 1979/80 although a good crop is expected in 1981; (2)production falls short of consumption plans and also import demand and prices have risen;(3) stocks at the end of 1980/81 have fallen below 1970 needs;(4)the world therefore depends on the state of the annual harvest and these harvests and stocks are in developed countries and therefore with a gloomy economic atmosphere the outlook for agriculture in poor underdeveloped countries is not good. These countries most of which have no oil can hardly import much needed foodstuffs. The growth and the volume of agricultural exports went down and falling prices failed to relieve inflation;(5)there is also the problem of population growth and nourishment, particularly of women and children;(6) the fish catch fell and the increase in production of forest products was small;(7) protectionism in trade is increasing and resources are not being transferred to agriculture. The north-south dialogue is in trouble and prospects of development of international strategy are not good;(8) international agreement has been extended to June 1983 because of lack of progress in concluding a new agreement. What my delegation has said so far will be familiar to anybody who has been attending this meeting over the last few years. It is clear we have identified problems and we also know the solutions but there is unwillingness, a reluctance to act, particularly when, or perhaps because money is involved, but we shall continue to reiterate, we shall continue to underline what we believe should be done. There is a need to set up progress in international agricultural estimates.

Underdeveloped countries will have to be assisted in their efforts to set up food production because while there are ways and means to accelerate, food and agricultural production remain at the center of agricultural development policies along with strategies for more and better use of imports. The investment necessary cannot be raised from other sources because of the deterioration in terms of trade and protectionist policies. Therefore it will be necessary for underdeveloped countries to meet their RDA and financial commitments of external assistance as far as a target of 7% of ENT and then take care of inflation, after all the UN development delegate asked for a tripling of assistance to developing countries by 1980 and a quadrupling by 1990 in real terms. Programmes of input distribution should not ever be passed and particularly in these countries. International recognition is almost defunct and it therefore needs to revive it and revitalize its activities.

Food fish production should be increased exclusively in economic zones and should be more fully utilized.

Greater efforts are required in forestry investment because here these form a very significant percentage of rural income consumption. As demand for food and fuel increases there will be increased competition. Food reserves can only be soil degradation. In the interim period while developing countries are revitalizing their food production programmes it will be essential to have adequate wild food arrangements.

Finally, those developing countries which are capable of producing a surplus should be encouraged and supported by among other things having their surplus production brought by international agency for the needs of other developing countries. It is therefore a matter of great concern the targets of 10 million tons of food aid per annum and half a million tons of cereal, and the 1 million targets at the 1981/82 biennium have not been reached. Even more serious the lack of progress in wheat negotiations. Concurrent efforts are required in cash flow development, in the absence of a reliable food crop, in other words there is need for a more equitable cooperation particularly in the sector of trade, particularly to strengthen developing countries' economic position and make them more self-sufficient. The quantities and prices of developing countries' exports are going down while the quantities and prices of their imports are going up, and arrangements are not doing very well-the agreements are not doing very well -because when the developed countries are consumers they keep producer prices low but when they are the producers they keep producer prices high.

Initiative must be supported but it is encouraging to know that a number of countries including developing countries are adopting a national food policy.

In this connexion the Director General's Five Point Plan of Action for world food security should be given wider support. The decision taken by the Executive Board of IMF in May 1981 to extend financial assistance to member countries, to the balance of payment problems in cereal imports should be commended. Also food aid appears to have declined bilaterally with rising costs of cereals. The current Food Aid Convention has commitments of 7.6 million tons per annum which is higher than 1971. Furthermore, the Director General's food aid budget is designed to increase food production therefore bringing the world closer to global food security. It should therefore be supported.

D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): Señor Presidente: Le felicitamos por su elección, al igual que al Vicepresidente. Señor Presidente: como distinguido Embajador del Congo, usted hará falta al lado de la delegación de Colombia, donde siempre hemos disfrutado de su grata compañía. Buen éxito le deseamos en la Presidencia.

Señor Presidente: cabe que se estudie este tema en el Consejo y en la Conferencia. No cambia mucho el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación. Desafortunadamente, siempre es desfavorable esa situación para los países en desarrollo. Sigue siendo precario el estado actual, no obstante los pequeños aumentos logrados en la producción durante 1979-80. Durante dos años consecutivos la producción de cereales ha sido inferior a las necesidades del consumo, los precios han aumentado y las existencias están bajando a niveles inferiores al margen de garantía para la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Naturalmente, las importaciones las hacen y pagan los países en desarrollo, y las reservas están generalmente en poder de cuatro o cinco países productores. La seguridad alimentaria sigue dependiendo del buen o del mal tiempo. Vivimos a la expectativa de cada cosecha. Además, disminuyen las exportaciones de productos agrícolas de los países en desarrollo. Todo ello debemos hacerlo constar en nuestro informe. La apreciación general indica que nos encontramos en uno de los períodos más difíciles de la posguerra. La producción alimentaria y agrícola mundial en 1980 sólo creció en 0,5 por ciento, mientras que en 1979 había crecido en 0,9 por ciento. A fines de este año las existencias mundiales disminuirán a los 220 millones de toneladas, aproximadamente el 14 por ciento del consumo, límite inferior al 24 por ciento señalado en la estrategia del desarrollo para el tercer decenio. Se mantiene y aumenta la malnutrición. Definitivamente, la única solución sigue siendo el aumento de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo. Las contribuciones a la reserva alimentaria internacional de emergencia y el Programa Mundial de Alimentos sigue siendo deficiente; la ayuda oficial al desarrollo ha decrecido en términos reales. Todas las perspectivas son desalentadoras. El comercio de productos agrícolas es injusto; se sigue obstaculizando la exportación creciente de productos por parte de los países en desarrollo y se ha acentuado el mayor deterioro de los términos de intercambio.

El párrafo 156 describe muy bien el deterioro de los términos de intercambio, contrario en los países en desarrollo. Esa relación empeoró particularmente en 1980. Estamos de acuerdo con la primera frase del párrafo 20: "La actual situación de la economía mundial, de la que el sector agrícola es parte sumamente importante, constituye un mal comienzo para el tercer decenio". Muchos países desarrollados, especialmente cierta respetable comunidad de países, acecan su tendencia al creciente proteccionismo y a los funestos subsidios.

Los primeros resultados de las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales y el primer año de la estrategia internacional son decepcionantes, nulos. El retardador de la ayuda alimentaria prometida a los países africanos tiene que ser condenado. Los fertilizantes siguen siendo esenciales. Hay que estimular el aumento de la producción y del uso en los países en desarrollo, cuyas importaciones de fertilizantes han crecido.

El capítulo quinto "el comercio de productos agrícolas" confirma nuestra primera consideración sobre la estructura injusta y obsoleta del comercio internacional. En 1970, la mayor parte del incremento del valor de las exportaciones agrícolas correspondió a los países desarrollados. Sus ingresos aumentaron en un 17 por ciento, el doble que los países en desarrollo. El poder impositivo de los ingresos por exportaciones de productos agrícolas de los países en desarrollo descendió en 4 por ciento en 1979, y en 1978 había también disminuido. La participación de los países en desarrollo en las exportaciones agrícolas mundiales en 1979 disminuyó por segundo año consecutivo. Se configuró la tendencia descendente a largo plazo en este sentido. Ahora es el 28 por ciento solamente. A mediados de los años 50 fue del 46, y en los 60 del 37 por ciento. Las restricciones del comercio impuestas por algunos países desarrollados son la causa de que haya empeorado la balanza comercial agrícola de los países en desarrollo en 1979.

Respecto al párrafo 162, las informaciones sobre el azúcar deberán ponerse al día a la luz de la situación actual.

La Comunidad Económica Europea está ahora fijada por su política de subsidios, que ha introducido elementos de perturbación e inestabilidad en el mercado. El nuevo convenio sobre el comercio del trigo está muy lejos de alcanzarse. El llamado enfoque de alternativa tampoco será viable. La prórroga del convenio de 1971, en sus actuales condiciones totalmente inoperantes, es completamente inútil; se requiere un nuevo convenio realmente eficaz con cláusulas específicas sobre el precio de la liberación de reservas.

Esperamos que la reunión del Consejo Internacional del Trigo, a fines de este mes, logre avanzar algo.

Señor Presidente: la difícil situación que describe el documento 81/2 y los comentarios que hemos hecho condensan la labor de la delegación de Colombia y responden a la llamada que se hace en el párrafo 21 sobre la necesidad de reforzar la cooperación internacional, ya que el reto del desarrollo se ha convertido en un problema de supervivencia para muchos países. Debemos exhortar a la Comunidad Internacional a que dedique más recursos técnicos y financieros en apoyo de una decidida acción en favor de gentes que en diversos lugares del mundo padecen hambre y malnutrición.

WU TIAN XI (China) (original language-Chinese): Just now we listened to the detailed introduction by Professor Islam of this agenda item. Now I would like to say a few words about the subject. It will be divided into two parts. First, with the stagnation of the world economy and little growth in international food and agriculture production we are pleased to see that food production in the developing countries as a whole has increased considerably thanks to the emphasis on food production and the assiduous work of their people. Meanwhile we have noted with concern that in expanding food production the developing countries are confronted with such specific problems as lack of funds and technology. Some developing countries have to import more and more grain, and international terms of trade are becoming less and less favourable for their agricultural produce. Not long ago some non-aligned and developing countries held a symposium in Pyong Yang, Korea, which called upon the developing countries to adhere to the principle of self-reliance and collective self-reliance to strengthen cooperation amongst themselves, strive for higher food and agricultural production by reforming their agricultural structures and achieve self-sufficiency in food at both the national and collective level, thereby terminating their dependence on leading food exporting countries. All these are very important principles and have our vigorous support.

Now, I wish to take this opportunity to say a few words on Chinese agricultural development in recent years. Starting from 1979, in the light of our experience both positive and negative of the agricultural development for the past thirty years or so, we began to make necessary adjustments in our agricultural policies.

They are mainly as follows: introduction of new managerial methods in the rural people's communes aimed at inducing a still greater sense of responsibility among the commune members; reduction or remission of food procurement quotas and agricultural taxes in certain calamity stricken or less developed areas, and implementation of other measures to lighten the burden on the peasants so that they can relax and become better off; raising of purchasing prices of grain, cotton and other major agricultural products; and opening up of agricultural produce fairs to encourage rural cottage occupation and increase the peasants' income. These measures have enhanced the peasants' enthusiasm for production. As a result, an excellent situation rarely seen before has emerged in China's agricultural production as well as her rural economy as a whole. This year China's agriculture has experienced worse natural calamities than last year, but the summer grain crop increased by five million tons over the year and annual output is estimated to approach the all time high record of 1979. In the structural readjustment of agricultural production in recent years we have implemented the principle of proceeding from local conditions, fully tapping local advantages in production and energetically developing a diversified economy while never relaxing efforts in food production. Consequently the output of cotton and other cash crops has increased considerably while animal and fishery production has accelerated. This strategy is increasing our rate of self-sufficiency in the related products and makes it possible better to meet the growing requirements of the people. In the process of adjustment we have to import some grain but the amount accounts for just a tiny fraction of our total grain consumption. From a long-term point of view it is hardly imaginable for a country like China with a population of one billion to depend on large quantities of imported grain to feed her people. Finally I wish to make a few remarks about the fight against natural calamities which we have felt keenly for the last few years. In the past we engaged on a large scale in improving cultivated fields, building, water conservancy projects and ameliorating soil, thus strengthening our capacity to resist natural calamities in agricultural production, but this has proved far from enough. In the past two years serious floods and drought hit some regions rendering production and life difficult for the local people. It is mainly by relying on our own efforts and through developing diversified production that we have tided over the difficulties. Having learned a lesson from successive natural disasters we feel that in order to be better able to resist them we must work still harder at afforestation and agricultural capital construction as well as the improvement of the ecosystem. As China has a large rural population, a low land/people ratio and a poor foundation to build on much hard work remains to be done to accelerate the development of food and agricultural production in the future. Drawing on our experience from many years of agricultural development we will continue to rely on correct policies and science in bringing the enthusiasm of the peasants into full play and developing our agricultural production through self-reliance. At the same time we hope to strengthen co-operation and mutual support with other countries in the field of agriculture so that we can achieve more together.

SAID A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): On behalf of my delegation may I first congratulate you for your election to chair this important commission during our Twenty-first Session of the FAO Bi-ennial Conference. My delegation hopes that with the assistance of the Vice-Chairmen and the co-operation of member nations your job will be concluded with the entire satisfaction of all of us. Having read the document before us and the explicit introduction given by Professor N. Islam, the Assistant Director-General of FAO, Tanzania commends the Director-General and the FAO secretariat for the good and perfect review of the state of food and agriculture in 1981 on a global basis. I am sure without an effective information system through the various programmes initiated by FAO in member countries the report before us would have been patchy and lacking in content. My delegation associates with the sentiments made by the previous speakers at this commission. Tanzania has greatly benefited since 1978 when we started, in cooperation with FAO, the TCP programme on crop monitoring and early warning system on the state of food and agricultural activities in the country. The entire agricultural staff and the village cadres are aware of the importance of agricultural annual timetables, simple systems of crop data collection and reporting to the Ministry headquarters. Thus the problems of drought experienced in 1978 coupled with the floods towards the second quarter of 1979 made us aware of the severe food shortage to come. The surplus stocks of food in 1979 had to be used carefully as well as planning for food imports to prevent famine and death from hunger. FAO and the international community got precise information on the state of food and agriculture in my country and were able to come to our help. The mobilisation of farmers towards food production has been dramatic, but for the continued unfavourable weather Tanzania continues to be until today a food deficit country. Our estimates for cereal imports up to June 1982 stand at 230 000 metric tonnes. In this context therefore my delegation supports the ideals of an early agreement on the Wheat Trade Convention with the provision for reserve stocks and stable prices, the contributions to the international emergency food reserve to reach at least the target of 500 000 tonnes. Mr Chairman, Tanzania is a non-believer of food aid. Our policy of self-reliance is well documented in the Arusha declaration, but during difficult times of need as exemplified by the calamities of nature, the high energy prices to sustain our economy, the enhanced cost of imported machinery, equipment, pesticides, fertilisers and technology coupled with the slowdown of agricultural trade and especially the low international prices for our exported agricultural produce such as coffee,

cotton, sisal, tea, tobacco, to mention just a few, this situation has and will continue to strangle our economy. It is only in this type of predicament that the developing countries appeal to the inter national community through forums like this one that the vicious circle requires to be broken by the concerted efforts of all of us. Food aid then becomes a necessity but the real answer in the long term is to increase the level of external aid to agriculture as was so amply pointed out by the Director -General in his statement at the Plenary on Monday 9 November 1981-Meaningful food programmes towards self-sufficiency in food are quite possible in most of Africa. Canada has a joint programme with Tanzania for wheat production to the target of self-sufficiency through the provision of capital and technology. In the same vein other donors through FAO or by bilateral aid and much national involvement could initiate programmes of irrigation for both rice and maize production to ensure continued production even in times of drought. Experiences of India and China and many countries of Asia has shown that capital is required to tame rivers, then technology follows in the proper management of water resources. Our strategy is to embark on both large irrigation schemes managed centrally as well as small irrigation schemes for the smallholders in villages.

Although Tanzania is self-sufficient in meats, which is a major component of a balanced diet, she continues to be a net importer of milk and milk products. The document before us does not review the situation globally on the status of production and trends of meats and milk. The World Food Programme has carried out a commendable task in fulfilling the principles as outlined in paragraph 46 of the supplement. The funds accrued from the stocks supplied by the WFP have been of major importance in advancing investment into crop production as well as development of the dairy industry. In this context other donors, like the European Economic Community, continue to contribute immensely in the form of cereals, milk products and butter oil and this improves the nutritional status not only of the vulnerable groups but also of the inhabitants of the less developed countries.

J. SCHERER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)(original language German): We have a very detailed and clear report of the food situation in document C 81/2 and document C 81/2-Sup. 1. This gives us a comprehensive picture of the world food situation. We are shown very clearly where in the world need is the greatest. The main and most topical questions concerning world production and world supply are continuously compiled within the framework of the early warning system and published. These reports provide excellent information for all those who deal constantly with the world food problem. In the very interest of those countries which are particularly dependent on the early warning system this painstaking FAO work should be supported and intensified through the further improvement of information coming from developing countries.

Compared to the summer of this year, there has been a more unfavourable assessment of the world cereal harvest. This was due mainly to the very poor crop in the Soviet Union.

For developing countries as a whole 1981 will probably have a slight increase of cereal production -plus 3 to 4 percent as compared to last year as far as wheat is concerned and an increase of plus 7 to plus 10 percent in respect of other cereals. This is due mainly to larger crops in the agricultural surplus country, Argentina, and possibly also in China and India. Nevertheless, import requirements for cereals in 1981 /1982 from developing countries will increase by a further 6 million tons. This is roughly the same figure as for the Soviet Union requirements. Thanks to the above average crops in the main cereal exporting countries, it should not be difficult to meet the larger demand. However, the problem of imbalance between production and requirements in the world is increasing again and cannot merely be removed through gifts.

In view of the tense financial situation of the industrialized countries, deficit of the balance of goods and service in 1980 of \$75 000 million, in 1981 this will probably be \$60 000 million, it is more than ever necessary to help to achieve self-help.

Federal Minister Ertl in his statement before the Plenary Meeting pointed to the priority measures which are necessary to obtain a steady and lasting improvement of the world food and agricultural situation. My country, however, does not rest satisfied with the analysis, but cooperates vigorously and on a partnership basis towards achieving a better food supply of developing countries. This is done by bridging measures, such as food aid. Within the framework of the annual food aid of the European Community-amounting to 1.65 million tons of cereals- we contribute considerably. Altogether in 1980 my country gave food aid totalling DM 388 million. The Food Aid Convention concerning 7.6 million tons of cereals was extended in June 1981 for a further two years, and this was done with German support.

We support the 10 million ton target of food aid, which in 1980 had almost been achieved. Now, through the accession of new donor countries from the ranks of OPEC and the socialist countries, this target

should be ensured in a lasting way. We are presently contributing 35 000 tons of wheat to the International Emergency Food Reserve and we contribute DM 42 million to the World Food Programme.

Apart from these actions, which are intended to alleviate present food problems, the Federal Republic of Germany endeavours to give long-term support to developing countries by means of bilateral and multilateral agricultural development aid to create food security in the long run. The part of the bilateral agricultural development aid given by the Federal Republic of Germany within the framework of increasing public development aid could be increased from 13 percent or DM 615 million in 1979 to about 20 percent, or DM 948 million in 1980 and this year it should reach more than one third, that is to say, DM 1.343 billion.

Now something which is less visible but none the less effective in order to build up an efficient agriculture and food economy in many developing countries is the German participation in multilateral cooperation within the framework of the European Economic Community or in the framework of international organizations and banks. There has also been private German development aid given by churches, trade unions and associations. In 1979 this represented DM 714 million. It was increased from DM 714 million in 1979 by 7 percent DM 764 million in 1980. A considerable part is used for long-term promotion of the agricultural sector and for war on hunger in the Third World. A remarkable example are the donations of the German Committee of the FAO Freedom from Hunger Campaign, in 1980. It reached DM 25 million.

Apart from what was done at national level, considerable progress could be achieved this year in complementary measures at international level in order to improve world food security. In April 1981 FAO achieved an arrangement on a consultation procedure and possible countermeasures to be taken in the case of acute and extensive food shortages. The International Monetary Fund took a decision in May to the following effect: countries with temporarily above-average high import costs for cereals should be given financial support. This is something which may lead to greater food security in many developing countries. The conclusion of a new and effective International Wheat Agreement continues to be our target.

The third pillar of our partnership cooperation with developing countries in the agricultural sector is trade. It is known that the trade policy framework is given to us by the regulations adopted by the European Economic Community. The positive effects of the special import systems within the framework of the ACP agreement and the general preferences will be dealt with by the representative of the Community.

I should like to say only something about the agricultural imports of the Federal Republic of Germany from developing countries. Of the imports of agricultural and food commodities from third countries, roughly 45 percent or DM 9.7 billion, came from developing countries in 1980/81, excluding the OPEC countries.

A. M. S. AL NAKIB (Kuwait)(original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, allow me to add my voice to those who have expressed congratulations and pleasure on your election to chair the proceedings of Commission I.

The state of food and agriculture in the world continues to give rise to great concern on our part. Despite the forecasted increase in cereal production, because this is a very small increase it does not keep pace with overall consumption increases and population growth. This means that thousands -millions-of people are exposed to the risk of famine, hunger and undernourishment. The International Emergency Food Reserve is not entirely sufficient, nor can it be counted upon in a stable way. Thus natural disasters which have beset many countries throughout the world, for example, drought and floods, have led to crops being destroyed and to soil deterioration and all this has an adverse effect upon the third world countries, in particular the countries of Africa and certain Asian countries as well. The balance-of-payments deficit and other problems facing the developing countries have served to increase poverty and hunger in those countries.

FAO has issued warnings, the Director-General has issued warnings, concerning the over-all economic situation as a result of inflation and unemployment and the constant negative spin-off which can result therefrom. The Director-General of FAO has also asked delegates to take the necessary steps to make it possible to increase agricultural production in the developing countries and to foster agrarian reform and rural development. He issued an appeal to bring about the implementation of early warning system on an international level and to increase over-all agricultural output.

Steps must be taken in order to provide fertilizers and other essential inputs, pesticides and tractors and other agricultural equipment.

It is important to make modern technology available to improve irrigation systems, to rationalize the use of water in agricultural activities, to streamline and upgrade transportation facilities, and to halt the increasing diversification which gobbles up arable land. Soil improvement is also required, agricultural cycles must be carefully delineated, and training and extension work must be made available for the farmers. Agricultural production should be stepped up and food security enhanced, for implementing projects and ventures at regional levels, by zoning of cooperation in research, designed to increase agricultural productivity and to mitigate post-harvest losses-and of course the necessary technology must be made available to do so. Another requirement will be the building up of reserve stocks for food security purposes.

All these measures necessitate the developed countries providing adequate assistance and modern technology to the developing countries, and this should be achieved by flexible agreement. " In this way the wealthy countries can make loans available to the poorer nations which would enable them to implement their agricultural projects, which are such a vital necessity, and finance can be made available on concessional terms.

I am not overstating the case when I say that Kuwait has provided in the past, and will continue to provide, loans to its brother countries and to friendly countries, either through direct assistance or through the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development, in order to help them carry out their most important programmes.

Kuwait, as you know, is a desert country whose water resources for agriculture are in very short supply. We have been coping with our difficulties in the agricultural field, but we nonetheless import agricultural commodities. We are however endeavouring to overcome some of the obstacles to increased agricultural output by using modern agricultural technology and by assigning proper importance to innovative techniques such as vegetable harvesting in greenhouses, and we hope to be able to acquire all the necessary technology in order to step up our rather modest agricultural output, in particular in order to produce all staple foods, which we hope to be able to bring about in the near future.

Mme E. LINER-MAMMONE (Italie): M. le Président, tout d'abord je voudrais vous féliciter pour votre élection et la délégation italienne a examiné avec beaucoup d'attention le rapport préparé par le Secrétariat sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1980-1981.

L'examen de ce document représente toujours un des moments les plus importants de la Conférence et le Secrétariat, comme dans le passé, nous offre aujourd'hui une excellente quantité de données et de renseignements dans une forme très claire, mais, sous certains aspects, vraiment inquiétante, même si on considère les données un peu plus rassurantes qui se trouvent dans le Supplément à ce document.

La délégation italienne est, en ligne générale, d'accord avec les données ainsi qu'elles sont présentées et avec beaucoup des analyses fournies. Les documents commencent par affirmer que 1981 a été l'une des périodes les plus difficiles d'après la guerre. Des années consécutives de stagnation dans la production alimentaire, déjà insuffisante sur le plan mondial, ont engendré de graves difficultés à la sécurité alimentaire et cela se fait particulièrement sentir dans les pays en développement, là où les taux de croissance démographique sont encore élevés. La répartition des ressources alimentaires mondiales entre les divers pays reste encore inéquitable aussi bien qu'au sein même des pays. Par conséquent la délégation italienne appuie chaleureusement la suggestion contenue dans les documents pour que sur le plan national cette inégalité, qui frappe de façon majeure les enfants et les femmes, retienne l'attention des responsables des politiques. Nous avons entendu avec plaisir le Secrétariat nous annoncer que, pour l'année prochaine, il y aura, si j'ai bien compris, une étude spécifique sur la matière.

L'effort pour accroître la production agro-alimentaire dans le monde doit, comme il est reconnu dans le document que nous sommes en train d'examiner, se baser sur l'utilisation économique des inputs. Permettez-moi de m'arrêter un instant sur un ou deux aspects spécifiques de ce problème.

On lit dans le document C 81/2 que dans les périodes examinées les prix des engrais ont eu tendance à plafonner ou même, pour certains d'entre eux, à baisser. Cependant, en Italie la situation a été tout à fait différente. Les prix des engrais non seulement n'ont pas eu tendance à plafonner, mais pour les phosphates et, en particulier, les phosphates diammoniques, les prix enregistraient de continues variations à la hausse, ces prix étant strictement liés à la valeur du dollar des Etats-Unis. En tant

que pays producteur d'engrais, l'Italie est ouverte au Programme FAO pour l'approvisionnement et l'exportation de ces produits vers les pays en développement qui en nécessitent le plus. Mais cette disponibilité se heurte à l'augmentation constante du coût des productions et des matières premières et parmi ces dernières des phosphorites et certains produits dérivés du pétrole, matières que nos industries sont obligées d'importer pour la totalité n'ayant pas en Italie de gisements de ce genre.

Néanmoins, l'Italie a donné son adhésion au Programme FAO pour les engrais en assurant l'équivalent d'un milliard de lires en engrais pour 1981 et un montant double, toujours en équivalent d'engrais en 1982.

La délégation italienne souhaiterait que, pour l'avenir, une disponibilité accrue des matières premières, surtout des phosphorites soit assurée de la part des pays producteurs. Cela permettrait de satisfaire la demande de produits finis sur les marchés intérieurs et d'avoir une disponibilité accrue pour la fourniture aux pays moins avancés.

Une difficulté analogue à celle rencontrée dans le secteur des engrais se manifeste aussi dans le secteur des machines agricoles. En effet, même dans ce secteur on s'est heurté au niveau productif, à des obstacles découlant de la hausse des prix de production, main-d'oeuvre, matières premières, énergie. Tout de même, l'utilisation des machines agricoles reste un des secteurs où aux quels on fait recours pour accroître la production agro-alimentaire et on peut constater avec satisfaction que le parc des machines est en augmentation continue, même dans les pays en développement.

La délégation italienne est d'avis que, de l'expérience acquise par les pays à haut degré de mécanisation, l'on peut tirer la connaissance des phases typiques du processus évolutif de l'agriculture à partir du degré zéro de mécanisation jusqu'à des degrés plus élevés. On peut ainsi découvrir les interrelations entre certaines réalisations dans le domaine agricole et les différents types de machines employés de façon telle que, une fois établi un programme général des directives, conçu par degrés successifs de mécanisation, ce programme puisse être adopté par plusieurs pays.

Je voudrais terminer en disant que l'Italie, à cause de l'extrême variabilité de son territoire, de ses conditions pédoclimatiques, des types de cultures pratiquées et des structures de ces entreprises, a une large expérience dans ce domaine, expérience qu'elle met à la disposition des pays moins avancés dans un esprit de fructueuse collaboration.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): This is the first intervention of the Yugoslavian delegation in the work of the Commission at this 21st FAO Conference, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the two Vice-Chairmen, on your election. My delegation signifies its appreciation for the efforts of your government in agricultural and rural development, as well as its active policy for promoting international cooperation in food and agriculture. I am sure that your experience will greatly contribute to the success of our work.

The FAO Secretariat has prepared two excellent documents as a basis for our deliberations. In his introduction, Mr. Islam has given us more details and explanation of major findings and contributions contained in the Secretariat's documents. My delegation expresses its thanks to the FAO Secretariat and its satisfaction with FAO intelligence and analysis work, which is of great assistance to all governments of member countries in deliberation of their national policies, particularly short-term policies, in production of agricultural commodities, as well as in sectors of nutrition and trade in agricultural commodities. It represents an essential basis for the elaboration and implementation of national and international action in achieving a viable system for world food security.

My delegation generally agrees with the major findings and contributions contained in documents C 81/2 and C 81/2-Sup. I: that is why we limit our intervention on major issues which in our view require further explanation and elaboration.

First, world food and agriculture production are likely to increase in 1981 by 2.5 percent and 2.7 percent respectively, reflecting a recovery from relative stagnation in the two preceding years.

Food production in developing countries is likely to increase by 3.3 percent, the largest increase being experienced in the Far East and in Latin America. The growth rate of food production in Africa of 1.7 percent in this year and particularly low annual rates of change in food production in the last decade caused grave concern and required coordinated action by the countries themselves as well as the international community.

1. The growth in food production in developing countries is well behind the 4 percent target but it is evident in a number of countries this target has been achieved and surpassed in spite of hostile international environments such as recession in the underdeveloped world and deterioration in terms of trade in commodities of particular export interests for developing countries, and in spite of protectionism. It proves that these countries have given adequate priority to the food sector in their national distribution policies and they have applied the appropriate stimulating methods and incentives for producers together with the other policy measures. Much better results I am fully convinced could have been achieved in many of these countries if they had been supported by the international community in their efforts.

2. The acceleration in cereal production in developing countries, the performance of food production of the least developing countries and the situation in Africa particularly gave cause for serious concern. The underlying need for greater emphasis should be given to accelerating food production generally with particular priority attached to increasing production of cereals and other staple food, this should be the centre of attention of FAO in the future. This could be one of the good opportunities for the elaboration of adequate measures in the context of the international support to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition caused by inadequate growth in food production which calls for an increase of food aid for development purposes.

3. Document C 81/2 contains very useful information on the relation between trends in population growth and growth of food production. We would like to limit our comments to the expression of our agreement with the general approach and in particular with paragraph 61 of this document.

4. The use of grain as animal feed has been discussed from different points of view in many fora. The fact is in the recent past there was a considerable increase in the use of grain as animal feed in both developed and developing countries although developing countries participated with only 16 percent of the world consumption of grain for this purpose. It seems it would be unrealistic to expect any substantial change in this field particularly with this strong trend, but it seems to us there is a need for further study and research aimed at finding alternative solutions for animal feed from sources other than grain.

5. Deterioration in terms of trade in commodities of export interest of developing countries led to the erosion of the purchasing power of developing countries themselves. There are at least two negative consequences:

- I. Developing countries are compelled to reduce their imports of non-agricultural goods and the relevant improvements which inevitably will be reflected in insufficient development in food production and in the perpetration of the unsatisfactory food situation of these countries.
- II. Economies have reduced the capacity of markets in developing countries which will have a negative impact on the growth rate and stagnation on employment in developing countries.

Cooperation between developing and developed countries has to be based on a more equitable basis. Perhaps a new economic order could be applied to this field without any delay. If the international community adheres sincerely to the so many times solemnly acclaimed goals, hunger and malnutrition will decrease and development for all as a basic human right.

6. My delegation knows with satisfaction a substantial increase of official commitment for development assistance to least developed countries but, at the same time, we cannot but express our grave concern at the declining volume of food aid and reduction in value in real terms of the overall reserves flowing to developing countries. Internationally agreed targets for food and development aid we have always conceded as a minimum as the least which could and should be done by developed countries.

7. The Yugoslav Parliament adopted a long term programme of cooperation with developing countries. This programme includes a concession on loans, progress on joint ventures, an increase in volume of trade from about 20 percent this year to 30 percent of total trade in 1985. Where oil is a natural import, export has excluded the increase of multilateral and bilateral food aid. As a practical result of this policy we have substantially increased our production and the replenishment of effort we agreed with the increase in WFP target and it will correspondingly increase our pledge for the future. We hope my country will be in a position to participate in multilateral activities in the fertilizer field particularly in FAO multi-national fertilizer scheme. My Government is fully aware that responsibility for the food situation cannot be reduced to one or two countries, that is why we attach great importance to the stable growth in food production and in this field we have achieved some result in a previous period but this year we had a rather disappointing wheat production which was compensated with a substantial increase in maize consumption.

Protectionism has prevented us from achieving further results in the growth of animal production since we have lost a good part of our export market and our export earnings.

Ms. M. STRACHAN (Jamaica): The Jamaican delegation would like to congratulate the Chairman on his election to office and we would also like to congratulate the Secretariat for the document provided, and Dr. Singh for his excellent exposition. It is indeed a disappointment that one more of the FAO Conferences is being convened in an international climate where the economic and the social gap between developed and developing countries continues to widen. Whilst there has been a modest increase in food production in many countries, the prices of vital imports such as farm tools, fertilizer and other chemicals continue to escalate and put the cost of production and the prices beyond the reach of many consumers. So, whilst production has increased there have been many reported gluts, the results of these are as follows:

- (a) farmers are experiencing a reduction in income and in some cases have made a loss;
- (b) a reduction of agricultural loans continues on a very low level;
- (c) the trek of the rural population to urban areas continues;
- (d) the proposed rise in the level of nutrition required by the population is not being met.

Whilst we have been paying more for imported items the deterioration in terms of trade continues to the detriment of the developing world. We are not only being called upon to produce more crops for export in order to earn some income but also we have to expend more to produce these items. It is apparent this situation cannot be allowed to continue if we are to develop our rural economy and increase the nutritional level of the population. We must increase our level of technology/and or market systems for better distribution of food. We must develop our technology for producing local fertilizer so there can be a reduction in the importation of this item. We look to the international community to assist through FAO in the transfer of technology from the developed to the developing world.

We would also like to see an increase of funds provided for the international fertilizer scheme and for the development of improved marketing systems. Whilst we are deeply conscious of the fact that the primary responsibility for development must rest with individual countries, the international community must continue to play a major role. There must be no reduction in the flow of external resources available for investment in developing countries, rather there must be an increase of such funds. It is in this light the Jamaican delegation supports the budgetary provision of FAO for the next biennium.

W. R. D. NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka): Let me also congratulate the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen on their appointment to the latest Commission and they are assured that they will bring this Commission to a satisfactory conclusion.

The document that is before us and the excellent presentation of the document by Professor Islam high-lights the major trend in agricultural development and food production based on most of the countries as mentioned by most of the delegates, and from the remarks it is very clear that they have stressed the necessity for increasing the agricultural base for food. It is also very clear that most of the countries are making very conscious attempts to develop the systems of agriculture while supporting all the issues. My delegation also would like to stress in particular the necessity of stabilizing political bases for the food production, in fact in referring to the experience of my own country, we have particularly the forest sector that creates a certain alarm. From 44 percent of the forest cover we had, it has now come down to 22 percent due to the variety of programmes that have been launched by our country.

Therefore we would urge that special attention be focussed on the necessity for stabilizing the political base, which is the very important base of the country.

O. LUCO ECHEVERRIA (Chile) :Gracias señor Presidente. Permítame felicitarle por haber sido elegido para que dirija nuestros debates. Estamos convencidos de sus capacidades, que permitirán orientarnos adecuadamente para que esta reunión tenga los éxitos que todos esperamos.

En esta primera intervención deseo dar énfasis a un punto que para mi país es importante. Se refiere a que un aumento importante en la producción de alimentos es difícil de conseguir si no se erradican las diferentes formas de proteccionismo que están enhiendo el crecimiento del comercio agrícola

indirectamente afectando la mayor producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo. Además, impiden el aprovechamiento adecuado de las ventajas comparativas de producción, consecuencia de ecosistemas más favorables, como también de diferencias hemisféricas. Lo anterior aconseja tener un comercio internacional fluido y ágil. Si pudiésemos tener éxito en esto no sólo estableceríamos una sana competencia, sino que además la gran masa de consumidores tendría acceso como resultado a mejores productos a precios más bajos.

Mi país lleva adelante una política económica social de mercado. La aplicación de este sistema desde hace aproximadamente ocho años ha permitido un importante despegue económico a Chile. De una balanza agrícola desfavorable hemos pasado a una con saldo positivo, siendo nuestras principales exportaciones del sector la fruta, la madera y los productos del mar. Por haber tenido este éxito relativo es por lo que abogamos por un sistema de mercado abierto.

S. MURTZA (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, please permit me first to congratulate you on your election. We are confident that under your guidance we shall be able to deliberate in a congenial atmosphere and contribute towards banishing hunger and malnutrition from the globe. We congratulate the Secretariat on preparing these concise and comprehensive documents, C 81/2 and C 81/2 Supp. 1. We have studied these documents carefully. It is a matter of some satisfaction that the total picture of the world food and agricultural situation that emerges reflects some encouraging improvements in this field. But there are some other aspects, particularly in the field of nutrition, which ask us for taking concrete steps. The need for continuous effort to improve the situation in this field can not be overemphasized.

It is indeed a matter of great concern and it is time that we realized that humanity has suffered enough and that only through cooperation, concerted efforts and, above all, the will to produce more food, can there be an improvement in the food situation. Undoubtedly unless the developed countries come to the assistance of developing countries, particularly the non-oil exporting countries which are faced with the high cost of imports of agricultural inputs, imports of energy and the debt service burden, will the world be able to accelerate growth in food production. It is not that we the developing countries are not aware or conscious of the widespread recession, inflation, unemployment and monetary instability in the developed world. All we wish to emphasise is that the problems of the developing countries are even greater and therefore we have to work together.

The state of food and agriculture in Pakistan for the years 1980 and 1981 can be looked upon with satisfaction. We have been vigorously pursuing a policy of self-sufficiency in wheat, which is our staple diet. During these two years the production of major cereals, particularly wheat (and may I mention that Pakistan has suffered shortages in the past) has reached new levels. We were able to produce 10.8 million tons of wheat in 1979-1980 and increased it by 6.5 percent in 1980-81. We had favourable weather but added to it were the consistent efforts of the government in the timely and adequate availability of inputs, the supply and use of high-yielding varieties of seed, upward revision of the procurement price of wheat before sowing, and the provision of interest-free loans to small farmers. These were the major instruments of policy to help in the achievement of the record output.

We have set the target for 1981-82 at 12.2 million tons which will be slightly over our domestic requirements and we hope to build up our reserve.

As for the production of maize, it improved in 1980-81 by almost 8 percent more than the previous year. The higher target of 1 million tons has been set for 1981-82.

Similarly, the production of sugarcane increased by 16.6 percent in 1980-81 due to the increase in area and the increase per hectare yield. Sugar production thus went up and we expect to be self-sufficient in sugar production in the current year. A higher target has been set for 1981-82, indicating a 3 percent growth.

I would like to mention that although we export rice annually and produce more than our domestic requirements, yet the only cereal crop whose production did not come up to expectations in 1980-81 was rice. Production declined by almost 3 percent. The main reason for the fall in rice production in the past year can be mainly attributed to diversion of the area from a coarse to a fine variety. This has been the result of dry weather conditions at sowing time of coarse varieties which are planted earlier than fine varieties. This has caused the diversion of the area since the cultivation is considered comparatively uneconomical by the farmers due to low yields. Further, the prices of pesticides going up discourages their use and increases the pest attacks on this crop. As a result we have not been able to contribute towards easing the world food situation at an increased pace much as we would like to do.

We fully realize that we have to produce more of those food commodities in which we are self-sufficient for other food-deficit countries as well as accelerating the production of those commodities in which we are still far below the level required for domestic consumption. These are edible oils and pulses. We have been importing an average of 400 thousand metric tons of edible oils and this is likely to be 500 thousand tons in 1981-82, which is a heavy cost for our Exchequer.

Pakistan is also facing a declining trend in the production of pulses, especially due to the failure of grain crop in the last two seasons. The main reason for the decline is the non-availability of disease-free seed, especially of gram, which suffers from blight attacks. This situation has led to a price spiral and retail prices have jumped almost 400 percent in the case of pulses, which are basically the poor man's Drotein. The Government of Pakistan has tried to make concerted efforts to increase the production of newly evolved varieties of gram and other pulses to bridge the gap between supply and demand as far as possible.

The prices of milk and meat are also rising on account of the increase in population and higher demand as a consequence of rising incomes. We import 5 percent of quantum of milk produced annually and are encouraging ventures to increase the milk production and availability in our country. As for other countries, we will allow 50 percent of the increased production through joint ventures to be exported.

It has been rightly observed in the document that the use of inputs associated with capital tends to be very much biased towards the better-off farmers in the countries. This position has to be rectified, which we are doing, so that inputs are available to farmers according to their needs and, most importantly at the right time, farmers being small or large. We in Pakistan are therefore building up a system in the country to provide loans to small farmers. Interest-free loans are being disbursed to small farmers having less than 5 hectares of land, while those with less than 10 hectares are exempt from land revenue.

Different input prices are high, particularly those of fertilizers. Although prices of fertilizers in the international market have fallen since about March 1981, the Government of Pakistan still has to pay a subsidy on fertilizers although it had to be revised in February 1980, being a heavy burden on the budget, and the cost to the farmer has since gone up.

In terms of nutritional status during 1981 an average of 2,277 calories and 57.56 grammes of protein were available per capita per day as against 2,217 calories and 56.77 grammes of protein in 1979/80 which indicates an improvement in the availability of foods. However, there are wide disparities among income groups as also inter-family. Cases of 3rd degree malnutrition are also common. It is a pity that food aid has been falling short of the rising needs of low income developing countries and that shipments in 1980/81 are barely 9 million tonnes of cereal and short of the minimum target of 10 million tonnes. As recipients of food aid for refugees whose population has exceeded 2.5 million and whose influx still continues in my country we are conscious of the important role of food aid. We are grateful to the WFP particularly to the Director General of FAO for coming to our assistance to meet the food needs of refugees whom we have accepted purely on humanitarian grounds. I would request the international community to come forward with greater assistance to the afflicted people all the world over. Further effort should be made to fulfil the \$1.2 billion target applied for WFP. We firmly believe that food security can only be achieved through higher production, reduction in post harvest food losses, elimination of waste and improved grain storage. We also believe that 20 percent of total consumption requirements could be maintained as reserves, which would be around 2 million tonnes in our case. We estimate that we have only about 2.053 million metric tonnes of storage capacity whereas the requirements are about 4 million metric tonnes. We have 8 million tonnes under construction so that about 3 million metric tonnes would be available by June 1982 leaving a gap of 1 million tonnes. We need the assistance of the international community so that we can build up national food reserves and thus contribute to the world food security. May I also mention that formerly we maintained 500,000 metric tonnes in past years as food reserves which we have now raised to 1 million tonnes. May I state in conclusion that developing countries are faced with adverse balance of payments due to high prices of agricultural commodities and of manufactures that we purchase from developed countries. Trade barriers and protectionist policies have placed them in a still tighter situation along with the low prices they obtain by exporting agricultural commodities. Let us in this forum find ways and means of reducing pressures on the developing countries so that they can increase their food production and thereby reduce poverty and malnutrition, joining in the joint effort of the world community.

O. M. SELIKANE (Lesotho): I would like to join other delegates in congratulating you for being Chairman and most of all I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for producing this paper which is so clear to us and has given us a picture out of which we can deal with these affairs. I will point out paragraphs 69, 70 and 71 which clearly show the trend of affairs especially in those least developed countries to which Lesotho belongs. In consideration of the paragraphs including 78 of the document C 81/2 my delegation believes that extraordinary and drastic steps have to be taken by all developing countries even if it is at the expense of other sectors of development. Drastic steps should be undertaken to protect the land based resources. Here we refer to paragraph 111 whereby the land reform measures are essential in order to give security and proper guidance in the utilization of land. The basis for proper land use in Lesotho forms the new Land Act of 1979 which is meant to stimulate commercial production by giving individual farmers and cooperatives the required security and guidance in the use of potentially productive land. My delegation considers that conservation measures to stabilize the endangered land base are essential in order to enhance food production and improve the agricultural situation. Turning to the main document we refer to paragraph 131. We believe that extension improvement should be given a higher priority to build a main communication of individual farmers and cooperatives in order to attain individual and collective self reliance in the management and care of production resources. In order to complement the basic agricultural services programmes which are meant to strengthen extension, improve credit and marketing facilities, the government of Lesotho has initiated and embarked on the food self-sufficiency programme since 1980. This is a programme which illustrates that extraordinary measures have to be taken at national level in order to change the alarming situation of food shortages. Among the least developed countries to which Lesotho belongs we feel that the food self-sufficiency programme which was only started on 15,000 acres using the meagre financial local resources in selected areas suitable for growing basic cereals must be a major step and should be continued in our context. With some concentration of effort in providing the required technical assistance, adequate agricultural input, organising and training groups of farmers into cooperatives, the programme could show indications of success towards reaching self-sufficiency in food grains within 5 years of the criteria. It is presently expected that through such a programme imports of food grains could be reduced by about 15% during the 1981/2 growing season. Present yields of grain are in the region of 2.1 tonnes per acre which is 6 times more than in previous years. Expansion of the programme is given a high priority. We believe that nutrition is the end product of agricultural production and here we would like to refer to paragraph 82 which reveals again from the document that we are still faced with a very uneasy and unbearable state of affairs considering that we need to improve the situation and we would like to commend the secretariat for having given us revelation by producing the two documents.

J. DUBE (Swaziland): The delegation of Swaziland would like to join the other members of the delegations here to congratulate you and both your Vice-Chairmen in assuming the duties of this important commission. We also would like to take the opportunity of associating ourselves with the document that has been produced here, that is document C 81/2 and its supplement. We wish to thank the Secretariat and the Director General for producing this very vivid document which reveals to us the situation as it stands today. We are well conscious of the fact that as developing nations we are in a very precarious situation and we need to develop ourselves and to do whatever we can to try and eliminate the situation prevailing. Swaziland is a small country and it is by no means self sufficient especially in cereals. We are, however, in a position now trying to do what we can to try and improve the situation so that we can be in a position to feed everybody in the country. Swaziland is presently importing some cereals because the Swazis are unable to produce whatever they need presently. We hope that with the help of all the developing countries better developed now we would be able to be in a position to improve the situation as it stands. My government has presently embarked on a campaign to try and bring all the rural sector into production. We hope that this programme will continue although by now we are already worried that some of our friendly countries have indicated some reluctance to continue with our rural development scheme that has been our weapon to try and erase discord. We are, however, hopeful that our friends will be able to try and come to our assistance. Swaziland is able to produce all the meats that it needs presently. We are very grateful to be able to refer to this state of affairs. However, we are worried about our dairy products for not being able to be self-sufficient in this area. We are presently 75% self-sufficient in milk production and we still have to import the remaining 25%. As far as cash crops, our production is well above and we are happy to report that we are in a position to export mainly to the EEC countries. We are, however, worried that there has been no argument concluded to try to secure the future of this product. To go back to the factors that are affecting the low production of cereal-maize in this case we are very conscious of the fact that our farmers are being called upon to pay more and more for the machinery and fertilizers that are needed to produce the minimum food required and this we feel is the main factor causing the low production in cereals. We would appeal to all the members of this community that through FAO it should be possible to try to come to our rescue and help the situation. We feel that by doing so it would help to prevent or break the vicious circle that is already going on because if

the farmers are helped to produce and the production that they produce is given an equitable value we hope that this would be the only solution that the world can be at peace.

We are conscious of the fact that Swaziland is not in a state of starvation. However, we are aware that about 25 percent of the population are still malnourished. This situation needs closer attention and in this connection we also would like to express our gratitude to FAO that, through the World Food Programme, it has been able to come to our assistance in this situation.

The Government of Swaziland has also embarked on a scheme of food security. It is building some reserves in the country and thereby also trying to improve the extension, to try and persuade the farmers to produce more by improving their markets. We are also aware that the food aid that is given to us will not solve the problem of food security in the country, so we are embarking on a campaign to persuade the farmers to produce more, and also on training and extension services to try and prevent food losses.

We are hopeful that the deliberations of this meeting will be able to bring about the ways and means to help all developing countries to be self-sufficient. To this end we would like to wish this meeting good deliberations.

J. C. VALMASEDA (Cuba):Sr. Presidente y Sres. delegados, por ser ésta la primera ocasión en que la Delegación de Cuba hace uso de la palabra aprovecho la ocasión para felicitar cordialmente de manera especial al señor H. E. Joseph Tchicaya, encargado de dirigir nuestros trabajos.

Es un motivo de regocijo para nuestra delegación que un hijo de Africa ocupe tan importante lugar, ya que nos unen con su Continente lazos de vieja hermandad.

Agradecemos asimismo a la Asamblea el importante Documento que nos ofrece para su análisis, así como la elocuente y acertada presentación del mismo.

Nuestra Delegación considera que a pesar de que el Documento C 81/2-Sup. I, en lo relativo a la situación presente de la alimentación mundial revela una mejoría en términos generales, se mantiene vigente el planteamiento que aparece reflejado en el párrafo 1) del Documento C 81/2, donde se califica el período 1980-81 como uno de los más difíciles de la posguerra.

Es evidente, además, que esa situación se agrava debido a que los suministros de alimentos siguen estando desigualmente distribuidos entre los distintos países. En tal sentido, nuestra Delegación apoya el planteamiento hecho por la Secretaría en el párrafo 11) del Documento que comenzamos, en que se nos indica que es esencial mejorar el acceso de los sectores pobres a los insumos, a fin de combatir la pobreza rural.

Estimamos desde luego que es una necesidad acelerar el ritmo de crecimiento de la producción alimentaria y agrícola en general, especialmente en los países menos adelantados, así como lograr una acertada estrategia para mejorar la distribución de los alimentos, aspecto muy importante y esencial en la política de desarrollo agrícola.

El propio documento que analizamos nos señala que todavía la agricultura depende en gran medida de los efectos meteorológicos, efectos que todavía no son dominados por el hombre. Por ello, entendemos que es necesario dotar a la agricultura de medios técnicos meteorológicos más modernos, lo cual requiere más inversiones.

Debemos destacar de una manera muy especial la conveniencia de tener en cuenta como medios prioritarios en los esfuerzos a realizar para el desarrollo de la agricultura la utilización económica de insumos como fertilizantes, semillas, plaguicidas y maquinaria, así como facilitar los medios para su más eficaz empleo. Por desgracia, estos insumos tienden a concentrarse en las agriculturas más ricas.

Esta Delegación elogia la acertada atención que presta la FAO a fin de que esta situación de irritante desigualdad desaparezca, apoyando la dotación de insumos a los países en desarrollo para tratar de establecer el equilibrio necesario.

También propugna esta Delegación porque se analice la posibilidad de incrementar las ayudas por conducto del Plan Internacional de Suministros y Fertilizantes de la FAO, cuyos recursos siguen siendo limitados, lo mismo que en otros aspectos tan beneficiosos para nuestros pueblos.

Del análisis hecho en el propio documento que examinamos podemos concluir que las asignaciones oficiales de asistencia exterior a la agricultura en 1980 aumentaron en terminos absolutos alrededor del 10 por ciento con relación a 1978, y ello no es más que una falacia, ya que, aplicando los precios de 1975, significó una disminución del 4 por ciento, debido a que el incremento de recursos no contrarrestó la inflación de los precios.

Por otra parte, el comercio de productos básicos agrícolas ha tenido efectos adversos debido a la recesión de la economía mundial, especialmente en el comercio de los productos más exportados a los países en desarrollo.

Es necesario, Sr. Presidente, que se tomen medidas efectivas a fin de aliviar el deterioro de las relaciones de intercambio entre los países en desarrollo. Y es indispensable asimismo eliminar la tendencia creciente al proteccionismo, que obstaculiza el comercio de los productos en los países en desarrollo, y frena el incremento de la transferencia de recursos de la agricultura a otros sectores de los países en desarrollo.

Propugnamos nosotros el principio de reforzamiento de la cooperación internacional sobre bases honestas en la búsqueda de una armonía en las negociaciones globales para el establecimiento de un nuevo orden económico internacional, con una distribución más equitativa de los recursos de la producción mundial, ya que, en realidad, en este campo en vez de avanzarse se ha empeorado.

En nuestro país, sin estar ajenos a las dificultades meteorológicas y de experimentos con la parte de nuestro comercio que no se realiza con los países socialistas, la inestabilidad e inflación de los precios, nuestra producción agrícola y pecuaria se incrementa por años.

El Estado cubano, en orden a la infraestructura agraria, realiza grandes inversiones de capital, así como en el mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de la población rural.

Con referencia a los párrafos 60 y 62, y cuando se analizan las actuales tendencias del crecimiento de población, se reconoce a Cuba como a uno de los países en que la fecundidad general ha cambiado, e igualmente resulta evidente y positivo que la mortandad en nuestro país ha disminuido y la esperanza de vida se aproxima mucho a los niveles de los países desarrollados. Esto es el resultado de una educación general del pueblo y de una política consciente que puede servir de ejemplo a otros países.

Estimamos que es un deber de todos inculcar a los países en desarrollo la necesidad de conjugar todo un sistema educacional, político y económico, para conciliar en lo posible el crecimiento demográfico con el desarrollo de la producción de alimentos, siempre desde el principio del respeto a las decisiones individuales de la persona, en cuanto al número de descendientes, pero orientándose científicamente a la población en torno a esta problemática.

Podemos decir nosotros con cierto orgullo, Sr. Presidente, que en Cuba como resultado de la atención preferente a los distintos sectores de la economía y en particular de la agricultura, y pese al extremado bloqueo a que estamos sometidos durante más de 20 años por la potencia imperialista más poderosa del mundo, hemos logrado avances significativos en el desarrollo de nuestra agricultura.

Quisiera resaltar de manera especial que la producción azucarera en las cinco zafas del quinquenio recién terminado representó un 25 por ciento de incremento con relación al quinquenio anterior. En 1979 la zafa llegó a 7 992 000 toneladas. Fue una de las mejores de nuestra historia.

Hacemos énfasis en este tema concreto del logro de nuestra agricultura como aclaración necesaria a lo que se señala en el párrafo 32 del documento 481/2 en que se manifiesta que en 1970 Cuba experimentó pérdidas en sus plantaciones de caña, como resultado apuntamos nosotros, de los efectos de la roya que afectó la producción de ese año.

Consecuentemente con el Programa de Acción aprobado en la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, nuestra delegación reitera que, a su juicio, no se resolverán los problemas de la pobreza, el desempleo y el hambre, especialmente en la población rural, aumentando únicamente la producción agrícola si no se lucha al mismo tiempo para lograr un reparto equitativo de tierras y de recursos.

Es indispensable (así lo consideramos nosotros) atender a las necesidades de los problemas que plantean no solamente los campesinos pobres poseedores de tierra, sino también los problemas que plantean los campesinos sin tierra, los cuales pueden considerarse como pertenecientes a una escala inferior a la categoría de pequeños agricultores.

Quisiéramos terminar nuestra intervención refiriéndonos a un asunto importante: la necesidad de que el crédito agrícola se amplíe a una escala mayor que afecte con preferencia al pequeño agricultor, y que le sirva además para que pueda disponer de los medios financieros para llevar a su producción los nuevos avances tecnológicos.

Unido a esto, es importante que se promueva un desarrollo en los programas de capacitación técnica, que facilite a los agricultores la asimilación de los avances tecnológicos, en las que pudiera incluirse, llegado el caso, las empresas estatales agropecuarias.

Es de justicia destacar la labor de la FAO para el fortalecimiento de las instituciones de crédito en los países en desarrollo.

En lo que toca a la Extensión y Capacitación, nuestra delegación apoya las ideas reflejadas por la Secretaría en el párrafo 127 del documento C 81/2, y encarece la necesidad de emplear más recursos en los programas de investigación.

Este tema fue planteado por nuestra delegación, apoyado por otra, en la 16ª. Conferencia Regional para América Latina, así como en el Sexto Comité de Agricultura de la FAO.

Señor Presidente, reconocemos que la FAO está luchando de manera encomiable por la erradicación del hambre en la tierra, y todos los países representados en esta Conferencia debemos prestar la mayor atención a los múltiples problemas que asaltan a la humanidad para hacer eficaz y verdadero el principio aprobado por la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural de que la distribución equitativa y la utilización de la tierra, el agua y otros recursos productivos son factores indispensables para el desarrollo rural, la movilización de los recursos humanos y el aumento de la producción para evitar la pobreza.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec le délégué de Cuba, nous proposons, à moins que vous n'en décidiez autrement, d'arrêter là la première séance pour ce matin. Il y a encore trois inscrits, mais comme vous le savez, notre horaire de travail est ainsi établi: le matin 9 h 30 à 12 h 30; l'après-midi: 14 h 30 à 17 h 30.

Nous proposons donc la suspension de cette séance pour la reprendre à 14 h 30 précises.

The meeting rose at 12. 30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 30 horas

conference

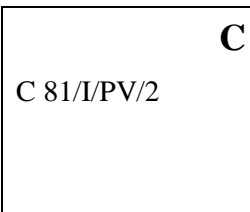
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SECOND MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE
SEGUNDA SESION

(11 November 1981)

The Second Meeting was opened at 14. 55 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55, sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 14. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACION (continuacion)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation, including:(continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment:(suite)
- 6. Situacion alimentaria y agricola en el mundo, en particular:(continuación)
- 6. 1 State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
- 6. 1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. 1 El estado de la agricultura y la alimentacion (continuacion)

PRESIDENT: Messieurs les delegues nous allons reprendre nos travaux, avec a l'ordre du jour le meme point, c'est. a-dire la "situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture".

C. O. SANCHEZ-AVALOS (Argentina): En primer termino deseo sumarme a las felicitaciones por su eleccion y también deseo felicitar al profesor Islam por su ilustrativa introducción al tema desarrollado en el documento C 81/2 y C 81/2 Sup. 1, que, por su contenido, constituye un valioso aporte de la Secretaria para la evaluación de la situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Con referencia a dichos documentos, creo importante destacar el parrafo 20 de su texto, referente a la tendencia reciente de las politicas proteccionistas. Se trata de un problema crucial para el comercio de productos agropecuarios originado en los paises desarrollados e integrantes en la Comunidad Economica Europea. Estos no solo han reducido sus importaciones, mediante reducciones arancelarias distorsionan tes de la demanda internacional, sino que también, con la aplicacion de regimenes de subsidio a la exportacion a elevados costos, han desplazado de sus mercados tradicionales a los paises en desarrollo.

En materia de ayuda alimentaria, a que se hace mencion en el parrafo 52, juzgamos oportuno recordar que la Argentina es el unico pais en desarrollo donante, dentro del marco de los compromisos de ayuda alimentaria, con un volumen establecido en 35 000 toneladas anuales. A la vez, por intermedio del Pro-grama Mundial de Alimentos, ha formulado el ofrecimiento formal de una donacion en el periodo 1981-82 de productos alimenticios por valor de 2,5 millones de dolares.

En relación con el parrafo 170 del documento que examinamos, sobre el funcionamiento de los acuerdos concertados en las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales, podemos informar en esta reunion que nuestro pais ha suscrito los acuerdos sobre carne de vacuno y las actuales tecnicas de comercio de importacion y de valoraciones en aduana se estan aplicando provisionalmente, mientras se gestiona la debida aplicacion legislativa.

En cuanto a los temas pendientes de decision en las mencionadas negociaciones, el aspecto que mas preocupa a nuestro pais es la virtual exclusion de los productos agropecuarios de la corriente de liberalizacion del comercio, al no contar en la actualidad con un regimen similar al de los productos industrializados.

Senor Presidente, para finalizar y refiriéndome brevemente a la situacion del sector agropecuario argentino, el Jefe de mi delegacion, en su exposicion de la manana de hoy en el Plenario, ha explicado con detalles la significativa evolucion de la produccion agricola y ganadera argentina, si bien conviene agregar algunos conceptos adicionales. El sector agropecuario en la Argentina tiene, sobre el resto de la economia, una influencia muy superior a la que sugiere su participacion en el producto bruto interno, el 14 por ciento, o en la ocupacion de la poblacion economica activa, un 10 por ciento, y esa importancia se deriva de su capacidad para producir alimentos a costos inferiores a los inter-nacionales, proveyendo entre el 70 e el 80 por ciento del valor de las exportaciones, permitiendo bajos costos de la alimentacion en los sectores urbanos. Esta produccion, por supuesto, historicamente ha tenido una evolucion que vale la pena comentar. Permanecio relativamente estancada durante la decada de los anos 50 y hasta la mitad de la decada de los anos 60, Crece en ese periodo a una tasa inferior a la de los requerimientos de divisas que necesitaba la economia nacional para su desarrollo. Durante el primer periodo senalado existe un relativo estancamiento para las areas cultivadas y de productividad con la practica sustitucion de agricultura por ganaderia y viceversa. A partir de mediados de la decada de los anos 60, con la incorporacion de los maices, hibridos y del sorgo, comienza un aumento de la productividad agricola, que se ve acentuado con el incremento en el area del cultivo de soja. La aparición también de nuevos metodos para el trigo y ultimamente el mayor uso de hibridos y girasol, acompahando esta mejora en la calidad de las semillas y el cambio en el uso de la tierra y de otros

factores de la producción, ha generalizado la practica de cultivos mas eficientes. El uso de nuevos productos y de cambios importantes en la tecnología de los cultivos, permite mostrar a un agricultor que maneja su explotación con el criterio de empresario, y a su vez se debe resaltar tambien el esfuerzo de otros organismos tanto de caracter gubernamental, como es el INTA, así como tambien otros organismos privados.

Así, en cifras concretas y bastante representativas, podemos, por ejemplo, senalar que la agricultura en este ultimo periodo señalado ha crecido con una tasa anual del 6,9 por ciento acumulativo en la ultima decada, mientras que la ganaderia tambien ha crecido con una tasa del 4,3 por ciento anual acumulativo en el ultimo quinquenio.

Por supuesto que estos resultados de mejoramientos en la productividad tambien han traído una incidencia en el comercio de los productos agricolas y fundamentalmente en las exportaciones. Este mayor ritmo de crecimiento trajo tambien crecimientos en las exportaciones. El valor en dolares de las exportaciones de origen agropecuario se ha multiplicado por 4,5 en los ultimos 10 años. En los ultimos 6 años han crecido a un ritmo del 15,9 por ciento anual, acumulativo, y en los ultimos 3 años a un 16,1 por ciento anual, acumulativo. Cabe destacar que este crecimiento del valor de las exportaciones coincide con un periodo de precios internacionales relativamente bajos para nuestros productos y a fines del año 1975 empiezan a caer mas los precios. Se recuperan en 1978 y 1979 y vuelven a caer en el 81.

Y con esta breve información que me he permitido aportar a los honorables delegados, quiero especial mente destacar que esta produccion creciente es produccion de alimentos. En un proximo futuro, segun lo permite prever la evolución de la poblacion mundial y de las circunstancias que vive la humanidad, ha de convertirse, sin ninguna duda, en un generoso aporte argentine para satisfacer la demanda creciente de alimentos y para poder actuar con la solidaridad que se necesita en el campo internacional.

S. HATAHET (United Arab Emirates)(Original language-Arabic): Mr. Chairman, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Committee and to thank you for the able manner in which you are directing our work. I should also like to thank Dr. Islam and express our gratitude to him for the clarity of the documents submitted on this item.

It goes without saying that most nations, and more specifically the developing ones, have included in their development projects the implementation of many programmes to provide food security for their populations and, despite the achievements of some countries in this field, a large majority of develop ing countries, more specifically the poorer ones, are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Despite the availability of natural resources which could be used by those countries, their economic progress in attaining food security is still in danger and that is why such developing countries need help to enable them to overcome the food problem, under the prevailing circumstances and taking due account of the availability of resources. This is why this international gathering is of great importance as it enables us to get the priorities in the proper order. For this reason the United Arab Emirates, have taken due account of the proposals made by the Islamic countries to improve their food production and more specifically countries suffering from low incomes and food-deficits, especially if we take into account that the food production per caput in such countries is significantly low. We also note the appeal made by the World Food Security Committee to give local and regional stocks greater priority to achieve food security. This is also confirmed by a proposal of the Director-General to increase the budget.

We also support the Programme of Work and Budget for this Organization's activities: it is a channel that enables us to provide aid and help in all its forms to developing and poor countries, disregarding political considerations.

I also wish to give a brief review of the efforts undertaken by the United Arab Emirates in the field of agricultural development. Food production has increased to a level of 13 percent per annum and within the five-year plan for 1981-85 we have achieved self-sufficiency in certain kinds of vegetables, crops, in poultry and fish production. The programmes of support provided to the production unit have enabled us to improve their efficiency. We are also cooperating with the Gulf countries to coordinate production policies with a view to improve production as well as with the Islamic countries and the Group of 77 countries. We have also increased our country's capacity, within an integrated plan, to achieve set targets and we hope that as a result of the discussions within this Committee we shall be able to pursue certain policies which will help us in fulfilling the objectives we are discussing.

W. S. NAIMOOL (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation, having listened to the speakers here and in other fora, is more than ever convinced that food sufficiency for the world's millions is within reach but that it requires international effort of much greater quality and seriousness, and more particularly greater effort of flesh and spirit on the part of individual developing countries, no matter how exacting and how painfully sustained that effort might be. In the search for this sufficiency-and I propose to move away somewhat from the familiar on the theme to the not so familiar-we must consider first, the maximum use of indigenous resources, and, secondly, the importation and cultivation in time of non-local resources for indigenous consumption.

With respect to the first point, it is well known that in several countries certain produce, vegetables and fruit, for example, notwithstanding their tastiness and nutrition, are commercially ignored to the point where they are becoming virtually extinct, being replaced by imported products or by other local products difficult to nurture and expensive to the consumer. It might therefore be useful to think internationally in terms of a return, in those countries where it has meaning, to such nutritive food material that is distinctly local and easy to produce and engage in a policy of massive production.

With respect to the second point, the practice of importing certain plants and seeds and adapting them to local use has been going on for many years but more of this should be happening, given the virtually endless list of possibilities, which should be fully explored. My delegation is aware that taste is an individual matter: de gustibus non disputandum est. But taste is acquired, and if it can be acquired, the door should not be closed to a possibly new and exciting experience in food, and I say this with no attempt to question in the slightest cultural or religious imperatives.

During my stay in South America I became enamoured of a delicious and nourishing salad made from cactus. May I repeat that word:cactus. It is well-known in Mexico and goes by the name of Nopalitus and it grows on desert or virtually desert land. I ask myself how many of us here know of this succulent plant or for that matter of the virtually endless variety of spinach, beans, fruits and vegetables that can cross borders-that have crossed borders-and flourish bountifully without demanding much water or particularly fertile land. In Trinidad and Tobago, a small island developing country of the Caribbean, we have for some time been emphasising agricultural production with an alert eye to ecological integrity. The thrust in agriculture is positive and we think dynamic and I might here say that we propose further to involve FAO in this thrust. For us in Trinidad and Tobago this move is particularly significant and we are determined to lay the foundations for the enduring goodness that comes to a nation from a solid and continuing agricultural programme. In this context, and faced with the chilling spectre of food shortages the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago emphasised its focus both at the regional, that is to say Caribbean', and national levels on the formulation and development of appropriate policies plans and programmes all with a view to increasing food production. At the regional level we have col laborated with our Caribbean brothers in the articulation of a regional food plan, the main facets and strategies of which are now being finalised for submission to regional agricultural ministers early in 1982. At the national level within the framework of an agricultural policy honed on the premise that self-sufficiency and increased food production are of the first importance, strategies have been devised for the reorganization of our sugar industry which for many decades, together with cocoa and coffee, provided the main pillars of our agricultural production. This industry, which now makes use of most of our remaining cultivable productive land will be diversified both within and outside of sugar with the accent on increasing domestic production of fruit, vegetables, cereals, legumes and live stock. I should also mention that we are energetically involved in a programme of fisheries develop ment. In support of this significant agricultural transformation both the research and development and extension education training capabilities within our Ministry of Agriculture Land and Food Produc tion are being strengthened and simultaneously nutrition programmes are being undertaken, particularly at the level of primary school children. In a word I am referring here to our school nutrition programme which is well under way. It is therefore with the greatest of disquiet, in fact with the deepest anguish, that we take note of recent trends to reduce or freeze the amount of funds available to small developing countries like ours, disadvantaged in so many ways but without any lack in that fervent determination to better our circumstances. But this cannot be done, much as we might like to do it, without the financial and human resources indispensable for the implementation of programmes. The answer must clearly be in assistance from the international community and from its institutions. My delegation wishes to stress that what its government and other Caribbean governments are attempting is being undertaken as in the case of so many others in the developing world at formidable odds. We would expect in humanity's name that the international community will not frustrate such efforts by denying small increases in the budgets of organizations such as the FAO or by decreasing assistance generally or by resorting to the punishing practice as mentioned by my colleague from Argentina of protectionism. Punishing, and sterile in the long run. Our cri de coeur, for that is what it is, must be given the attention that it, and indeed the well-being of the world, require. Let us be freed for all time of the haunting hungering eyes of children. I congratulate the FAO for the lucidity and the goodness of the documentation to which we address ourselves and you, Sir, on your being appointed our worthy Chairman.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (Original language-Arabic): My country's delegation, in the light of the analytical statements on these two precious documents, wishes to join the international community in expressing its concern at the drop in productivity in agriculture and its failure to meet consumption and the failure of food production to proceed apace with population growth. This could lead to a negative impact on the agricultural and rural development of developing countries and on the non-oil-exporting countries. This lays the greater burden on the agricultural sector not only to provide food for their populations but also to absorb the excess manpower in each country. This leads to a drop in international buffer stocks which fall below the level required for world food security. Furthermore the increase in the prices of food production and the accompanying deterioration in food levels and the nutritional levels of the low-income families is a source of concern. We also wish to express our concern at the shortage in the flow of food aid in the case of emergencies not only as failure in response but also at the lack of resources. This has led to my country's delegation to urge the international community and the United Nations family to undertake further efforts to seek to prevent this drop of productivity and of buffer stocks and to help food shortage countries to take the necessary steps to avoid such rupture of stocks, and here we wish to commend the role played by FAO in highlighting the precariousness of the present situation and its constant demand for joint efforts and its call on the international community to assume its responsibility and to avoid an international food crisis. And the best evidence of this is the World Food Day celebrated recently by this organization. My country has taken several important steps on the basis of the following reasoning that to achieve food security requires first and foremost a development in the fields of food and agriculture. We have therefore undertaken the following. First of all to increase the area of arable land and to increase our reclamation of desert lands. . We. . have also issued legislation for the appropriation of desert land in favour of individual farmers and co operatives and investment companies. We have also sought to distribute the reclaimed land to farmers and graduates from universities and agricultural institutes. We have also issued a loan which in fact provides tax relief for all companies and individuals undertaking the activity of land reclamation. We have also instituted a higher authority for reproduction, agricultural production, which establishes an investment policy for the development of the arable lands. We are currently developing an integrated plan to prevent desertification and to redistribute populations to avoid the concentration of populations on the narrow area of arable land. We are also seeking to prevent the use of agricultural land for construction purposes. Secondly we are trying to develop our agricultural policy which is aimed at the growing of short cropping seasons and varieties of short growth. We are also seeking to adopt a policy of intercropping to achieve a maximum use of the narrow area of arable land available to us. We are also undertaking joint projects with neighbourly and friendly countries to introduce the use of high yield varieties of crops and seeds in addition to providing the farmers with the necessary agricultural inputs at subsidised prices, and we also have provided tax relief, exemption to all imported agricultural inputs. We are also seeking to implement food security and to establish remunerative prices for agricultural produce. This is in addition to all other measures currently being undertaken to improve livestock through the providing of adequate fodder and to the importing of pure strains and breeds and the establishment of agricultural inter-breeding stocks. A third point deals with the rationalisation of water use and this third aspect of agricultural improvement hinges on irrigation. We have established a map of water resources in Egypt in order to reduce losses and to rationalise the use and water distribution system and to optimise the use of water for irrigation. We have also sought to improve the drainage system to retain the quality of arable land. We are currently implementing a major project to rationalise the use of water overall. The fourth point in our national policy is that in our agricultural credit system we have sought to encourage this system and to provide financial liquidity to such institutions and to reinforce their technical cadres taking due account of the need to link up between extension services and information services aimed at familiarising farmers with the latest in agricultural technology. My country welcomes what was said in paragraph 129 relating to TCDC in the field of extension services and we do hope that we shall shortly put the final touches to a plan of cooperation with the countries of Africa and the Near East countries, as is the case for certain countries of Asia. We also hope that all international moves currently undertaken shall be successful in solving the problems of agricultural production.

I. OZORAI(Hungary):First of all I take the opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this most important Commission. We are convinced that Commission I is going to do successful work under your guidance. The Hungarian delegation has carefully studied the document before us on the state of food and agriculture in 1981 and its supplement, and would like to express its appreciation to FAO for having prepared this valuable paper. We too are worried about the world food and agricultural situation and we are in full agreement with the statement of the document saying that with the continuing dependence of the world on annual harvest and the gloomy economic situation, especially in the least developed and other low-income countries, the state of food and agriculture gives cause for concern. This feeling may be only slightly alleviated by the promising news about this year's harvest. For this reason my delegation attaches high priority to increasing and improving food and agricultural production in developing countries. In our opinion, a permanent and viable solution of the food problem can only be reached by improving their own production. This process will also require, of course, external assistance and a more reasonable information and division of labour.

Hungary has been and always is ready to make our experience available to the developing countries. My Government has already given substantial support for the improvement of food and agricultural production in developing countries through bilateral and multilateral schemes. I would like to mention here as an example the recent assistance which Hungary provides, in cooperation with FAO and the UNDP, for the benefit of some developing African countries. Within the framework of this programme, agricultural cooperatives specialists from six African developing countries are trained on the structure and operation of Hungarian cooperative agricultural production. My Government is prepared and willing to extend, in cooperation with FAO, the assistance to any country interested in becoming familiar with the adaptability of the organizational and technical schemes of our agricultural and food production.

As far as aid is concerned, we fully share the opinion of all those who are sceptical about the long-term effects of aid, although I would like to draw your attention to the announcement of the head of the Hungarian delegation made yesterday to the Plenary Meeting, according to which Hungary increases by 10 percent her pledge to the World Food Programme.

I should like to put two points for your consideration. One is on agricultural investments in western lands, which seems to me to be far from satisfactory. The report for 1981 does not include a special chapter on this issue. There is some information available according to which the share of investments as a percentage of GDP has actually declined in the majority of countries facing food problems. Encouraging efforts of FAO to introduce, elaborate and follow up investment-orientated projects merely volunteer a statement that in many regions a greater financial and policy attention to agriculture in its broadest sense is still to be advocated.

Financial constraints in most countries are well known because of the reasonably expensive feeding of urban and country masses as well as special groups. We, however, feel strongly against any voluntaristic approach not taking into full account the interests of producers, mainly small ones. It is our firm belief that no over-all policy must be conceived and implemented unless it is looking upon agriculture and the producers living from it as an integral part of the national economy as a whole.

My Government considers food of strategic value and importance. Food and the policies attached to its production and distribution must be looked at by all governments and organizations as a basic guideline to their over-all policies which cannot and must not be handled as a separate chapter in their national plans and economic goals.

In spite of the somewhat gloomy picture of the state of food and agriculture in many countries, my Government is optimistic as far as long-run perspectives are concerned. We feel that mankind does have the necessary resources, land and skill to fight all food problems within the next decade or two or three decades. The history of the last twenty years in our agriculture maybe will offer some examples as to that.

I should, finally, like to say some very brief words about the state of food and agriculture in Hungary. In spite of unfavourable weather conditions, we managed to have in 1981 a slightly above the average year. It can be fairly stated that the multi-sectoral features of Hungarian agriculture have helped us in doing so. Actually, four groups are responsible for food production in Hungary: cooperative farms, state farms, household plots of farmers and agricultural labourers working in agriculture and, finally, the non agricultural population. This last group produces food in the individual garden plots, and so on, combining healthy hobbies and leisure time with a profitable activity contributing most to their living standards and to the variety of food or food marketing in the country. It is illuminating, in view of what I have just told you, that at present 14 percent of Hungary's population is living on agriculture and according to a recent statistical survey 52 percent of the population is in some way or other engaged in agricultural production.

A. B. CAWTHORN (United Kingdom): As this is my first intervention, Mr. Chairman, I would like on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation to congratulate you on your appointment to the chair. We look forward with pleasurable anticipation to working under your guidance. We would like also to congratulate Professor Islam and his staff on the preparation of the factually accurate and comprehensive documents. We are pleased to find that these working documents contain a greater degree of valuable analysis than has been presented at recent conferences. We cannot accept all the conclusions without some comment and we are particularly perturbed by the somewhat excessively gloomy global picture of world food security, which does not conform to our views, particularly in the light of the excellent forecast for the 1981-82 cereals harvest. Indeed, the supplementary document provided gives us statistics which encourage us in our view that the situation is not as bleak as was at first anticipated and as first painted.

It is also pleasing to note that recognition is given in the working papers to the view, now more and more frequently expressed, that the only real and lasting guarantee of adequate food security is heavily dependent on the less developed countries' improved industrial-agricultural production base.

But, having accepted that the position of world stocks is showing some improvement, we must none of us lose sight of the fact that continuing problems lie in the uneven distribution of available supplies and there are serious problems facing those countries which must tackle the storage and distribution aspects. If adequate facilities and political foresight and action are not present the hungry will continue to suffer in localized regions of the hinterland, whatever the state of the world food situation. The general decline in production outlined in paragraphs 23 to 29, is alarming, not least the situation in Eastern Europe and the USSR, and we would welcome the Secretariat's views on production and failure in those regions which have affected the world grain trade situation, since it seems to us clear that they must bear a large proportion of the blame for many of the price and trade problems which have arisen in recent years.

Clearly, Eastern Europe and the USSR have not done as well as most developing countries, consequently they compete for food grains and other food resources that are also badly needed by the developing world. With demand from Eastern Europe and the USSR for surplus Canadian and American grain, it is possibly not surprising that strategic or emergency food reserves cannot come to the anticipated or expected targets.

The decline in production is also alarming in the context of population growth, which is covered in section III. Despite the resources allocated to food production throughout the world, one notices from paragraph 41 that little impact is being made and that we are in fact running on the spot-indeed, even moving slowly backwards in some regions of which Africa is the supreme example.

In relation to the recent cereal harvests, attention is drawn to the fact that the world end-year stocks have been run down to about 14 percent of consumption, which gives little scope for surviving disasters. It seems to us that given the level of population growth and the trend towards greater cereal consumption, either directly or indirectly as meat, that the world cereal harvest has to be breaking new records each year in order to keep pace with potential demand. The short-term position has improved, but in the long term if the developing countries' potential demand for grain could be backed up by the ability to pay for the grain, then there would be a major increase in world trade. As Mrs. Gandhi pointed out yesterday in the Mac Dougall Memorial Lecture, countries will only increase production if more domestic resources are directed towards cereal production, and it must be recognized that this will come about as a result of higher prices.

There are a number of references to population throughout the paper but there are two general issues to which we would draw attention. The first is that agricultural planners and policy makers assume that population growth is an exogenous factor, even though some recognize that their actions may influence it. If there is to be real progress in feeding the world's population, planners and policy makers must take this factor fully into account. This should not be overlooked by the Conference.

Agricultural projects are one case, and one of the most obvious examples, where this can effectively be done. FAO should consider the best ways to incorporate population factors into the planning/design and implementation of agricultural efforts. The primary purpose being to make a significant impact on the nutritional status of developing world population.

The second important point that we would make is that population problems are not confined to the problems of growth alone. There are also problems of size, distribution, movement and structure. These problems are severe for many developing countries, but it is increasingly being recognized that the implications of population problems are a matter of international concern.

If I may, I should like to turn to the section on nutrition, and I regret that I must speak at some length and somewhat critically. I do so mainly in response, to comments made by other delegates this morning. I have to say that we are not happy with the way that it is generally presumed in this and similar documents that we are faced with a generally worsening nutritional situation. Paragraph 10 simply asserts that "the nutritional status of the developing world population does not yet indicate any major progress in reducing the incidence of under-nourishment". We simply do not know on what evidence this is based. The Fourth World Food Survey in 1977 tried for the first time to present direct nutritional status data, of children only, on a country and regional basis. It was very incomplete and could hardly be claimed to represent the status of the developing world population. As far as we know, we have even less evidence on which to assess trends. What paragraph 10 seems to be designed to establish is that although the production figures show modest improvements we should not assume that under-nourishment is any less. Perhaps it is not, but the point is that we do not really know. Of course we ought to know, and we believe that we should use every possible occasion to press for more effective collection of data on the actual condition of populations in order to find out.

The problem is made even worse in Section III, which attempts to address the long-run trends in consumption. It is generally accepted, except fairly obviously within FAO, that balance sheet estimates of supplies are not reliable indicators of consumption and, of course, they give no indication of distribution. The statement in paragraph 79 should therefore be challenged: "The 78th Session of Council may have urged the increasing use of FAO food balance sheet data for monitoring the nutrition situation," however, this approach was heavily criticized at this year's COAG meeting. Elsewhere, it is admitted particularly in paragraphs 90 to 93, that nutritional problems arrive through maldistribution over space or through time, and that changes in aggregate supplies can tell us little or nothing about that.

The final absurdity of believing in food balance sheets as a measure of consumption and nutritional states is illustrated by paragraph 86, which incorrectly states that calorie intake-presumably for the rich countries-increase and eventually exceed requirements and so lead to obesity. This is not so. Actual household level consumption of calories in the United Kingdom, for example, have declined slightly over the past forty years, whilst the food balance sheet supply has increased. The excess of supply over consumption is now about 25%. In any case, there is no evidence that obesity is simply related to intake in the way that the paragraph suggests.

There is a section here on child nutrition, and the problem with this section is not so much that it is inaccurate-although I must confess we find it very confusing. The real problem with this section is that it fails to identify ways in which connections can be made between the development of agriculture based communities and child malnutrition. The polemic about artificial as against breast-feeding hardly addresses a major area of FAO concern in our view.

What needs to be emphasized here are firstly the environmental components. FAO and agricultural development generally needs to extend its responsibility for resource development, mainly regarding water and fuel, to ensure the improvement and maintenance of the safety of the domestic environment. Water-associated disease and inadequate standards of domestic food storage and preparation are a major if not the major underlying cause of child malnutrition.

Secondly, child care and the economising of the peasant household pattern of land use and labour inputs by a peasant family exert an obvious influence on the availability of time and domestic resources available for child care and running the domestic economy. These factors, as well as those previously mentioned constitute major but neglected aspects of the effects of agricultural change on human welfare. Besides the direct effects of policy, these comments have major implications for FAO in relation to support for the extension by member countries of their regular series of agricultural statistics and data services to include nutritional surveillance, and the inclusion of these wider aspects of nutrition in training in agriculture at all level, but especially, in project planning and extension training.

Finally, a brief point on the terms of trade and prices of agricultural commodities. Paragraph 158 refers to "many agricultural commodities whose prices in real terms have declined". One of the problems in analysing statements of this kind is that it is not clear whether it refers to price per unit of output-for example per ton-or whether it refers to net margins. More usually it is a straight forward division of export value divided by quantity, but this is a very crude measure of profitability. For many agricultural products there have been increases in productivity due to higher yielding varieties etc. As a result producers can still have favourable net margins even when the unit price falls. We would therefore query the basis of this statement.

K. HAMADA (Japan):First of all I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, on your nomination to Chairmanship of this important Committee. And my delegation also appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat led by Dr. Islam in the preparation of the elaborated paper C 81/2 and C 81/2-Sup. I Now, let me make a brief comment on this agenda item, "The state of Food and Agriculture 1981".

According to the paper distributed to us, the world food and agriculture production in 1981 has remarkably improved after the poor harvests both in 1979 and 1980. I am really glad to hear that. However, I noted with interest that in spite of production increase, the world cereals stock still remains at an uncomfortable level due to consumption increase.

As you may be aware, Japan is one of the largest importers of food and agricultural commodities. For example, nearly 70 per cent of the total cereal consumption of Japan depends on supply from overseas. Therefore, we are always concerned with the world food and agriculture situation.

The document also mentioned that production in the developing countries, as a whole, had generally improved in recent years. It is my belief that this increase in production has been brought about by the untiring effort of farmers in the developing countries, in addition to the favourable weather condition. But we have to keep in mind that some low income countries in Asia and Africa are suffering from keen food shortage, leaving hundreds of thousand of people in hunger and malnutrition. "Free from hunger" is one of the basic human needs. We must get together to save those people.

Japan is extending our cooperation in financing and technology to these countries which endeavour to increase food and agriculture production. In this connection, as the head of the Japanese delegation stated at yesterday's plenary session, Japan has set a new medium-term target for Official Development Assistance last January, despite severe fiscal constraints it faces. Under this newly set target the Government of Japan will make efforts to more than double the total ODA distributed in the latter five years of the 70s namely, approximately 10,7 billion.

For this purpose, the Government of Japan will firstly, aim at more than doubling the aggregate national budget related to Official Development Assistance allocated in the latter five years of the 70s, in the first five years of the 80s; secondly, endeavour to increase positively in its official loans; thirdly, respond positively to the request for capital subscription and so forth to be made by inter national development financial institutions.

The Government of Japan intends to continue to expand its Official Development Assistance in a positive manner on the basis of this newly set target.

In proceeding economic cooperation, the Government of Japan intends to place priority on rural and agricultural development. We consider that rural development should be promoted in order to increase food and agriculture production in the developing countries. For this purpose, integrated rural development schemes are to be set up, with special reference to improving the social and economic status of landless labourers and tiny-scale and poor farmers. Regarding this, I would like to say to the FAO people that we appreciate their activities to solve world food and agriculture problems. We consider that it is prerequisite to identify and clarify where the problems exist before tackling them.

In this sense, Japan requests the FAO Secretariat to place special emphasis on information and analysis programmes. We can do nothing without timely, adequate and reliable information on and analysis of the world food and agriculture problems.

Finally, I would like to say again that higher priority should be given to the FAO information systems.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): Please accept the congratulations of the Nigerian delegation, Mr. Chairman, on your appointment to the prestigious post of Chairman of this Commission. My delegation would like to comment briefly on "The State of Food and Agriculture".

The Secretariat document C 81/2 is a very comprehensive and objective assessment of the world food situation. The document affirms that certain regions of the developing world have had modest food production increases, while the African region has had very marginal growth rates when matched with population increase. The improvements observed in parts of Asia and Latin America are not unconnected with the concentration of international efforts in these regions some ten to fifteen years ago. The shift of focus in Africa is therefore very welcome, and it is hoped that a combination of national and excellent technical and financial resources will soon place many African countries on the path to recovery.

My delegation would like to suggest that in the effort to make the African region self-sufficient in food more emphasis must be placed on the following elements: intensification of research with a view to improving local production technologies, which have not experienced any notable changes over several decades; drastic improvements in the extension services through staff training and provision of recruitment and logistical support; intensification of efforts to implement action programmes on rural development, particularly the development of rural infrastructures; articulation of incentive policies and programmes to motivate investment by small, medium and large-scale farmers.

All these call for the devotion of more internal resources to agriculture. At the international level, emphasis must shift in the production of the systems to help developing nations to produce their own food, unless on direct food aid.

Secondly, their earnings from agricultural export production must increase through the stabilization of prices and removal of all tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. There must be a healthy relation ship between the export price of farm produce and the cost of imported inputs to agricultural production.

The situation in which the price of export crops dropped by as much as 50 percent within a period of twelve calendar months can only have disastrous consequences on the economies of the nations concerned. Paragraph 159 of the document under consideration is a sad reflection on the present system of international agricultural trade.

This organization must therefore continue to fight for the farmers of the developing world if the world food and agricultural situation is ever to improve.

S. POHORYLES (Israel): First of all I would like to express our congratulations to the Chairman and to the Vice-Chairmen and to Professor Islam's excellent heterogeneous statement. According to FAO classification the three main features of less favoured areas are limited length possibilities, in fact, in length combined with declining or low based agricultural population and specific handicaps necessitating conservation or preservation methods. The arid and semi-arid type of less favoured areas contribute a multiplicity of all defining criteria and is affected by their ecological, physical, and demographical and economical aspects. Maybe the Israeli case of arid development can surface examples of less favoured area transformations. Thereby natural organic constraints in fact in length and water shortage can be overcome by comprehensive planning technology and organizational and administrative adjustments. The average geographical rate of growth which means the average real rate of growth in one generation, it means statistically 25 years is 10 percent, or it means twelve-fold growth during 25 years in arid and very unfavourably arid and partly semi-arid conditions.

I should like to present a few directions of research and practices which have been established during the last two years which may be of interest for countries with similar ecosystems. Israel has improved its original plant reproduction material which brought about a revolution by constantly increasing the plant's resistance to both leaf disease such as sectoria and teraste. We have achieved grain varieties which yield us as high as 1.25 kilogrammes per cubic meter of rain water or 6.5 or 7 tons per hectare in semi-arid regions and up to 3 tons per hectare in arid regions. In arid regions with rainfall not above 250-300 mm it became clear that planting at intervals of 30, 40, 45 cm is preferable to planting at 15 cm intervals. In the longer interval method yields were up 50 percent without any additional irrigation.

This discovered wheat varieties which increased the growth of wheat as well as varieties available to the growth resisting and resisting improved seeds. Some of the newly discovered varieties are adaptable for higher protein content up to 22-23 percent and have been approved by the Wiseman Institute.

We consider that the cultivation of the wheat varieties into high yielding wheat will considerably raise yields of some wheats and those genetic improvements could be transferred to other countries.

Israel has a fine world record in growing potatoes in hot climates throughout four seasons of the year as well as preparing local seed for the second planting season. Interesting experiments are being carried out also in the preparation of plant reproduction material for frog tissues. Those achievements were demonstrated in the '81 congress for growing potatoes in hot countries. It was visited by researchers and farmers from over 30 countries. It has been proved beyond any doubt that high yield of potatoes can be achieved in hot countries. Interesting experiments are under way also in the goats sub-branch by crossing desert goats with the wild ibex. A new breed of goats was developed. This new goat was adjusted to desert regions and produced plenty of meat.

In recent years interesting experiments have been carried out in cultivating water plants and algae in saline water in which the initial results are quite surprising. The eucalyptus variety yielded twice as much biomass as ordinary varieties and can surface a source of energy in developing countries. Interesting results have been achieved in the use of saline water; they managed to develop irrigation systems adjusted to high yielding varieties in a number of field crops and vegetables like specific desert crops.

AMIDJONG MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): First of all I would like on behalf of the delegation of Indonesia to congratulate the Chairman on his election to this very important committee. I wish also to express my delegation's appreciation to the Secretariat for the high quality of the document under discussion and the introduction given by Dr. Islam which gives us a clear and (comprehensive picture of the world food situation and agriculture.

My delegation on the report of the Director-General on the State of Food and Agriculture in 1981 would like to make a few comments, but I will confine myself to a few points. I think we have noted that there are improvements in food and agriculture development and some encouraging indications for the '81 crops mainly on seed and grain. The world food situation remains uncertain and there is no assurance for achieving food security particularly in developing countries in the very near future. This world wide noting that the solution to the food security problem is increasing production in low-income countries and those which have a potential for food and agricultural production, through both the efforts of unification programmes as well as area expansion programmes wherever appropriate and in putting utilization in appropriate quantity and suitable time, and provision for incentive policy to the farmers, appropriate management and extension using such improved stolid facilities and access to market facilities and distribution. It might be worthwhile to inform you what has been done in my country, in Indonesia, for the information of the committee; the Indonesian delegation would like to inform you that under the third five-year development programme agriculture remained the highest priority of the country's development policy. Since the first period of its five-year development plan, food production has been progressing significantly with an average annual increase of 4 percent. More importantly, in 1980, we have been able to achieve an extraordinary record of production, 20 million tons of milled rice compared with that of 17 million tons in 1977/79, or 13.3 percent increase. The 1981 rice production is expected to exceed 21.5 million tons. This was the result of our serious development effort through: firstly, rice production programmes with the intervention of output such as improved variety of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and the provision of credit facilities and other incentives to encourage farmers to accelerate productivity; secondly, area expansion through the paddy field formation and trans-irrigation programme; thirdly, effective extension of approach of motivated self-improvement and full participation of farmers in food production programmes in addition to conventional extension methods, such as training and visiting broadcasting services and others. The weather conditions helped us in our efforts in achieving our aims in developing self-sufficiency in food.

A substantial increase has also been obtained on corn production by 11.4 percent in 1980 and peanuts 12 percent in the same year.

The production of meat, eggs and milk has been progressing significantly with respective increases of 4 percent, 5.2 percent, and 8.6 percent in 1980, in comparison with preceding years. Similarly, production both marine and pesceray has increased by 6.3 percent and 2.1 percent respectively in 1980 compared with 1979 production. In the case of increasing food in the low-income countries due to its important food production it would remain an essential undertaking to ensure the World Food Programme.

A substantial increase has also been achieved on current production by 11.8 percent: in 1980 and peanuts 12 percent in the same year. The production of meat, eggs and milk has been progressing particularly with an increase of 4 percent, 5.2 percent and 8.6 percent in 1980 in comparison with the preceding year. Similarly on fishery production, both marine and inland fisheries have increased by 6.3 percent and 2.1 percent in 1980 compared with the 1979 production.

The Indonesian delegation therefore extends its appreciation to the IMF for the action taken in the implementation of FAO Conference Resolution 3/79 with regard to the provision of additional balance of payments to meet the increase in the food income bills of low-income countries due to the food shortage and rising prices.

We would also like to confirm once again our endorsement of the target level of ten million pounds of food aid as well as five hundred thousand pounds for food grain in the 1974 World Food Conference. In this context the Indonesian delegation expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for his efforts to mobilize increased assistance. We appeal to developed food surplus countries to increase their contributions to meet the target.

The Indonesian delegation fully supports the opinion involving food aid provision from developing countries other than recipients and even from local supplies. As far as food aid is concerned, the Indonesian delegation would like to suggest that assistance should only be given to the most severe cases. Further assistance should be directed towards the implementation of social activities to enable countries to achieve self-reliance and a self-reliant approach.

A. IRAQUI (Maroc): Permettez-moi, M. le President, de vous faire part des impressions que m'inspire la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde a la lumiere de l'etude du document C 81/2 qui s'y rapporte. Au cours de ces dernieres annees, nous avons assiste a plusieurs rencontres internationales touchant directement ou indirectement le domaine agricole. Toutes ces rencontres aboutissent a. des prises de position courageuses, a. des plans d'action, des strategies

visant la protection de notre monde contre la faim et la misère et demandant pour ce faire la mobilisation et l'orientation vers le secteur agricole d'une nouvelle et importante ressource humaine et financière. Malheureusement, la situation mondiale de l'alimentation s'aggrave. L'économie mondiale elle-même subit une récession généralisée et les années 1980-1981 sont considérées comme l'une des périodes les plus difficiles de l'après-guerre.

En effet, la production alimentaire stagne. Les stocks céréaliers s'amenuisent; les crises alimentaires augmentent, la part de l'agriculture dans le commerce mondial des marchandises diminue. Au niveau des pays en développement la situation alimentaire est préoccupante. Le besoin d'importation des produits vivriers augmente. La dette à moyen terme des pays en développement a quadruplé pour atteindre 300 milliards de dollars, et leurs échanges se dégradent.

En ce qui concerne l'Afrique, la situation est véritablement alarmante. La production alimentaire par tête d'habitant a diminué de 10 pour cent par rapport aux années soixante. Les disponibilités énergétiques diminuent et ne représentent que 80 pour cent des besoins alors que ces mêmes disponibilités dépassent 30 pour cent dans certains pays riches. L'explication de cette situation peut être recherchée dans les conditions climatiques défavorables de ces dernières années puisque sécheresse et inondations sévissent en Afrique et en Asie. Elle peut être recherchée également dans l'explosion démographique qui a vu la population mondiale atteindre 4 milliards et demi d'habitants en 1980. Elle peut être également recherchée dans le tarissement des ressources mondiales en terres et en eaux. On peut également imputer dans une certaine mesure la gravité de cette situation alimentaire aux pays en développement eux-mêmes parce que certains d'entre eux n'ont pas accordé la priorité voulue dans leurs plans de développement au secteur agricole. Mais au-delà de ces raisons, l'essence du problème réside à notre avis dans le maintien des relations économiques internationales profondément injustes et irrationnelles. Je n'en veux comme preuve que l'usage des aliments comme instruments de pression politique, de blocage des négociations sous le nouvel ordre économique, la montée du protectionnisme appliqué contre les produits alimentaires à l'exportation des pays en développement ce qui réduit le volume du commerce mondial, entraîne une dépréciation des cours et empêche les pays en développement de valoriser leur production. Il y a également la tendance à favoriser l'aide bilatérale au détriment de l'aide multilatérale, le non respect des engagements pris en vue de consacrer 0,7 pour cent du PNB des pays industrialisés à l'aide au développement.

Si l'élimination de la faim dans les pays en développement dépend en premier lieu de leur volonté politique comme on se plaît à le répéter, il n'empêche que la façon de sortir de cette situation qui a la longue se répercutera inéluctablement sur les pays industrialisés eux-mêmes, réside à notre avis dans une refonte des relations économiques et sociales internationales permettant l'utilisation judicieuse des ressources disponibles dans le monde.

Ceci est d'autant plus vrai que de l'avis général, les disponibilités alimentaires actuelles suffisent à satisfaire les besoins minima de la population du monde et c'est l'équilibre dans la répartition géographique et économique de ces disponibilités qui fait défaut.

Il est clair qu'à travers cette situation se profile pernicieusement le danger d'une crise alimentaire plus aiguë que celle des années 1970 et il est déconcertant de constater qu'on persiste à vouloir rester au stade de la prise de conscience des problèmes d'alimentation, de la mise en œuvre des structures de réflexion au moment où ces indicateurs reflètent l'inexorable dégradation de la situation alimentaire dans le monde et au moment où les perspectives à l'horizon 2000 s'annoncent sombres, puisque si les mêmes tendances de la production alimentaire persistaient le déficit céréalière dépasserait 130 millions de tonnes et le nombre des pays sous-alimentés se situerait autour de 650 millions d'individus. La restructuration des relations économiques internationales et du secteur alimentaire en particulier nous paraît non seulement indispensable mais vitale. Cette restructuration du secteur alimentaire nécessite l'accroissement de la production alimentaire des pays en développement à un rythme annuel de quatre pour cent durant la décennie 1980, la mobilisation des ressources financières et techniques accrue, l'affectation par les pays développés et ceux qui sont en mesure de le faire de 0,7 pour cent de leur PNB à l'aide au développement et enfin le renforcement du cadre international de sécurité alimentaire par les améliorations nécessaires du commerce mondial des produits alimentaires. C'est au prix de ces efforts, de cette volonté, qu'on peut espérer lutter contre la faim dans le monde.

T. DIARRA (Mali): Je profite de l'occasion que vous m'offrez pour vous adresser toutes les félicitations de la délégation malienne pour votre élection à la présidence de cette première Commission. Je reste convaincu que votre expérience permettra à la Commission d'aboutir à des résultats positifs. La délégation malienne, après avoir pris connaissance du rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, ainsi que de son supplément est parfaitement d'accord avec ce qui a été dit par l'auteur.

La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture continue de susciter beaucoup d'inquiétude à l'échelle internationale suite au déséquilibre entre la production d'une part et la consommation et la croissance démographique d'autre part. Cette situation est beaucoup plus critique dans les pays en voie de développement et plus particulièrement dans les pays du Sahel dont fait partie le Mali qui, depuis plus d'une décennie, souffrent d'une sécheresse endémique dont les retombées se traduisent principalement par un déficit vivrier permanent.

C'est pourquoi la délégation malienne estime que d'énormes efforts doivent être déployés en faveur de ces pays pour maîtriser davantage leurs conditions de production et particulièrement accéder aux facteurs de production à des prix abordables.

Parallèlement, conformément au paragraphe 45 du rapport C 81/2 au paragraphe 39 du rapport C 81/2 Supplément 1, la délégation malienne estime que des efforts supplémentaires doivent être faits par la communauté internationale pour augmenter l'aide alimentaire à destination des populations affamées de cette région du continent.

Depuis quelques années, mon pays a donné la priorité à la production vivrière afin d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire à travers des structures d'intervention spécifiques appelées opérations de développement rural et de participer ainsi à la sécurité dans le monde alimentaire.

Toutefois, compte tenu de l'augmentation sans cesse croissante du prix des intrants et des équipements de l'enclavement de notre pays et de l'instabilité des prix sur le marché international, nos efforts de développement restent le plus souvent compromis. Nous souhaitons vivement l'accroissement de l'aide de la communauté internationale dans notre pays afin que notre participation à la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition soit davantage effective.

J. B. JACKMAN (New Zealand) : The New Zealand delegation congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission. We also appreciate the clear, concise presentation of Dr. Islam.

The objective we all strive for is to improve the welfare of people with a particular focus on the nutritional component of human welfare. It is very clear from the FAO analysis of trends that the primary requirement is to increase food production. Without product all efforts to build buffer stocks or to improve the distribution of food will come to nothing.

In our observation farmers are closely attuned to the environment, economic and social, in which they operate. This environment has a national and an international dimension. Planners tend to focus attention on the quantity or quality of the resources which farmers use, in other words the land, building, machines, fertilizers, livestock and plant species. We must not overlook the less obvious factors particularly the way the producers manage those resources which are available to them. Within farming communities there is a wide range of output per hectare among individual producers who have essentially the same resources of soil and climate to work with. As a country which specializes in low input farming systems we can confirm that productivity can be increased significantly by attention to management even where inputs remain low.

Farmers are highly influenced by the risks of new technology as they perceive them. More intensive production systems undoubtedly increase the quantity produced and may be more profitable but farmers also take account of risks and this factor may explain the slow rates of adoption of intensive techniques. Unstable product prices also raise the risk of adopting more intensive production systems and those countries like New Zealand who are dependent on international trade are deeply conscious of this source of uncertainty which inhibits producer's decisions to invest for greater production.

Similar remarks also apply to land tenure. To recoup productive investments farmers need secure tenure of their land. At the same time it may be desirable to encourage land transfers from the older generations to younger ones.

Agricultural technologists in my country see many opportunities to improve productivity. Let us continue to press for the development of appropriate technology, for increasing capital resources for the farming sector, for improved management at the farm level and for measures designed to increase farmer confidence to accept the risks of adopting new methods.

LA XUAN DINH (Viet Nam) : Permettez-moi de vous adresser mes félicitations à vous M. le Président ainsi qu'à M. le Vice-Président pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission.

Je remercie M. Islam de la présentation claire et succincte de la situation agricole et alimentaire et des problèmes qui en découlent. Je suis d'accord qu'il faut souligner que la situation alimentaire reste loin d'être satisfaisante surtout quand on l'examine sous l'angle du rapport production/démographie et sous l'angle nutrition,

Certes, les pays en développement pris dans l'ensemble ont appliqué les politiques de développement adéquates et ont recueilli des progrès qu'il ne faut pas minimiser.

Cependant, le manque de bases matérielles et techniques les empêche de parer d'une part avec succès aux calamités atmosphériques qui ne cessent de dévaster les cultures et d'autre part, d'exploiter les potentialités latentes principalement en terre et en force humaine. Dans notre pays par exemple, nous avons déployé de nombreux efforts pour le redressement de l'économie après-guerre, pour l'augmentation de l'infrastructure matérielle et technique, pour la formation de la masse paysanne et des cadres techniques en les initiant à la technique avancée dans l'agriculture, la foresterie et les pêches. Nous avons aussi pris des mesures pour l'amélioration de la gestion de l'économie agricole tant dans le secteur collectif que privé.

Tout en nous basant principalement sur nos propres efforts, nous avons accueilli l'assistance et la coopération des pays frères et amis, ainsi que des organisations internationales parmi lesquelles il nous faut citer la FAO.

Toutefois, tous ces efforts conjugués ne nous permettent pas encore d'arriver à l'autosuffisance. Cette année-ci, des typhons successifs et des vagues d'insectes ont causé des dégâts notables à nos récoltes de riz de sorte que l'objectif que nous avons fixé pour 1981 risque de ne pas être atteint.

En ce qui concerne l'aide extérieure, d'après nous, cette aide doit s'accroître et venir seconder efficacement les efforts personnels des pays en développement; elle doit revêtir plusieurs formes : l'aide alimentaire pour remédier aux cas des pénuries d'urgence et surtout pour soutenir les projets de développement, l'aide sous forme d'intrants-engrais et pesticides etc. -très nécessaire pour l'intensification des cultures, et enfin l'aide sous forme de crédit à des conditions avantageuses.

Nous nous rallions à la suggestion inscrite au par. 148 du document C 81/2 qui stipule ". . . qu'il faut non seulement accroître le volume de l'aide aux pays les moins avancés, mais également en adapter les procédures et les modalités aux capacités administratives techniques et financières des pays récipiendaires".

Nous voudrions ajouter une autre idée; que l'aide extérieure au développement ne doit pas être subordonnée aux considérations politiques, en particulier l'aide alimentaire ne doit pas être utilisée comme une arme pour des pressions politiques comme l'a souligné M. le Ministre de l'agriculture de la Hongrie dans sa déclaration à la plénière et comme des délégués l'ont déclaré à cette commission avant moi.

F. MARTINEZ GOMEZ (Mexico): Nuestra delegación desea felicitarle a usted y a los Vicepresidentes por su elección en esta Comisión.

Señor Presidente: el análisis de los resultados de la producción que realiza la FAO permite observar que la tasa de crecimiento de la producción mundial de alimentos agrícolas en el período 1976-80, ha sido considerablemente menor que en el período 1971-75. La situación es aún más preocupante en el caso de los cereales, que constituyen la base de la alimentación en la mayoría de los países en desarrollo. El crecimiento de la producción de cereales en los países de economía de mercado en desarrollo, señala la FAO, fue de 5,8 por ciento en 1966-70 y pasó solo del 2,2 por ciento en 1976-80, lo que trajo como consecuencia que las importaciones netas de cereales se duplicaran entre 1966-68 y 1977-79, pasando de 23,4 a 50,1 millones de toneladas.

El sector agrícola se ha visto desactivado a nivel mundial, a pesar de la existencia de millones de seres malnutridos y con hambruna. Esta tendencia en la producción no ha sido identificada recientemente, pero sin embargo las medidas tomadas no han modificado sensiblemente esta tendencia; por el contrario, la situación parece agravarse en los países menos adelantados.

Señor Presidente: Es grave perder de vista el fondo del problema, ubicándose en acciones que muy marginalmente le dan solución, y más bien parece tratar de ir encaminado a tranquilizar inquietudes. El problema común señalado para todos los países en desarrollo, parece, a nuestro juicio, tener en muchos casos las mismas causas. Sin lugar a dudas, las relaciones de precios de los alimentos con respecto a los precios de los insumos y a los precios de productos no alimenticios tanto en el interior como en el exterior, constituyen factores importantes, sobre todo en estos últimos años en que el desajuste monetario y la inflación han alterado la economía, desactivando en muchos casos la producción de básicos alimentarios. La modificación en el coste del capital y los cambios monetarios están decididos en gran medida por los países más poderosos económicamente en función de sus intereses. Este tipo de circunstancias afecta al nivel de la producción mundial de alimentos. La necesidad de establecer un nuevo orden económico internacional es cada vez más necesario. Los países deben tener muy en cuenta las relaciones de precios, de tal forma que el productor tenga incentivos para producir alimentos y poder tener los países la oportunidad de lograr la autosuficiencia y asegurar así su soberanía nacional.

El proceso agroindustrial y comercial de los alimentos incrementa su importancia relativa sobre la producción agrícola, de tal forma que será un proceso de dependencia generada por el tamaño y poderío de las empresas agroindustriales y comerciales. A este respecto, el desarrollo de las empresas trans-nacionales requiere ser analizado. Algunas estimaciones de UNIDO indican que para 1985 las corporaciones líderes concentrarían el 58 por ciento de la producción mundial, y que para el año 2000 su control podría alcanzar el 72 por ciento de la producción de alimentos.

Para conocer objetivamente las tendencias a largo plazo del desarrollo alimentario y agrícola es necesario analizar más detenidamente las relaciones de precios y el efecto que las grandes empresas agroindustriales y comerciales tienen sobre el volumen de la producción mundial. La participación de los países en desarrollo en el comercio mundial continúa su tendencia descendente, lo cual es una muestra de las políticas mundiales y nacionales que han generado la desactivación de la producción de alimentos básicos en los países en desarrollo.

Evidentemente un elemento importante que contribuye a esta situación son las dificultades para la entrada de productos provenientes de los países en desarrollo al comercio internacional, y las dificultades para obtener ingresos adecuados de las ventas de estos productos a causa de las medidas que establecen las grandes corporaciones y los países industrializados. Las tendencias del crecimiento de la población son importantes, más no ayudan mucho a explicar las tendencias del desarrollo alimentario.

Consideramos que toda mejora en la productividad agrícola, utilizando más efectivamente los insumos agrícolas, estará supeditada a la decisión básica de poder producir. Es muy posible que los niveles tecnológicos en los países en desarrollo no hayan disminuido en los últimos cinco años, por lo que la razón de que la tasa de crecimiento de la producción agrícola disminuyera en los últimos años se debe más a problemas de índole estructural, económico y político. Como ya se señaló en la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, los problemas de la producción agrícola no se resolverán sin luchar contra los factores que impiden el acceso equitativo a la tierra y otros recursos.

R. E. STENSHOLT(Australia): Mr. Chairman, may I join with the many others who have said how fortunate we are indeed to be working under your guiding hand in this Commission.

Having heard Professor Islam's introduction, which of course was of its usual high standard, I would like to make a few comments on the cereals outlook in Australia in order to help round out the total picture of the finely balanced world food security situation. Australia entered the 1981-82 season with lower wheat stocks than in the previous year, following low production figures in 1980-81. However, this year, after good rains, a record acreage was sown to wheat. Lack of rainfall, however, throughout the cereal belt from mid August to late September dashed hopes for a record crop. Fortunately, shower activity in the first half of October has improved the situation somewhat, so that at least average yields can be expected now, with final wheat production now estimated at between 15.5 and 16 million tonnes production. Oats and barley should rise significantly in 1981-82, with barley production forecast at 3.45 million tonnes and oats at 1.84 million tonnes, and if average seasonal conditions prevail sorghum production is forecast to rise to 1.3 million tonnes and maize production at this early stage is forecast to rise to 130 000 tonnes in 1982. Rice production, however, is estimated in 1981 at a record level of 761 000 tonnes compared with 615 000 tonnes in 1980. We judge and this is confirmed in the supplementary document before us that the immediate world food situation has shown a welcome improvement and the outlook has now become more favourable than was earlier thought. For example, FAO estimates that the world coarse grain production in 1981 should reach 780 to 800 million tonnes, 11 percent higher than last year. The International Wheat Council estimates a small rise in world wheat production and a slight increase in carry-over stocks in the five major exporting countries at the end of their 1981-82 seasons. Rice production is also expected to be close to last year's high level.

In sum, we believe it can now be anticipated that world cereal supplies-i. e. wheat, coarse grains and rice-should be sufficient to meet general consumption needs in 1981-82 and to allow for some modest replenishment of stocks.

SHIN-HAENG HUH (Republic of Korea): As this is my first opportunity of speaking in the Commission, Mr. Chairman, please allow me on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Professor Islam for his excellent preparation on the state of food and agriculture. I am in agreement with most of the statements in relation to the food and agriculture situation contained in documents C 81/2 and C 81/2-Supp. 1, reported by the Director-General for the Twenty-First Session of the FAO Conference. Most of the statements made clearly understood the immediate and longer-term problems with respect to adequate supply of food for people in our member countries, especially the developing countries.

I agree with most of the issues and problems stated in this report. However, I would like to make a few comments on issues and measures in the light of our experience.

First, one of the central issues here is to increase food production in order to meet food consumption requirements. Regarding an increase in food production, many delegates have stressed the importance of the improvement of irrigation systems, the development of technology, the training of farmers and the provision of such inputs as cheap fertilizers, pesticides and energy, but some of the important factors affecting agricultural production must not be overlooked. For instance, providing incentives to farmers must not be neglected. Production incentive can be given to farmers through guaranteeing a high price for their production and/or a low price of production factors. In addition, it is very important for internal or external organizations, like individual governments and FAO, to encourage farmers to work hard. However, a high price for agricultural produce may harm the poorer in consuming adequate food while continuously rising input prices do not allow us to have low production costs. The only choice available to us is to encourage the farmers to produce more, subject to the given conditions.

In this context, the Government of the Republic of Korea has been successful in launching Saemaul Undong, which is an integrated rural development programme focussing on the establishment of an efficient rural infrastructure since the beginning of the 1970's. Although Korean farmers were in difficult circumstances, they have been greatly encouraged through this movement to work hard, to help each other and to save greatly, so that they can be able to increase agricultural production and improve their welfare.

We would like to share our successful experience with other member countries which are in a similar situation as ourselves with respect to the state of agricultural development and other aspects of the economy.

Secondly, the reduction of fluctuations in food production is very important. As we are all aware of widely fluctuating food production from year to year, primarily due to weather conditions, we would urge FAO to put one of the first priorities on the improvement of land, with special emphasis on irrigation.

In this context, the Government of the Republic of Korea has trained a large number of agricultural experts from FAO member countries in the field of water resources development, land consolidation and agronomy during the last decade, at its own expense and under the TCDC joint programme of the FAO and UNDP and the Korean Government.

Thirdly, an efficient food distribution system is very important to solve the problem of world-wide hunger and malnutrition. We do know that the establishment of an efficient food distribution system has become one of the most important objectives that FAO has tried to achieve. As our economy grows rapidly, our dependence on food importation has been increasing; therefore we are very much concerned with attempts being made by FAO in this regard. We are willing to cooperate with FAO in establishing an efficient food distribution system.

M. C. DIALLO (Guinee): Ma delegation a l'examen du document de travail qui nous a ete soumis tire un certain nombre de constats, le premier c'est que la population des pays en voie de developpement continue de croitre et le second c'est que comme ce sont ces pays qui subissent la malnutrition et la faim, en fin de compte la population mondiale qui a besoin d'aide alimentaire continue de croitre chaque année. Ces deux constatations doivent nous permettre de ne pas nous etonner que le programme de travail et de budget que le Directeur general a presente ait connu une legere augmentation. Lorsque l'on se trouve de notre bord on aurait tendance a dire que le Directeur general de la FAO et l'ensemble de ses collaborateurs ont ete tres modestes dans leur evaluation puisque nous aurions tendance a avoir peur de ne pas pouvoir beneficier dans les années a venir de toute l'assistance dont nous avons besoin pour augmenter notre production agricole.

Il faut donc rendre hommage au Directeur general et ses collaborateurs pour avoir eu le courage, après les conclusions qu'ils ont tirees de l'annee 1981 et 1982 qui est une periode des plus difficile de l'apres-guerre, de proposer un budget qui non seulement permet de constater qu'il y a un serieux effort d'economie dans son elaboration mais aussi un effort qui tient compte des necessites des programmes des pays en voie de developpement. En ce qui concerne ma delegation nous pensons que l'effort fait chaque année pour soulager ceux qui ont faim, si l'on veut esperer arreter cette aide un jour, il faudra bien que les pays qui acceptent d'apporter cette aide envisagent un effort plus grand pour aider a ameliorer la base de la production agricole et en particulier la production alimentaire dans les pays en developpement. Comme le dit le rapport sur la situation alimentaire mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, au paragraphe 128 du document 81/2, le meilleur moyen de lutter contre la faim est de faire en sorte que les paysans des pays en voie de developpement disposent progressivement d'une gamme de progres techniques d'un programme dynamique de recherches agricoles ainsi que des moyens financiers de les exploiter, et particulierement d'un ensemble d'aptitudes techniques qui leur permettra d'apprécier l'interet de ces progres et de les appliquer. L'application d'une telle politique exigera de la part de tous des efforts importants et ces efforts doivent aussi provenir des pays en voie de developpement qui en tout premier lieu devraient valoriser les ressources humaines.

Dans mon pays qui est conscient de cette situation et partant du principe qu'en fin de compte le developpement rural n'est possible qu'avec la participation consciente de l'homme que seule l'education permet, en particulier en ce qui concerne la formation des jeunes, des efforts extremement importants ont ete fournis, primo par une reforme generale de l'enseignement qui a introduit, dans tous les niveaux de la formation des jeunes des notions d'agriculture qui vont en s'amplifiant de l'ecole pri-maire a l'universite. Deuxiemement il a ete decide que la moitié des bacheliers de l'enseignement secondaire devraient etre orientes vers des sciences tendant a la formation dans les domaines du developpement rural. Une des reformes les plus importantes qui a ete prise il n'y a pas longtemps c'est que les jeunes gens qui ont beneficie de cette formation au lieu d'avoir desormais a faire de la vulgarisation discursive passive devront se rendre sur le terrain, vivre la vie des paysans au sein de fermes etablies aupres des villages pour faire de la vulgarisation active. Mais l'effort de nos pays aussi bien dans le domaine de la formation que dans celui de l'acquisition d'intrants pour ameliorer la productivite sera limite compte tenu de la conjoncture economique mondiale qui fait que les sources principales de recette pour nos pays restent constamment sous la pression des termes de l'echange. Il faut donc a notre avis que de la part des pays nantis un effort supplementaire soit fait pour nous aider a nous passer de cette aide alimentaire qu'ils nous accordent generousement chaque annee. Cette aide doit etre basee sur le soutien aux projets tendant a nous permettre d'avoir une plus grande maitrise de l'eau et de l'energie a la campagne, tendant a nous permettre d'avoir la maitrise des technologies les plus appropriees faisant un large usage de nos moyens locaux pour ameliorer les conditions d'existence des petits paysans. Nous pensons que ce sont la les incitations fondamentales qu'il faut accorder aux petits paysans pour qu'ils puissent participer a l'effort de production. Seule la conduite de ces efforts conjuges doit nous permettre a notre avis d'assurer une securite alimentaire, passez-moi l'expression, sure. Je voudrais m'associer a ceux qui m'ont precede pour vous feliciter de votre election a la presidence, ainsi que le Prof. Islam, et le staff de sa division pour le travail extrême-ment clair et la notice bien posee et qu'ils ont presente dans le rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

A. K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Since this is the first time we take the floor, I should also like to take the opportunity of congratulating you and the Vice-Chairmen on your election to guide the deliberations of this Commission. We extend the same congratulations to the Secretariat for producing this very illuminating paper which we are discussing now.

As you may know, Uganda for a long time used to be a self-sufficient country in basic staples. In the last few years however-especially from 1978/79-we suffered from food shortages which necessitated our seeking emergency food aid from the international community. It was estimated that in that

period, we had a deficit of 305 thousand tons of cereal equivalents. This figure improved slightly to 108 thousand tons in the period 1979/80, and by the end of this year we are expecting that this figure will have been reduced to approximately 70 thousand tons. It is our hope that, weather permitting, we should be able to return to a situation of equilibrium in 1982.

There is however a problem of world shortages of essential animal proteins which has resulted from all the setbacks which led to the decrease in agricultural production generally. The agricultural sector had been badly neglected. This when coupled with the effects of the liberation war which ended only two years ago, plus the severe droughts experienced in 1979/80, meant that the management of the livestock sector, like the crop sub-sector, equally suffered.

We have however already outlined measures to improve our management and disease control in both sectors. Programmes have been worked out to improve the exploitation of our water resources which, as you know, constitute one seventh of the total land surface of the country. We are confident that, these measures fully implemented, we would be able to come back to a situation of sufficiency and possible export surpluses. The problem is therefore one of our ability to finance the investment which is required.

We are however encouraged by the pronouncement that has been made in international fora, exemplified by the declaration of the Cancún conference, the resolution by the European parliament in October on the resolve to eradicate hunger from this world.

Therefore, if the political will is translated into action, we expect that the programmes which have been worked out by the financial organizations-particularly FAO, which is directly involved in the implementation of programmes related to food-will receive full support from the international community so that countries like Uganda which are striving with meagre resources at their disposal to extricate themselves from these problems will be able to receive the necessary support, both financial and material.

H. L. CHAWLA (India): First of all I would extend my congratulations to you Mr. Chairman on your election to the chairmanship of Commission I. I must express our deep appreciation for the remarkable analysis of the world food and agricultural situation carried out by the FAO Secretariat. It has caught the imagination of all countries in the world, and the consciousness generated on the problem of hunger, malnutrition and poverty seems to be almost unprecedented.

Since it is late in the evening, I shall confine myself only to a few points. We notice that some of the highlights which this report has brought out clearly indicate that the food situation in the world is quite precarious. The world carry-over stocks of cereals, despite improvement in 1981, would be only 16 percent of the world consumption, which is below the minimum safe level for world food security. The world is thus critically dependent on the state of harvest from year to year. This is a warning that the world has to heed and we have to do something to improve the situation.

It has also been very aptly brought out that the cereal imports of developing countries have marked a sharp rise, whereas food aid which has not gone up correspondingly now constitutes a considerably smaller proportion of the food imports in developing countries. It is also noticed that the target of ten million tons of food aid which was laid down by the World Food Conference in 1974 is still not being reached, whereas the export assessment is indicating that the requirements are even larger. Similarly even the modest target of 500 000 tons for IEFR is not fully subscribed. Further, much of the population in developing countries is deriving its dietary energy largely from cereals.

Over five hundred million people, mostly in developing countries, are suffering from malnutrition. This makes them susceptible to disease and death. The capacity of developing countries to pay for rising import bills for energy and management, and also cereal imports, is inhibited by productionism and stagnation in the price of their traditional exports. The outlook for trade in a number of commodities exported by developing countries-for example, tea, jute, sugar and other tropical products-is decreasing. Vigorous efforts are needed on the part of the world community to solve these difficult problems. Although for immediate alleviation of suffering food aid has an improved role if the basic problem to be dealt with over the immediate and long term is to give all possible aid to the developing countries to raise their production of food and other agricultural products. This document clearly brings out that the major proportion of dietary energy comes from cereals. Now, the subsidiary foods like sugar, oils and vegetables, fruits and animal products have an important role in improving nutrition. May I suggest that your Secretariat may kindly give increased attention to the analysis of this aspect of the food problem. Our experience in India shows that there is a stagnation in the production of policies which are the principal source of protein especially in the diet of low income and poor people. The same is true in the case of vegetable oils where large imports are proving to be a significant drain in limited foreign exchange resources of the country. We are trying to increase

production of these commodities, however, it appears that considerable help could come through new ideas, information, and new technology for raising vegetable oil production in developing countries or in countries like India particularly. Technology for the production of rice bran oil, modern processes for de-oiling groundnuts without crushing and development and utilization of oil-bearing forest trees and information of a related nature we believe would be of immense value to several developing countries.

We are thankful for the attention which FAO has given to the problem of imports. Fertilizers, among the imports, are perhaps the most important. The high prices of fertilizers and fertilizer feed stock are inhibiting growth, fertilizer growth. The hardest hit in this regard are the small and marginal farmers who are not producing for the market but mainly for subsistence. This is an aspect to which a great deal of attention needs to be focussed.

Related to this are certain other needs of developing countries such as intensive research on more efficient utilization of fertilizers so that the high priced fertilizer can go further to produce more food and other agricultural commodities. There are other papers in which we would get more details and suggestions for dealing with problems of imports and energy. This evening I would not go further in dealing with other points but I think if there is time we will make a few more suggestions tomorrow.

Sra. R. MEDERO (Uruguay): Lo primero que desea mi delegacion, Sr. Presidente, es felicitarle cordial-mente por su designación, y tambien hacer resaltar el importante trabajo redactado por la FAO.

Nuestro pais ha analizado la documentación de la FAO, y en esta primera intervencion quiere senalar especialmente lo que esta reflejado en el documento 81/2 en relacion con el deterioro de los factores de intercambio y de las practicas utilizadas en el comercio de los productos agricolas.

Con referenda a las practicas empleadas en el aumento de la producción de alimentos hemos de insistir en que las practicas de comercio utilizadas son una traba que conlleva el que los recursos no pueden emplearse en forma eficiente.

En especial, segun ha mencionado nuestro ministro en la Sesion Plenaria, queremos referirnos a la comercializacion de la carne a nivel internacional.

Uruguay ha recibido creditos de organismos internacionales y de paises desarrollados para fomentar la producción de carnes y mejorar las practicas de produccion actuales.

En realidad, se han alcanzado metas importantes, pero nos hallamos con la dificultad de colocar nuestra producción en el mercado internacional. Y ello se debe a las practicas de algunos paises desarrollados que no solo han alcanzado el autoabastecimiento mediante subsidios a sus producciones, sino que ademas, otorgando importantes subsidios a las exportaciones, vuelcan sus excedentes a los demás mercados.

Nuestro pais, como pais en desarrollo y productor de alimentos y materias primas, quiere pàrticipar dentro de sus posibilidades en la lucha contra el hambre y la desnutricion, pero nos encontramos con unas practicas proteccionistas y unas barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias, que son una traba para lograr nuestro anhelado aumento en la produccion.

Consideramos, compartiendo lo expresado por el Sefior Director General respecto a practicas comerciales y a las dificultades de los paises en desarrollo, que en lo que tienen que ver con el comercio interna cional deben ser abordadas en forma completa y detallada con la intervencion de todos los interesados en las correspondientes rondas de negociaciones globales. Nada màs y muchas gracias.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Malaysia): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor, I will do away with the salutations by sharing the sentiments of all before me. Also, I cannot but congratulate Prof. Islam even if I have to overshoot the time, for his brilliant introduction and also briefly, for that clear and comprehensive document given by the Secretariat regarding the State of Food and Agriculture and my delegation agrees with the findings of the Secretariat.

Now, to cut my statement rather short I just want to remind you that last month we celebrated the first World Food Day, to rally world public opinion, to be aware among nations, to help overcome the seemingly elusive problem facing the world today, particularly those in the developing countries. But what does this World Food Day mean to the very people whose tomorrow of food supply is not certain, and whose life is shrouded by hunger and sickness? The objective of World Food Day might still give some hope and promise for a better future.

The Malaysian delegation agrees completely with the often quoted statement that the ultimate solution to the world food problem lies in the increasing food production of the developing countries, and that each country should have the necessary political will to strive for self-reliance.

However, we would like to add that political will alone would not and could not bring about the desired changes, unless and until the policies and programmes that could be translated into action programmes that could benefit the small farmers, who contributed directly to the production process.

Programmes for development which involved the small farmers must be supported with appropriate packages of services and incentives. This is important because, in the long run, the only hope to sustain the development process was through the maximum development of these farmers capacity to understand, to accept and to participate in the development process.

The development of farmers through training and extension services, coupled with the provision of other essential services, assistance and incentives were means of ensuring the farmers participation in the programmes. A development programme ensuring benefit to the farmers would necessarily obtain their support.

The development of human resources base through training and extension services should further be developed and the experience of each country's programme should be shared. This was consistent with the concept of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

The remarkable progress experienced by some developing countries in food production clearly indicates that the long term potential for development in most of the developing countries is great. However, it would require a great deal of determination and sacrifice by all those concerned, besides making available both material and financial input. The international community and the national governments alike would have this heavy responsibility to shoulder, to see that whatever groundwork that has been made for the future growth would be implemented fast and as efficiently as possible.

For the moment, more than in the past, intensified efforts are urgently needed to improve the growth rate of food and agricultural production, to increase the stability of food supplies and to facilitate agricultural trade. Perhaps the most important of all is for us now to fulfil our undertakings which have been agreed upon, to protect the disadvantaged groups in the country, and the disadvantaged countries of the world from lack of food and nutritional deficiencies.

The Director-General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, has made repeated pleas to developing countries to make all possible efforts to increase domestic food production. Since food and agricultural development in most of these countries are affected by a number of factors, it is not likely that the current slow growth rate in their food and agricultural development could be greatly accelerated within this short period of time. Coupled with a high rate of population growth, food production is likely to continue to lag behind consumption demand.

As indicated in Table 4 on page 15 of document C 81/2, this disparity between supply and demand for food due to population growth is very alarming. Two years ago, out of 94 developing countries only 19 could keep pace with both population growth and cereal demand. We were further told that the situation had recently deteriorated. If this trend prevails, the world will continue to experience further instability in the supply of food, rising prices of food, and food deficit developing countries will have to depend more on imports. The unfavourable terms of trade, the slow growth in the agricultural exports from developing countries and the decline in the purchasing power of their agricultural export earnings will bring about increasing poverty and a decline in the nutritional status of the majority of the people in these countries. Developing countries will increasingly continue to depend on food imports, which will tend to increase in price. With the declining value of export earnings, increasing imports of food to meet the needs of the population will become more difficult and perhaps impossible in the future. The plight of the food-deficit developing countries only serves to reinforce the need for intensified efforts for increasing food production to ensure overall world food security.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec le délégué de la Malaisie nous mettons un terme à nos interventions de cette deuxième séance. Demain matin nous aurons à poursuivre ce point de l'ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Je voudrais vous rappeler que les coordinateurs des groupes devraient me communiquer les noms des membres du comité de rédaction.

The meeting rose at 17. 40 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 17. 40 horas

conference

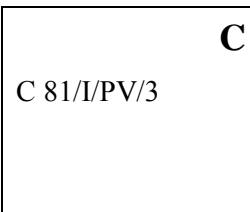
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

THIRD MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE
TERCERA SESION

(12 November 1981)

The Third Meeting was opened at 9. 55 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding
La troisieme seance est ouverte à 9 h 55, sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I
Se abre la tercera sesión a las 9. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACION (continuacion)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation, including:(continued)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation, including:(continued)
- 6 Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment: (suite)
- 6. 1 State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
- 6. 1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. 1 El estado de la agricultura y la alimentacion (continuacion)

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): M. le President, n'ayant pas encore eu l'occasion d'intervenir dans le débat de cette Commission, je voudrais tout d'abord vous feliciter pour cette election a cette Présidence dont nous nous réouissons tout particulierement compte tenu des liens entre nos deux pays. Mes felicitations vont egalement à nos deux vice-presidents, M. Stuyck et M. le representant de Grenade qui, cer-tainement, vous seconderont utilement si le besoin s'en fait sentir. Je veux remercier egalement le Secretariat et le Dr. Islam pour les documents prepares et l'expose que celui-ci nous a présente si clairement.

Pourtant, ce n'est pas certainement une critique mais sans doute est-ce du a une tres longue participa tion aux reunions Internationales, ou bien peut-etre parce que cet expose avec quelques dixiemes de pourcentages en plus ou en moins, avec quelques millions de dollars en plus ou en moins dans la serie de chiffres qui constituent les donnees de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, m'ont conduit a ressentir un sentiment de repetition, de deja lu ou entendu, mais, évidemment, ayant participe au Comité de la securite alimentaire au printemps, au Conseil en juin, au Comite des produits en septembre et enfin encore au Conseil il y a quelques jours, nous avons eu pratiquement les me,mes donnees. Aussi, mon expose ne s'attachera pas a commenter ces donnees chiffrées qui ne sont en realite pas contestables, Elles traduisent la faiblesse des progres de la production alimentaire et agricole, bien que l'annee 1981 sera sur certains points meilleure que 1980. Elles traduisent le ralentissement de la croissance du commerce international des produits agricoles, l'absence de progres majeurs dans la lutte contre la sous-alimentation et la malnutrition, la stagnation et meme le fléchissement en prix constants de l'aide au developpement, enfin la dependance croissante de nombre de pays en developpement a l'egard des importations cerealieres.

De tels resultats ne peuvent que nous conduire les uns et les autres, et non pas seulement les seuls pays en developpement, a manifester notre deception et a deplorer cette situation surtout si nous nous referons aux espoirs mis en 1974 dans la Conference mondiale de l'alimentation, puis dans les successi-ves strategies des Nations Unies pour le developpement qui devaient s'appliquer aux decennies passees.

Nous constatons, par ailleurs, que de nombreuses questions evoquees dans le document C 81/2 et dans son additif relevent par ailleurs d'autres points de l'ordre du jour de notre Commission: par exemple les problèmes relatifs a la secutite alimentaire, la Reserve internationale d'urgence, et autres telles les négociations dans d'autres enceintes internationales, ou les faits nouveaux dans le système des Nations Unies relévent de la Commission III.

Je me bornerai donc ici à vous faire part de quelques idees, de quelques remarques de la delegation francaise quant aux moyens de pallier les insuffisances et les défauts constates en matière acricole et alimentaire a la situation qui est sous nos yeux et, la ou cela est possible, d'ameliorer encore les progrès deja realises.

L'un des points où les resultats sont en general les plus decevants concerne a la fois l'instability des cours ou des prix des produits de base agricole ou alimentaire et la deterioration des termes de l'echange pour nombre de pays en developpement mais aussi de pays developpes. Cette instability des cours a toujours ete un des principaux soucis de la France et vous ne serez pas surpris que,par la voix du gouvernement et celle du President de la Republique, la France, dis-je, entende relancer et promouvoir de nouvelles actions en faveur de l'organisation des marches. Grace a la conclusion d'accords inters nationaux de produits solidement charpentes et structures comportant, chaque fois que cela est possible et realisable, des dispositifs de prix des stockstoit internationaux, tel qu'on le constate pour le cacao, soit nationaux, mais coordonnees internationalement ainsi qu'il a ete propose pour les cereales. Je sais que certains peuvent dire en nous entendant qu'il est plus facile de proposer de telles formules que d'y participer reellement. Je ne craindrai pas face à de tellesremarques d'aborder un sujet brûlant, celui du sucre qui releve de la competence certes communautaire mais, sans empieter sur les prerogatives de la Communaute pour definir la politique sucriere dans notre groupe de pays, je voudrais rappeler quelques vérités de base incontestables.

La France est le premier producteur de sucre de la Communauté et depuis fort longtemps puisque cela remonte même avant 1914 lorsqu'on en était aux premiers balbutiements de l'organisation des marchés. Il y a eu à cette époque, vers 1910, des premiers essais d'organisation avec une première convention dont la France faisait partie. Puis nous avons eu la période entre les deux premières guerres mondiales avec le Plan Chadbourne et déjà la France y était participante. Exportatrice avant la seconde guerre mondiale, nous le sommes redevenus rapidement après la guerre, alors que d'autres pays, qui n'avaient pas de telles antériorités, développaient considérablement leur production.

Quand en 1977 on a négocié l'Accord actuellement en vigueur, la Conférence a refusé de prendre en considération les propositions qui avaient été formulées par la Communauté et, se plier à ce qu'on nous proposait, aurait conduit à ruiner de nombreux producteurs agricoles français et à contrecarrer une production indispensable à l'économie française.

Place devant une telle alternative, aucun pays producteur de sucre n'aurait pu participer à un tel accord. La Commission de la Communauté a exposé précédemment au Comité des produits puis au Conseil la nouvelle organisation de la production et du marché du sucre dans la CEE. Je n'insisterai pas. Depuis, tout récemment, le Conseil de la Communauté a accepté l'ouverture de nouvelles conversations exploratoires avec l'Organisation internationale du sucre. Je n'en dirai pas plus, mais une chose est certaine, c'est que le succès de telles conversations dépendra fondamentalement de la reconnaissance de la vocation sucrière de la France et de nos droits.

Excusez cette digression un peu longue sur le sucre. mais elle était nécessaire.

J'en reviens à l'organisation des marchés en général. Celle-ci ne serait pas en elle-même suffisante si on ne tenait pas compte, au-delà de la stabilisation des cours, de la prise en compte de l'évolution des coûts réels de production et si on ne prévoyait pas de protéger les producteurs contre les insuffisances qui peuvent être constatées et peuvent peser sur les recettes d'exportation. À cet égard, je ne saurais mieux faire que de vous rappeler les propositions formulées par la France en septembre dernier lors de la Conférence sur les pays les moins avancés et reprises tout récemment voici quelques jours d'une manière très claire dans l'Appel de Paris formulé lors de la réunion de la Conférence franco-africaine groupant 33 pays et dont je vous cite des extraits: "Les 33 pays représentés à la Conférence de Paris appellent une fois de plus l'importance majeure de la régularisation des cours des matières premières. Faute de sécurité et de prévisibilités dans la fixation de prix, les pays du Tiers Monde sont empêchés de planifier leur avenir. Les chefs d'État et de délégation réunis à Paris estiment indispensable et urgent de dénoncer cette situation et de chercher une amélioration dans toutes les voies possibles;

Premièrement, la stabilisation des cours doit être obtenue au niveau mondial par la conclusion d'un nombre suffisant d'accords internationaux de produits. C'est dans cette perspective qu'il faut poursuivre l'effort entrepris dans le cadre de la CNUCED et donner ainsi la pleine efficacité au Fonds commun des matières premières".

Entre parenthèses, je signale à ce sujet que le Fonds commun dont nous espérons tous qu'il fonctionnera bientôt, est cependant, pour sa mise en route, conditionné par la signature et la ratification du texte. Or, à ce jour, 60 pays seulement, je crois, ont signé et il faut 92 ou 93 ratifications pour qu'il puisse entrer en vigueur. Parmi les pays développés, je crois que nombre d'entre eux ont déjà signé et que les procédures de ratification sont en route, mais dans la marge se situant entre 60 et 92, la plus grande partie des signatures et ratifications encore attendues ne peut provenir que des pays en développement eux-mêmes. Alors, je m'adresse à eux pour leur dire: accélérez les procédures!

J'en reviens maintenant à ce que dit cet Appel de Paris: "au-delà de la stabilisation des cours, il faut parvenir à la prise en compte de l'évolution des coûts réels de production comme cela est déjà le cas pour certains produits dans certains pays industrialisés". Et on ajoute: "les producteurs doivent être protégés contre les conséquences des aléas climatiques et autres qui pèsent lourdement sur les recettes d'exportation. Le STABEX, mécanisme de stabilisation des cours des produits agricoles, mis en œuvre par la Communauté dans le cadre de la Convention de Lomé", vise à donner une telle assurance. Il est souhaitable que d'autres pays industrialisés s'engagent dans la même voie". C'est un appel aussi que nous lançons pour cette généralisation de formule en ce qui concerne les cotisations. Le texte est très long, je ne vous en donnerai pas la lecture intégrale, mais je crois qu'il serait bon de s'y référer.

Il est un autre point que j'aimerais aborder maintenant, c'est celui du commerce ou plus exactement celui de la liberté des échanges et de la lutte contre le protectionnisme. Encore un sujet brûlant, mais pas seulement pour les pays qui sont régulièrement critiqués, c'est-à-dire les pays développés à économie libérale, il l'est pour tous, pays en développement et pays développés à économie centralement planifiée.

En effet, tous ou presque tous, nous sommes plus ou moins exportateurs de produits agricoles et chaque fois que nous rencontrons des difficultés pour vendre des produits nous crions au protectionnisme. La France comme l'Australie ou Cuba, les Etats-Unis comme l'Inde ou le Bresil et ainsi de suite. Nous n'exportons certes pas tous les memes produits, mais chacun d'entre nous est considere comme protection-niste et vice et versa. Mon propos n'est donc pas de justifier nos propres politiques d'importation ou d'exportation, cela a déjà eu lieu maintes fois ici, au GATT, a la CNUCED, a L'OCDE, dans les instances compétentes, dans celles qui l'etaient moins et meme dans celles qui ne l'etaient pas du tout.

Mais, puisque le conseil de notre Organisation a décidé de demander au secretariat de poursuivre régulierement, dans le cadre du comite des produits, l'étude sur le protectionnisme, je me permets de suggerer que celle-ci porte également -ne croyez pas que je veuille faire de la provocation-sur le protectionnisme des pays en developpement. Je n'ignore pas que la partie IV du GATT donne a ces pays en matiere tarifaire des droits, c'estvraimentle cas de le dire, en matiere de droits de douane, qui vont bien au-delà de ce que les pays developpes peuvent se permettre.

Non M. le President, ce que je souhaiterais c'est que pour ameliorer le commerce mondial, lui donner une sorte de second souffle, on recherche comment le commerce entre pays en developpement pourrait s'accroitre et permettre ainsi aux resolutions adoptees par les Nations Unies en vue de favoriser la cooperation économique et commerciale entre pays en developpement, d'etre suivies d'effet. Ne serait-il pas possible au risque d'etre traites de conseillers intéressés, d'envisager que les pays en developpement eux-memes mettent au point un système de preferences généralisées a leur benefice reciproque et dont notre delegation souhaiterait qu'il soit aussi large que celui que la Communauté économique européenne accorde aux pays en developpement ?

Une première formule de ce genre, si mes souvenirs sont bons, doit remonter a 1964 ou 1965; un accord de preference fut alors conclu entre quelques pays; il y avait, l'Inde, l'Egypte, la Yougoslavie, l'Indonesie et quelques autres encore. Depuis lors, je n'ai pas suivi l'evolution de cet accord qui futaccepte en 1967 et incorporé dans les dispositions du GATT ou plus exactement qui recut la benediction du GATT malgre les critiques au nom de la loi de la clause de la nation la plus favorisée, mais je n'ai pas l'impression que des progrès notables ont ete accomplis.

Il y a eu aussi, il y a aussi par exemple en Amerique latine, une sorte de marche commun des Caraibes, il y a eu aussi entre les pays de la zone Andine une formule tendant a creer une sorte de communauté commerciale. Mais ces efforts, il serait bon, et je crois d'ailleurs que la CNUCED s'en preoccupe actuellement, des les etendre dans un ensemble groupant tous les pays en developpement pour commercer entre eux et faciliter les echanges entre eux.

Enfin, et cette dernière observation touche a la fois au commerce et a l'accroissement de la production vivrière dans les pays en developpement; actuellement, dans certains de nos pays developpes, on assiste a des campagnes menees en faveur du developpement, de l'aide au tiers monde et de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde. C'est dans cet esprit que fut projeté a l'Unesco, lors de la celebration le 16 octobre, de la première Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, un film fort bien realise et qui etait patronné et produit par une organisation non gouvernementale particulierement preoccupee des pays en developpement de la lutte contre la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde. On y voyait des cargos decharger par cales entières des farines de manioc, des tourteaux de soja pour la nourriture des pores et des bovins. Puis immédiatement apres apparaissaient sur l'ecran des consommateurs de pays developpes rassemblés autour d'un barbecue géant, devant a pleines dents tranches de pore ou de boeuf, cuisses de poulet, la graisse ruisselait sur leur visage, et le commentaire s'accompagnait d'images suggestives sur les effets de la famine, car tout de suite après on montrait des malheureux gosses affames,et on adressait aux consommateurs de nos pays "repus" pour préciser que ces importations de tourteaux ou de farine de manioc ou de soja provenaient soit d'Amerique du Sud, soit de pays d'Asie et qu'elles se realisaient au profit des animaux mais au detriment des populations locales, entrainant la mort de nombreux enfants.

Là, parce que la culture du soja en Amerique du Sud, plus rentable pour le pays en lui procurant des devises, se substituait a celle des haricots, base de l'alimentation traditionnelle des populations de ces regions,et on ajoutait "chaque tonne de manioc sortie diminue les possibilites de consommation des producteurs locaux". Le film continuait: on voyait arriver des viandes de l'Amerique latine, bananes et fruits d'Afrique ou d'Amerique, des legumes produits hors saison, tels que les petits pois, les melons, les courgettes, et toujours on laissait entendre que ces produits manquaient cruellement aux populations des pays exportateurs.

Les producteurs de ce film etaient plein de bonnes intentions, mais bavardant avec eux apres la projection, je leur demandai s'ils avaient jamais assiste a des reunions internationales, comme celle a laquelle nous participons, et s'ils avaient connaissance des demandes des pays en developpement et des critiques qu'ils elevent contre l'insuffisance des importations desdits produits. Je vous fais grace de la réponse et vous l'imaginez. Mais alors M. Le President en fonction de ce fait precis, témoignant

d'un état d'esprit qui va se développant dans nos pays développés avec, je le répète, les meilleures intentions du monde, nous nous trouvons devant le dilemme suivant: devons-nous ouvrir plus largement nos frontières et être considérés comme des pillards du tiers monde et même être culpabilisés pour avoir accru la faim dans le monde, ou au contraire, devons-nous acheter moins mais alors être considérés comme de vilains protectionnistes responsables de la chute des recettes des exportations et, de ce fait, contribuant à freiner le développement des pays du tiers monde ?

A ce stade, je ne peux pas formuler une réponse, peut-être M. le Président pouvez-vous le faire.

T. A. HAMMER (United States): We have read the Secretariat's report on the world food and agriculture situation contained in the State of Food and Agriculture, 1981. With some allowances for differences in detail, we are in general agreement with the supply estimates made.

We are heartened by the forecast increase in world supplies and stocks of cereals in 1981-82. At the same time, we know that some countries continue to experience great difficulties and the margin of security for many others is still small. These conditions reinforce our belief that food-short countries need to redouble efforts to achieve higher yields and greater production. And they need to give high priority to developing national stock policies that enhance their own food security.

The Secretariat has placed the supply situation this year in a larger historical perspective, thus ensuring that we do not draw conclusions from single year data. We need to take the longer look to know where we are going and what progress we are making. From such assessments, FAO may help national governments identify strategic choices in the policies and resource allocations for improving their food situation.

The substantial gains in world food production over the past two decades that the Secretariat reports are encouraging because they show our efforts can produce results. We applaud the 4.1 percent increase in food production during 1980 by the developing market economy countries. But we-and particularly those countries where food production has lagged-cannot be complacent.

The Secretariat draws our attention to the unrelenting pressure of population growth, the tapering off of the rate of increase in world food production, and the severe nutritional problems faced by individual countries and population groups. We should heed this warning and redouble our efforts to improve food production and distribution.

We share the emphasis expressed by many speakers on the importance of increasing production in the developing countries and their maintaining reserve stocks as essential elements of food security. These should be first of all national priorities. Ample grain stocks in the United States help assure supplies for nations to meet shortfalls or to build their reserves. The need for implementation of national stock policies and the programmes is immediate and should not be delayed by discussions on a Wheat Trade Convention or other international grains reserve schemes.

United States' agricultural exports-both commercial and assistance in nature-are expected to reach approximately \$45 billion in 1981, up ten percent over 1980. Imports may reach about \$17 1/2 billion, about \$12 billion of which will come from the developing countries. These facts underline the large stake we have in a liberal and open agricultural trading system. We have emphasized our determination to strive for more liberal trade and the reduction of protectionism, which should be the goal of all countries.

Almost every speaker recognized the need for increasing production, particularly by low-income developing countries. Many also stressed the importance of the proper technical and resource inputs. In this context, we believe that price and other economic incentives are important in spurring production and we are pleased to note the importance attached to such incentives mentioned by several other delegates.

The Secretariat's more detailed analysis of the situation among least developed countries and of nutritional levels among different groups helps pinpoint where needs are greatest. National food sector strategies, mentioned by several speakers, are a means for linking production with consumption in specific countries to overcome malnutrition.

I would now like to turn to the food and agriculture situation in the United States. We have again achieved record or near-record harvests of food grains, feed grains, and soybeans. Our carry-over stocks will be ample for each commodity to fully meet commercial requirements and concessional food aid commitments. Our most recent estimates, that is October, indicate the total US grain output should reach 326 million tons, nearly 22 percent above the 1980-81 output. Total grain stocks are expected to reach 76 million tons, up 28 percent from last year's carry-over level.

The US wheat crop is expected to reach nearly 75 million tons, a record output. We expect somewhat higher exports, but our carry-over stock of almost 27 million tons is about the same as last year's stock.

US rice production is up sharply from last year's level, which was hurt by drought. Production of almost 6 million tons in 1981-82 will result in larger carry-over stocks-rising to 1.8 million tons.

Production of coarse grains is forecast at 245 million tons, up 3 percent from last year and a new record. Despite larger exports, we expect stocks to approach 48 million tons. Much of this will go into the farmer-held reserve.

The US soybean crop will also rise; 57 million tons are estimated. With increased exports anticipated over last year, carry-over stocks are expected to reach 11 million tons.

In conclusion let me observe that as we examine world production and stocks of grains, we should note that in much of the world the food situation has significantly improved over the past twenty years, and improvements have taken place despite a certain continuing rapid population increase, as reported by the Secretariat. These gains should give us encouragement to continue our individual and cooperative efforts. Let us push on with new hope that the scourge of hunger and malnutrition will indeed be overcome.

Let me end by congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the Chair of this important body.

E. DANHOUNSI (Benin): Au nom de ma délégation, je voudrais d'abord vous féliciter ainsi que les deux vice-présidents suite à votre élection pour diriger les travaux de notre Commission. Je voudrais aussi remercier M. Islam pour son exposé liminaire qui a fait ressortir les lignes de force, les faiblesses et les tendances de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture au cours de la période biennale qui s'achève.

Le Directeur général, lors de sa déclaration, est allé au fond du problème lorsqu'il a dit, je cite: "La société planétaire est une illusion. Pour le reste, notre monde ignore toujours cette véritable solidarité, cette cohérence des politiques et des institutions qui seules pourraient donner vie à cet idéal. En réalité, les engagements internationaux demeurent toujours subordonnés aux intérêts nationaux. Les clivages politiques s'accroissent, les disparités économiques s'aggravent; l'oracle du prophète est renversé: avec les socs on forge des glaives".

Le dialogue Nord-Sud périclète et les perspectives de négociations commerciales multilatérales ne sont guère bonnes. Cette situation est imputable à un manque de volonté politique de la part des pays développés qui ont opté délibérément de négliger l'agriculture et de se préoccuper davantage de leur potentiel en armement. Mais les pays en développement continueront de rappeler aux pays développés leur rôle fondamental dans le redressement de la situation catastrophique actuelle de l'agriculture dont ils endossent l'entière responsabilité. Après avoir développé à outrance certaines cultures d'exportation dans nos États, ces pays les empêchent de trouver des débouchés sûrs ou elles sont achetées à des prix dérisoires, à tel point qu'à l'heure actuelle certains produits industriels nous restent sur les bras.

Nous nous trouvons sans moyen d'importer le complément d'aliments indispensables à nos peuples et la malnutrition gagne du terrain. Nous n'avons plus les moyens financiers nécessaires d'importer des produits tels que les engrais, pesticides, produits vétérinaires, etc. L'expansion des zones économiques exclusives n'est qu'un leurre si nos pays n'ont pas les moyens de les mettre en valeur. Nous pensons que c'est à une vaste stratégie des pays développés pour continuer d'exploiter impunément nos ressources naturelles pour déstabiliser nos économies et nos régimes politiques. Nous, pays en développement, aspirons fondamentalement à la liberté, à la dignité, à la paix et au progrès social. L'analyse de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture telle qu'elle ressort des documents C 81/2 et C 81/2-Supp. I est, de l'avis de ma délégation, la seule approche tendant à indiquer les voies et les moyens pour en sortir.

H. HAMMAD (Jordan) (original language Arabic): It is a great pleasure for me to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this important Commission and to congratulate the members of the Secretariat. I am fully confident that thanks to your ability and your experience the work of this Commission will be steered effectively and that we shall succeed in adopting resolutions and recommendations which will be beneficial to all. I would also like to seize this opportunity to express my thanks to Mr. Islam for the excellent exposé he gave us on the documents before us. The problem of food is not only a current problem, it was the problem yesterday and will remain our problem in the future. To overcome it we have to take specific and determined steps. All the countries of the world

have to take specific and determined steps. All the countries of the world have to cooperate amongst themselves to achieve this noble aim. We are fully confident that the role that this Organization can undertake in this specific endeavour will be the corner stone and the stepping stone for such a form of cooperation. However this aim and target shall remain a vain hope unless countries can overcome their specific needs and egoistic requirements. And this leads me to say that any food shortage or catastrophe that may occur in any country of the world could contaminate the other countries of the world because the interests of individual nations have now become inter-related and inter-linked especially in a world where distances have become ever increasingly shorter. The simple small-scale 'farmer' possesses the main wealth of any country, i. e. water and land. This farmer is not opposed to development—he is all for it—especially if he is provided with all the means and implements that will increase his output. For this reason we find it essential for us to establish an effective international fund to support those smaller farmers who represent the majority of the inhabitants of this world. This fund should be financed by industrialized and oil-exporting countries. The fund's purposes should be to provide those small farmers with all the necessary production inputs to increase their agricultural production as this is the guarantee of food security in all the countries of the world. As was indicated in the document most developing countries suffer from a shortage of skilled cadres who are well trained and able to transfer the results reached in research centres to the field and as you may well know scientific research is useless and all efforts and funds expended in such an activity are to no avail unless the simple farmer in the field is familiarised with them. Therefore FAO should help to establish effective regional training centres and should also increase the number of colloquia symposia it organizes. We should also remember that the establishment of data banks of agricultural information in every country would help us speed up the process of development. Therefore we hope that this organization will establish a study which would contain the ways and means of setting up such a data bank and circulate it amongst member countries. I would also like to remind you that we need to apply indigenous technology as well as appropriate modern technology. Scientists in our countries should attempt to sift through modern technology to apply the most appropriate as such a technology would then be more suited to the environment in which it is being applied. My country's Government has realized that the improvements in the food problem we have achieved are limited and depend on success in agricultural production despite the harsh conditions prevailing. However, present agricultural production does not meet our increased needs of food. This requires us to import more than one and a half times our food requirements. What increased the severity of the problem in Jordan was that towards the end of the 1940s ' the number of inhabitants increased twofold when we opened our arms wide to receive and give hospitality to our brothers who were expelled from their homes. Since that day this tragedy has recurred daily in front of the eyes of the world, and the United Nations which represents the conscience of this world has been unable to impose a fair settlement which would restore these refugees rights. This failure has allowed the invader to pursue his policy and to expel even greater numbers of Arab and Palestinian citizens from their land. They have thus joined the ranks of refugees who had preceded them and Jordan had to host even greater numbers of refugees and to feed more hungry mouths. This of course in turn led to a deterioration of the food problem in my country to a very serious point. Despite all this, Jordan has succeeded during the last five-year plan in achieving annual production increases amounting to about 7 percent and we do hope that we shall be able to maintain this . e during our present five-year plan. This increase in production was due to a vertical and horizontal expansion in agriculture. We have increased the area of irrigated land, undertaken the boring of wells and the building of dams. We have developed irrigation systems and applied trickle irrigation on a larger scale. We have also intensified agricultural production from this form of protected agriculture. Jordan has achieved self-sufficiency in poultry and in the production of eggs. Rain-fed and dry-land agriculture receive substantial support from the Jordanian Government and received with help from FAO the special projects for the cultivation of olive trees. Here I would like to thank the Organization for the very precious support provided to Jordan and we would like to thank the World Food Programme for the support it has provided too, and hoping that this support will be forthcoming in future. The very existence of a hungry child in this world where there is a surplus of food production and where there is an ability to feed him, should be treated as premeditated murder and the violation of the dignity of the human being. The very sight of a tearful, hungry child will be a curse that will pursue all those who have failed to feed and to succour him. Distinguished delegates, allow me at the end of my statement to remind you that all the countries of the world are listening to the deliberations of this meeting so we must see to it that our discussions rise to the level of the expectations and hopes of the nations of the world. We feel duty bound here to mention a proverb in my country which says that words are of no use unless they are beneficial to humanity. Therefore, I hope that the recommendations and decisions of this Commission will be beneficial to all member countries.

ESHETU DEBABU (Ethiopia): In Ethiopia we have been used to talking about revolution in the last few years. While attending this Conference I have felt three revolutions are necessary. The first is that the pattern of discussion of international issues, be they issues of agriculture, issues of rural development, issues of education, or any other issue for that matter, at international fora, especially in

FAO, must be changed. I am sorry to say it but it is boring to hear about 150 countries speaking through 150 mouths using 150 terms to say more or less the same thing repeatedly, I do realize there is some use in many countries coming together to discuss common problems and seek solutions. That is quite desirable. But there must be found a method by which ideas once expressed by one delegate are not repeated by others unless for purposes of negation or supplementation. I do understand it is not easy to be original but it is not difficult to be non-repetitive either. The problem partly lies in the fact that this is an inter-governmental organization where statements are official and governments generally tend to be defensive and conservative. They evade real issues and tend to be boisterous. Many do not want to admit failures, in other words they do not lend themselves to objective scientific examination. In these conditions it will not be easy to identify real problems and suggest lasting solutions but somehow there should be found an outlet from this way of exchanging ideas at international fora.

The second revolution I envisage is more fundamental, that is there must be some revolution both intellectually and physically in the relationship between the rural areas and urban centres of the developing countries. While the largest populations in the rural countries of the world toil in the fields year in and year out to produce food, urban dwellers, especially the bureaucratic and merchant classes, devise various mechanisms by which they suck the produce of the rural toilers.

The urban spots of developing countries are centres of business and government that contain social groupings which contribute little to production but stunt the efforts of the small farmers by exploiting them. Particular attention should be drawn to the expansion of governmental apparatuses, that is to say, the growing bureaucratic setup where the elite of the ruling classes are gathering only to vegetate on the little surpluses of the working masses. In the developing countries, the productive resources are underdeveloped and the surplus obtained from them is very little. Unfortunately, even that little surplus is spent not on productive or reproductive assets but on the consumption of the few urban conglomerates. And this is basically what erodes constantly and increasing by, the development of rural areas. And this exploitation of the social relationship should be considered as a factor inhibiting efforts towards food self-sufficiency and agricultural development.

Mr. Chairman, the problem of Food and Agriculture in the developing countries is not caused by natural disasters and wars alone. It is more fundamentally the exploitive nature of the social relationship that work through over decades and centuries, to render the small producer vulnerable to natural disasters.

Thirdly, the rural producers of the developing countries have not been exploited by the local ruling classes only; they are also exploited through the big international mechanisms, especially the market mechanism. I do not think one need elaborate on this, because already much has been said about agricultural relations at the international level.

I have focussed on these issues partly because I did not want to repeat ideas expressed by other delegates, which generally I support, and partly because we feel that the real problem of food production and agricultural development in the developing countries actually arises out of the alliance of local and international exploiters against the small farmers.

D. NOEL (Grenada): First of all, Mr. Chairman, let me congratulate you on being appointed to chair this most important Commission. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the member countries for doing my country the honour of appointing it to be a Vice-Chairman of this Commission.

As most of you will know, Grenada can be described as a small island economy, with a land area of 133 square miles and a population of just over 100,000, hence we find ourselves with an agriculture which is export-oriented. Because of the small size of our domestic market, any form of production has to depend in a large measure on markets abroad. Agriculture is the main economy of our country and over the years we have been traditional suppliers to European markets of our traditional export crops, namely, cocoa, nutmegs and bananas, but we have a great dependence on imported sources of food supply. In countries such as ours, the economy depends to a large extent on improved terms of trade.

Although some developed countries might suggest that any demand for grain must be backed up by the ability to pay for grain, the ability to pay for grain to a large extent depends on the improved terms of trade, because in our countries, especially in a small island economy like ours, our only resources are our fertile soils and our people and we find that over the years we have been producers of raw materials, primary products, and that most of those primary products are processed into finished products and we even find that we have been reimporting some of them as finished products.

I feel that we would like FAO and possibly other organizations to assist us in impressing upon many of the developed countries with which we trade that they should provide greater access to markets and improved terms of trade. I would like to give an example. I use cocoa as an example. Over the past ten years we have exported approximately \$100 million worth of cocoa. That cocoa, when in its final processed form, we found to be worth \$1,000 million. The difference between the \$100 million which we received and the \$1,000 million can be looked upon as the extent to which the wealth of our country has been exploited. That \$900 million has gone to provide jobs for people in developed countries -improved roads, improved educational standards, improved nutritional standards. We feel that with improved terms of trade, if we can move greater industrialization back towards the developing countries where salaries and wages are much lower, so that we do not have to import too much inflation, without even increasing production, countries like ours would gain much more development, there would be much more development coming to our countries, because we would be able to provide more jobs-because we do have a high level of unemployment-and keep some of the money through "value added" in our country.

We do not necessarily want to have full concessions, and everything, but we want at least to have improved terms of trade. I am certain that great development strides could be made then with countries like ours. So we would like particularly the industrialized countries to reduce their levels of protectionism, particularly for our agro-industrial products. At the moment, many of our agroindustrial products are debarred from being traded, or are limited in their ability to be traded, in the industrial markets. We therefore make an appeal for a contribution towards improving the pattern of trade, to provide less stringent measures and make trading much easier for developing countries like ours.

We from the Caribbean area find ourselves located in the midst of the hurricanes which pass through the area, and over the last two years we have been subject to severe battering by hurricanes. One area in which we have great difficulty is that although after one year, particularly with bananas, we are able to recover the production levels that we had prior to the hurricane, a great amount of income is lost by the farmers, because 90 percent of our agriculture is our crops being grown by the small farmers, so whenever we have disasters like hurricanes and volcanic eruptions there is a great loss in income and earnings by the farmers which therefore affects the level of their nutritional intake.

We would like to see FAO and other organizations be in a position to respond more readily to assist countries like ours in overcoming natural disasters, by responding at levels which would assist in bringing our production and productivity back to levels which can make our economy buoyant in a short time.

We support FAO in its efforts to ensure that the resources of land and water are being used to the maximum. In our country we find that the land resources are grossly under-utilized. We find that, whilst we have drought problems, still quite a lot of river waters are going into the sea. What we are trying to do is to ensure that we can harness that water so that it can be utilized to increase productivity, because whilst we have very fertile soil our productivity is very limited because of drought and the lack of water. These are areas in which we might get the support of FAO. Already we have received some measure of support from FAO and we hope that the programme and budget of the Director-General will be supported so that it can bring as much assistance as possible to developing countries.

We also wish to state that we support and welcome the establishment of a centre for rural development and agrarian reform in the Latin American area. We feel it is time that people do not look at land as a status symbol, as a means of security, but rather as a means of production. We hope that the establishment of this centre will greatly assist us in focussing attention on maximizing the use of land.

I wish to commend the FAO staff on the preparation of this very comprehensive document on the food situation in the world. It has indeed painted a gloomy picture and, I feel, faced us with a commitment-all of us here, all countries, developed and developing. We can make tremendous strides towards brightening the future of the world food situation.

A. HAMZA (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, thank you.

Since I am taking the floor for the first time on behalf of Saudi Arabia in this commission, the delegation of my country would like to take the opportunity of congratulating you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of the commission.

Many of the delegates before me have already dealt in detail with the documents concerning the state of food and agriculture in the world. This situation is not really very encouraging. The document shows that the period 1980-81 will be one of the most difficult periods, so I will be brief and deal only with what we do in the Kingdom to increase agricultural production within the means of our production

capacity. My country, because of its ecological conditions, which are quite difficult, suffers from the lack of water and also of agricultural crops, and in spite of the fact that the Kingdom can import most of its needs in food-and we do so-we realize that the import policy will not solve the problems of food and agriculture in the country, since our production now meets only 40 percent of the needs of our country. We have therefore focused on giving high priority to the agricultural sector in our development plans in order to increase the cultivated land and also the productivity per agricultural unit. We have worked in different directions, carrying out final studies in order to define the priorities and detailed studies in the fields of agriculture and fish resources, and improved training in agriculture at the academic and field levels. We cooperate with the Gulf countries and the United Nations, in order to study the fish resources in the Gulf and in order to safeguard and to develop these resources; in cooperation with the Gulf countries and the Arab Peninsula, we are studying the means to develop agriculture and to improve the agricultural production in quality and quantity; we cooperate with the international organizations, to support the projects of agricultural development and implement these projects, thus supporting the private sector financially through extending agricultural credits to productive projects, and providing financial encouragement to produce the basic foodstuffs and to increase the production of livestock; to improve the rural areas by providing means of communication and building schools and hospitals in those areas; arable land is being distributed to farmers who are willing to exploit these lands; we encourage the private sector to set up silos and storage capacities in the different areas of the kingdom. And in this respect I would like to say that the Kingdom has come a long way towards establishing self-sufficiency in this field and in the field of basic food products.

The Kingdom is aware of its role in strengthening cooperation and in improving the food situation in the world and, in accordance with that policy, is aiming at making all efforts possible in order to alleviate the suffering of developing peoples-particularly in times of crisis. The Kingdom supports many of the local and international development funds including the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, and other funds.

We in the Kingdom realize the scope of food shortages, particularly in the poor areas, and we do our best to provide assistance to these countries. But we hope that all efforts of all countries will be Reused on freeing the world from hunger.

Md. IRSHADULA HAQ (Bangladesh):Mr. Chairman, we congratulate you, and through you the three Vice-Chairmen of this commission on your election to chair these deliberations here. Our heartiest thanks are also due to the FAO Secretariat in general, and Professor Islam in particular, for laying bare the stark realities of the current status of world food and agriculture.

The problems on the food front have been clearly identified and well-stated. Many distinguished delegates have also ably presented them here. We do not need to reiterate them over again.

The traumatic experiences of the world food crisis of 1973-74 that overtook Bangladesh also still haunts us. Since then the intractable problems of food, humankind's most basic need, have been deliberated in most international/regional fora. Strategies have been developed and launched to build up a dependable system of world food security to overcome any food crises; to establish and stabilize international food prices; to substantially raise food-aid targets and to set up an international emergency food reserve. But still the world food security system remains a distant dream and a global deficit appears to be closing in on us. Food production has been failing to match the increase in population in many countries. At least 22 countries, as has been reported, are suffering from chronic food shortages. Food aid commitments are still to reach the target fixed. Contributions to international emergency food reserve remains much below the replenishment target. Most developing countries are facing chronic balance of payment problems due to deteriorating agricultural terms of trade and resultant falling purchasing power from agricultural export earnings due to dampening demand for, and weakening prices of, agricultural produce; to sharp rises in import price of fossil fuel, fertilizer, farm equipment, freight charges, etc. ; the vicious circle of poverty and malnutrition as a result still persists amongst the poorest strata of the population.

The problems are well known and their solutions also are not far to seek. What is required is the will and determined efforts to deal with and overcome them, but our efforts must be directed to match the well-publicized goal of FAO, i. e. to help ensure humanity's freedom from poverty and malnutrition.

Keeping in view this overriding goal of facing poverty and malnutrition, we propose a few actions to add to the catalogue of suggestions already made by the distinguished delegates.

Actions are required at three levels: at the level of the developed countries-bilateral and multi lateral donor agencies; at a level between the developing countries and also within the developing countries. At the level of donors, we would suggest that: FAO's 5-point plan of action be implemented; national stock targets be fixed; food aid be increased to reach the targets; aid to developing countries be provided to establish food reserve.

Brilliant analysis of food and agricultural situation and growing awareness through international fora will still leave alleviation of poverty and malnutrition a far cry, unless investments matching the size and complexity of the problem are mounted.

Developed countries are faced with recession, inflation and unemployment, no doubt. But they must be made to understand that increasing volume of assistance to, and gradual liberalization of imports from developing countries will help to expand their economies, create increasing purchasing power and thus additional effective consumer demand for their marketable surpluses, and thereby help them ward off recession, arrest inflation and generate extra employment.

We suggest FAO undertakes specific studies in this regard to bring home to the respective developed countries the long-term benefits of mutual aid and two-way trade.

We also suggest that in their efforts to promote global food production, they should study management of food consumption also. Excessive dependence on a few cereals, especially in developing countries, makes them vulnerable to fluctuations in cereal production and availability. Efforts should be made to diversify food habits, to alternative and newer and non-cereal sources of calories and protein, say, vegetables, sea-food etc. We suggest FAO may also undertake studies for the production and popularization of newer sources of non-cereal food.

I would now suggest what mutual help and cooperation can be between the developing countries themselves: their dependence on developed countries will not solve our problem. There should be increasing co-operation in food and agriculture production and trade between the developing countries: regional cooperation in exchange of information, technical know-how, input management, joint-ventures etc. need be explored; expansion of agricultural trade between these countries need be explored; agri-deficit oil rich countries may cooperate and finance programmes for agricultural produce-fruits, vegetables, meat-in, and import them from, the selected developing countries. We suggest that FAO may also undertake exploratory studies to identify such areas of cooperation between developing countries.

We now switch to what can be done by the developing countries themselves-after all, in order to face the basic needs of food, they must stand on their own feet. They must take intra-country measures to face the situation. True, an accelerated increase in production is the immediate answer to food problems. But it is not the only answer. Self-sufficiency or even surplus in food production may not enable us to realize freedom from poverty and malnutrition. There can be widespread starvation and malnutrition in a country importing food. Parallel to production, distribution must also be given the same, if not more, emphasis.

If our goal is honestly to alleviate malnutrition, we must create conditions to ensure that every grain of incremental production reaches the hungry. In this regard, we would very briefly suggest a few points:(i) Conditions must be created to help food to be produced by those who need to be fed-and it has been found in our experience that the small and marginal farmers are the most efficient and most intensive farmers, making the best use of available resources at their command. Assistance directed towards that will bring more results than we normally achieve from alternative sources,(ii) We suggest that agro-based and agro-related activities must also be generated, so that the landless and the rural poor can be assisted towards the generating of income, employment and purchasing power. In this connexion we would also like to submit that our call for increased productivity, however justified because of the global deficit in food, will not help us overcome the curse of malnutrition and poverty, unless we create purchasing power which can be placed in the hands of those who need this power and those who are really poor.

We would like to stress the role of institutions for production and employment generation and optimum utilization of available resources for productions. The overriding national goal in developing countries is to improve the quality of the life of people and that can be achieved in two ways:

Firstly, by accelerating production through maximum possible use of resources and simultaneously by creating productive employment for the rural poor. Production can be accelerated in the short term by improving biological and chemical practices and supply of complementary inputs.

Secondly, employment generation can be made possible by bridging two persistent gaps amongst the rural poor. One is capital and the other is skill gap. The capital gap can be overcome by giving them credit on favourable terms. The skill gap can be overcome by giving them necessary training.

If we want to increase production and generate employment, we need the support of institutions, and in this case the institutions and organizations of the people, because whether it is for irrigation or whether it is to increase production or to afford the opportunity for market, training to the rural poor or for the provision of credit to the remote corners of the villages, group action is indispensable because the bureaucratic mechanism in developing countries cannot outreach its hands to the householder living in the remotest corners of the villages. In order to provide adequate access for the rural people, it is necessary that they should be formed into groups.

We have rich experiences in Bangladesh of having cooperatives playing a significant role both for production and employment generation. Our humble submission is that FAO as an international organization engaged in increasing food production and rural development should recognize this aspect of the role of institution in both production and employment generation.

N. DIMITRIU (Roumanie): Prenant pour la première fois la parole dans le cadre de notre commission, veuillez-m'en permettre de vous féliciter pour le mandat qu'on vous a confié et de vous assurer de l'entier appui de ma délégation en ce qui concerne le succès de ses travaux. Je félicite aussi la fois le professeur Islam pour son brillant exposé au sujet de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et le secrétariat qui a mis à notre disposition des matériaux intéressants rédigés avec compétence.

La Roumanie prête une attention particulière à la Conférence actuelle appelée à débattre et à adopter des mesures en vue de résoudre quelques-uns des problèmes les plus importants de l'époque contemporaine, tels que l'éradication du sous-développement et l'édification d'un nouvel ordre économique international, ainsi que des relations nouvelles basées sur l'égalité et l'équité des États.

D'après ce qu'il ressort du document C 81/11, la production mondiale de blé et des céréales secondaires est en augmentation cette année par rapport à l'année dernière, ce qui entraîne une diminution des importations et fait que la situation alimentaire est quelque peu plus favorable dans certains pays en développement. Malgré cela, nous retenons qu'il sera nécessaire de prendre des mesures par la suite, en vue de l'augmentation substantielle de la production agricole, ceci en particulier dans les pays en développement, ce qui constitue les prémisses essentielles pour la solution définitive des problèmes de l'alimentation, de l'élimination de la faim et de la malnutrition.

La délégation roumaine constate que le facteur déterminant dans la réalisation de cet objectif est présent par les efforts propres des pays en développement, mais elle retient en même temps qu'un rôle et une contribution particulière à la solution de ce problème doivent revenir à la coopération internationale, à l'aide que les pays développés et les organisations internationales doivent accorder pour soutenir les efforts faits par les pays en développement pour le développement de leur agriculture.

En ce sens, la délégation roumaine propose que sous l'égide de la FAO, en collaboration avec d'autres organisations internationales spécialisées, soit élaboré un programme spécial pour la période allant jusqu'en 2000 pour le développement de l'agriculture dans les pays en développement.

La délégation roumaine propose d'inclure également dans le projet d'un tel programme les recommandations adoptées lors de la Conférence mondiale pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, de même que lors des réunions de Pyongyang, de Paris etc., ce programme devant faire partie intégrante de la nouvelle stratégie du développement pour la troisième décennie de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.

Ainsi que nous l'avons déjà souligné à l'occasion d'autres réunions, en vue de satisfaire les besoins de consommation d'une série de pays en développement, l'agriculture doit participer et s'intégrer largement aux actions entreprises dans le cadre du nouvel ordre économique international qui est destiné à créer pour les pays en développement la possibilité de mieux mettre en valeur leurs propres ressources et de participer à l'échange mondial des valeurs matérielles.

La Roumanie, elle-même entraînée dans une révolution agraire, en tant que pays socialiste en développement, considère l'agriculture comme un des secteurs de base de l'économie nationale qui conditionne le progrès économique et social général de notre société. Sur cette base, la Roumanie se propose de réaliser une nouvelle révolution agraire en ce qui concerne la production, la productivité du travail, le niveau technique, le développement économique, l'activité sociale générale de nos villages.

En partant de l'expérience propre, nous considérons que chaque pays en développement doit accorder une attention particulière au développement de l'agriculture dans le cadre du processus du développement économique et social, ceci ayant un rôle important en vue d'assurer un développement harmonieux de l'ensemble de l'économie pour la consolidation de leur indépendance nationale.

La delegación rumana saisis cette occasion pour reaffirmer sa position déjà exprimée à de nombreuses autres sessions, à savoir que la solution du problème alimentaire mondial doit constituer un objectif central des efforts visant à l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international. Dans ce but, on doit prendre des mesures fermes pour l'accroissement substantiel et pour la diversification de la production agro-alimentaire dans les pays en développement, c'est la condition essentielle de l'assurance à long terme de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

En ce qui concerne l'importance particulière du commerce international des produits agro-alimentaires, la délégation roumaine souligne la nécessité des mesures à prendre pour sa plus large libéralisation pour la diminution substantielle des obstacles tarifaires et non tarifaires qui affectent surtout les exportations des pays en développement.

Pour notre part, nous agissons toujours dans la voie du développement de la coopération économique, technique et scientifique au sein des pays en développement, avec les autres pays membres de la FAO, pour la mise en pratique de tous les programmes orientés vers l'accroissement de la production agro-alimentaire dans le monde.

J. PUERTA ROMERO (Espagne): Gracias señor Presidente. Por ser esta la primera intervención de la delegación española, deseo expresarle mi felicitación por su nombramiento para presidir esta Comisión, felicitación que hago extensiva a los dos Vicepresidentes y también a la Secretaría por la preparación de los documentos 81/2 y su suplemento.

Voy a ser breve en mi exposición. Soy consciente del gran número de delegados que aun tienen que hacer uso de la palabra, y por ello voy a reducir mi intervención a comentar las formas en que mi país participa, en la medida de sus posibilidades y en solidaridad con la Comunidad Internacional, en los programas de ayuda alimentaria y de ayuda al desarrollo. Estamos convencidos de la necesidad de lograr elevadas tasas de autoabastecimiento en los países que de forma prácticamente permanente padecen situaciones de carencia de alimentos. Pensamos que para conseguirlo es necesaria la cooperación al desarrollo, pero en tanto no se alcance esa meta, la contribución a la ayuda alimentaria nos parece un instrumento imprescindible.

Permitame, señor Presidente, que haga una corta introducción respecto a la situación de la agricultura en mi país durante la campaña presente. La sequía ha sido el fantasma que durante meses viene padeciendo España durante 1981 y ha tenido como consecuencia una disminución sustancial de nuestras cosechas. La reducción global de la cosecha de cereales de invierno en 1981 ha sido nada menos que del 40 por ciento respecto a la cosecha de trigo y de un 45 por ciento respecto a la cosecha de cebada. Por eso, España, que habitualmente recurre al mercado internacional para la adquisición de cereales secundarios, tendrá que incrementar en la presente campaña sus compras para equilibrar la demanda ante nuestras cortas cosechas de cereales de invierno, especialmente para pienso. La situación en cuanto a nuestros abastecimientos de trigo no presenta tanta gravedad como en el caso de la cebada, dadas nuestras capacidades habituales de almacenamiento de este cereal, que nos permiten mantener unas adecuadas reservas estratégicas. Estas diversidades climatológicas, señor Presidente, creo que nos permiten comprender mejor la situación de los países que en amplias regiones del mundo se encuentran más afectadas por parecidas incidencias. Por eso mi país se adhirió por primera vez al Convenio de Ayuda Alimentaria en 1980, con una aportación de 20 000 toneladas métricas de cereales, que fueron distribuidas a países de África que figuraban en las recomendaciones que el Director General de la FAO hizo en el verano de 1980. En 1981, a pesar de la situación adversa que he comentado anteriormente, mi país ha reiterado el compromiso de 20 000 toneladas para la Ayuda Alimentaria y ha incluido 10 000 toneladas de trigo suplementarias, como ayuda, durante 1982, para los países menos adelantados.

Otra forma, señor Presidente, de participar en la ayuda a países en desarrollo ha sido la adhesión de España para 1980 y años sucesivos para la reserva alimentaria internacional de emergencia, con una contribución anual de 10 000 toneladas métricas de cereales. Y en el capítulo de Acciones para el Desarrollo, ha continuado asimismo en 1981 nuestra aportación de 400 000 dólares en el bienio 80/81 para el Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Con todo esto quiero expresar que mi país desea estar presente, a través de estas contribuciones a los programas de ayuda alimentaria, en la tenaz lucha en la que se han comprometido los países asistentes a la Conferencia General en 1979, cuando adoptaron la Resolución 1/79, instituyendo el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Suprimir la desnutrición, el hambre y la pobreza ha de ser el objetivo que requiere una participación activa en los programas de desarrollo, que son largos y costosos. Mientras tanto, debemos estar preparados para abordar programas a corto y largo plazo de ayudas alimentarias y de reservas de emergencias para casos urgentes e imprescindibles, programas que deberán ser cada día más puntuales, si somos capaces entre todos de hacerlos funcionar de manera solidaria y adecuadamente.

N. E. MUMBA (Zambia): The Zambia delegation joins the other delegations that have spoken in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, upon your election as Chairman of Commission I. We also wish to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen. I am sure that under your guidance our meeting will achieve remarkable results.

The issue before us is the state of food and agriculture in the world. The state of food and agriculture has been explained very well in the documents C 81/2 and C 81/2-Sup. I. For this reason I wish to congratulate the Secretariat for work well done. These documents show that the food outlook is not very good. The reason why it appears that it is not as bad as shown is that for many countries the 1980/81 season was a good one. In Zambia, for example, our yield of maize increased by 200 percent. This is an indication that the weather was particularly good. But I believe that we should still continue to ensure that we produce more food and stabilize production. In my opinion the attention of FAO must be drawn to two things.

We feel that more effort must be made on programmes that assist developing countries to strengthen their food production programmes. It is these programmes which will ensure stability in food production and food supply. Many of our countries are dependent upon the weather to produce this food.

We feel that the second chapter to which FAO must address itself is to pay more attention to irrigation programmes in developing countries, especially for small-scale farmers. We believe that the future of food lies in stabilizing production in areas of high demand.

Many who have spoken before me have told us that most of the surplus food is in a few countries and this causes lots of logistics problems when the food is urgently required in some other part of the world.

Of course, there are many things that one can say about the state of food and agriculture. Many of the countries here have already spoken and it is not my wish to repeat what they have said. I only want to add one more point, that Zambia supports the early warning system of food supply and forecasting that FAO is doing and we recommend the strengthening of this section because that assists us for planning ahead for any shortage of food.

H. HAUSER (Austria)(Original language German): First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this very important Commission, and your two Vice-Chairmen. On behalf of the Austrian delegation I wish you all the very best and trust that we shall be successful in our deliberations.

I shall take the lead from you and be very brief in my remarks.

We were very interested to read this document C 81/2 and the supplement. We have all heard what Professor Islam said to us when he introduced this point on our agenda. I would like to applaud the efforts of the Secretariat on the provision of this document which gives a good review of the state of food and agriculture in 1981.

Looking at the document as a whole, it does give rise to hope on the one hand but on the other it gives rise to certain worries. Production growth has been sluggish but it is still below requirements. The population in the world is growing and therefore the situation with regard to food is worsening. Developing countries have problems with balances of trade and balances of payments. So in a nutshell, if one looks at the negative side of this, we fear that the imbalances in this world will get worse. From the Austrian point of view, only a joint international programme is going to solve this problem. Of course, developing countries have to strive towards self-reliance. This has not only to be done with better seed, fertilizers and irrigation, but by prices as an inducement to farmers.

We need to act quickly in view of the world food situation. Austria has always supported close cooperation with developing countries. We help in those areas where we possess special skills. We work actively within the World Food Programme and also support the International Emergency Food Reserve. Austria also provides cereals within the context of the Food Aid Convention.

I would also mention that the Austrian delegation particularly applauds the involvement of the OPEC countries in the International Emergency Food Reserve. This gives rise to hope.

Our country also works in the World Campaign against Hunger, and the recent World Food Day has sensitized public opinion to the serious food situation in the world. We believe that the Cancún north-south conference has made people realize that we are interdependent.

I should like to point out one more thing. We support the FAO early warning system because in this way very important data is provided which helps us when we are making our decisions. We believe that we could improve this activity and extend it. Austria also believes that data from the FAO could be better utilized, and here I support what was said by Professor Islam in his keynote speech.

I would also like to express the hope that through cooperation between all countries we shall be able to make a real contribution to improving the world food situation.

J. GORECKI (Poland): As I am speaking for the first time in this Commission I would like to say that our delegation joins other distinguished delegates who have already expressed their congratulations to you and their appreciation of the documents C/81/2 and C/81/2 Supp. 1. We greatly appreciate the effort of the FAO Secretariat in giving us these clear and comprehensive documents as the base for our deliberation on this subject. Particularly I would like to compliment Prof. N. Islam on the very useful and clear introduction.

My comments will be addressed mainly to those paragraphs of the documents which refer to human factors in agricultural development, which I believe is one of the most important factors in the process of rural development. The continuing high rates of population growth in developing countries create major problems for their agricultural sector. Their agriculture will not only have to provide increasing quantities of food to feed the growing total population but also adjust the pattern of production to changing food habits. Despite massive rural/urban exodus agriculture will have to provide employment to a large number of people. In this situation of land shortages this can have serious implications both for production strategies as well as for the systems of ownership and management of land. This is why much more attention ought to be given to the problem of rural/urban immigration and to employment in the agricultural sector as well as other sectors. This situation requires that priority is given to the policy of rural development which in turn must be supported by a comprehensive regional, national and economic income policy. For the implementation of such a policy a set of individual measures must be taken in the field of production methods, inputs, agricultural credit, education extension, transport and marketing systems. Success will only occur if the development of the agricultural sector is integrated into the overall economic development of the whole country. An exodus of urban/rural immigration can also be observed in the process of development of my own country. Within 40 years in my own country the rural population has fallen from 80 percent to 45 percent and employment in agriculture constitutes at present about 25 percent of the professionally active population. The process of rural/urban immigration has caused great changes in the agricultural population, both quantitative and qualitative. There are numerous publications and studies dealing with the process of immigration but it is worth stressing that most of them concern those who leave the rural area and not those who stay there. From the point of view of agricultural development, however, those who stay are more important.

If we say that the process of rural/urban immigration should be treated as generally advantageous, yet there might occur some peculiar phenomena which could be disadvantageous for agricultural development. Let me stress only two such causes. Firstly, in the face of insufficient supply of agriculture with the means of production, the fall of the labour force could not be replaced by the work of machines and tools which often lead to the extensification of production. Secondly, in the strategy of development the lack of transfers for the development of home agriculture could cause a particular intensification of the phenomena of negative selection, that is the better left and the worst stayed. The better means, among other things, the young, the better educated, more dynamic and active, etc. Stressing the role and the importance of the human factor in agricultural development I would like to draw more attention to this problem in our deliberation. Now I would, like to make a few remarks on the present situation in Polish agriculture. Everybody knows we have serious economic difficulties, particularly in agriculture and food production and perhaps it seems to be paradoxical but though agriculture in comparison with other sectors is so backward, the chances of its growth are believed to be the biggest. In the last year some essential changes in our agrarian policy could be observed. Two of them are most important. Firstly, recognizing the private family farm as a permanent component of a socialist economy; secondly, recognizing independent trade unions of individual farmers, recognizing the durability of the family farm means permitting this type of farm the same conditions as those the state or cooperative farms have in the field of purchasing of land and means of production, granting credits, etc.

As a result of the agreement between the government and the trade unions of farmers it was settled that the agricultural sector would be privileged and that equal economic conditions would be created for all the sectors and groups of farms. The system of management and economic and financial conditions in the estate farms has been changed. The state farms have been given full independence and the only criterion of their activity is profit. The new system will surely cause a change in the structure of production and will improve the efficiency of farming. The prices of agricultural products have increased by about 40 percent since September 1980 thus increasing farmers' incomes by about 30 percent in comparison with 1979. This will improve the parity of incomes of people employed in agriculture in relation to other social groups. A new proposal concerning old age pensions and social benefits aiming at the gradual revaluing of those benefits in relation to the non-agricultural population is being prepared. The above mentioned changes and suggestions have already had advantages in the productive activity of farmers which can be observed in a bigger demand for land as well as in higher land prices. In the first half of this year individual farmers bought over 50,000 hectares of land from the State Land Fund. In the economic policy of our country the biggest priority is given to agriculture-in the whole national

economy-as well as the necessity of changing the productive force of a considerable part of our industry to the manufacturing of agricultural means of production. However, because of the difficult situation in industry the process is proceeding slowly and industry can meet only a part of the demand for the agricultural means of production. The above mentioned trends and changes as well as the first results are optimistic, so we are hopeful that everybody realizes that the way out of the present food crisis of my country can be neither fast nor easy.

A. DJIGMA (Haute-Volta) : . J'ai l'honneur de vous adresser les vives felicitations de la delegation vol-taique a l'occasion de votre election a la presidence de notre Commission. J'ai aussi le plaisir de formuler les remerciements de ma delegation au Secretariat pour la clarte et la concision des documents qui nous ont ete fournis.

Ainsi qu'il est ecrit dans le document C 81/2 Supplement 1, la production agricole a connu un redressement opportun en 1981 dans beaucoup de pays du globe. En Haute-Volta, par exemple, des estimations nous laissent esperer une recolte d'environ 1 270 000 tonnes de cereales, sauf accident de derniere heure. Malheureusement dans ce pays sahelien nous sommes habites depuis un certain nombre d'annees a voir tous nos efforts de production anihiles en raison de facteurs dont nous n'avons pas malheureusement la maitri-se. Il se trouve qu'on ne peut envisager une securite alimentaire au niveau mondial tant qu'il y aura des pays qui ne seront pas en mesure d'atteindre leur autosuffisance alimentaire et qui sont toujours a la merci des secours d'urgence. Il faut absolument stabiliser la production dans les zones a forte de-mande et a faible production. C'est pourquoi, parmi les aspects tant divers du probleme de la securite alimentaire mondiale, nous insisterons, en ce qui nous concerne, particulierement sur l'aide a la production au niveau national.

La Haute-Volta, face aux caprices climatiques, a commence un programme visant a developper la culture irriguee. Des pays amis et des organismes internationaux nous apportent leur concours. Mais il reste enormement a faire dans ce sens et nous comptons enormement sur l'aide de la FAO et sur les organismes et pays bailleurs de fonds pour nous aider dans cette lutte.

Pour augmenter la productivity du monde paysan, il faut des equipements et des intrants. C'est en aidant les pays deficitaires a mettre sur pied des systemes de credits agricoles, a produire localement des engrais aux moindres couts, que l'on pourra acclerer la production au niveau des petits paysans.

A propos de l'acceleration de la production, au niveau des petits paysans, on a souvent tendance a appliquer des techniques qui, si elles peuvent donner des resultats spectaculaires, ont souvent des consequences facl eases a long terme. Il en est ainsi de la destruction de la fertilite des sols par l'utilisation d'engrais chimiques et de la destruction des potentiels genetiques locaux a l'utilisation abusive de varietes exotiques. A cet egard, la recherche agricole devrait etre renforcee dans les pays pour permet-tre l'identification de pays appropries a chaque situation. La aussi on sait qu'il faut faire des investissements ards qui ne sont pas toujours a la portee de nos moyens locaux. Ces investissements sont pourtant indispensables a l'accroissement de la production et c'est pourquoi nous en appelons encore a la FAO, aux pays amis et autres organismes pour qu'ils nous aident a renforcer nos structures nationales de recherche afin d'atteindre a l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Voilà quelques aspects du probleme de la securite alimentaire mondiale sur lesquels nous pensions devoir insister.

H. MOHAMADI BATAIK (Sudan)(Original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, I would like to join other speakers in congratulating you on your election to preside over this commission. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive document on the state of food and agriculture as this document has covered a great many aspects of the matter in great detail. My country's delegation wishes to express its approval of what is said in paragraph 52 of the supplement, which requires us to give priority to agriculture in the LDCs and, as the delegate of France stated this morning, as we also attach special importance to this document.

We deem that foreign aid falls far below the expectations of developing countries, especially where the financing of food and agricultural projects is concerned. Furthermore, a large share of this aid has no immediate impact on increasing production. Many of the financing institutions do not finance basic infrastructure organizations or the agricultural credit institutions required for an integrated agricultural development within the framework of rural development in its larger sense. They in fact opt for financing intensive agricultural projects or those with an immediate reward although, intermediate medium-term systems are more beneficial. We therefore deem it necessary that we should seek to strike a balance between production and the projects aimed at achieving an economic benefit as well as improving production. We should seek to improve food production and to help development, and concentrate more specifically on the most backward farmers and those most seriously affected.

Food production in many developing countries is a traditional activity. This sector involves the small-scale farmers and those undertaking pastoral activities. They are centuries-old activities and are undertaken without any inputs to speak of. These farmers are not involved in the marketing of other agricultural input activities, yet half of the food crop produced in Sudan comes from traditional farming activities. The whole of our sesame production is cultivated in this way, as well as our crops of groundnuts. Similarly Vertical extension of agriculture, especially in those areas which are situated at greater distance from the traditional source of water is also affected. We therefore have to help to improve these areas output and to improve pastoral activities also.

The increase in the area of arable land depends on taking into account the factors of land and water and their improvement. We also have to take into account the need for vertical expansion through adequate inputs of services, although this depends on a lesser share of benefits reverting to producers in some places.

Unfavourable terms of trade, which are not beneficial to producers of developing countries such as Sudan, have led to a continuous exodus from the agricultural sector, more specifically among the young in rural areas. They have turned to the towns and to other countries for employment in more beneficial or financially rewarding sectors. This has led to a serious deterioration in food production and to an increase in the population, and food consumption in cities. This drop referred to in paragraph 78 of the supplementary document, as well as the drop in the prices of cotton, and vegetable oils has increased our concern about the negative impact of fluctuations in food and agricultural production. These could also exacerbate the problems of the rural exodus and of high dependence on the amelioration of agricultural production.

Finally, my country's delegation supports the proposal made by Jordan to establish a special international fund for small-scale farmers.

T. ONUL (Turkey): First I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the Vice-Chairmen, on your election and then to go on to my statement.

It is well known that the increase in food production cannot keep pace with the population increase in the developing countries, resulting in an ever increasing food deficit. We think that while striving to increase food production every measure has to be taken to control population growth in the developing countries which are determined for action. In this regard, FAO can originate publicity and support the birth control programmes in these and other countries of the world.

While doing so, support for the national programmes being implemented in the developing countries with the purpose of increasing crop production per unit area must be continued. Special emphasis must be given not only to wheat or rice but also to the native crops, like millets, cassava, yam, etc. The International Crop Research Institute around the world should be supported in their programmes of crop improvement and for increasing the nutritional quality of these widely consumed native crops in the developing countries.

Another way we think will help in increasing food production is the better use of the already available agricultural land. The amount of land under fallow could be either reduced or completely abandoned in some areas. In the dry land areas, food legumes such as lentils might take their place in the fallow-cereals rotation system. In the irrigated areas, early maturing corn, sunflower, soya bean, rice and/or sorghum varieties could be planted after cereals, permitting the harvest of two crops per year. At this point we have to stress the importance of crop improvement programmes for early maturity, increased yield and more stable disease resistance.

The fourth point we want to bring to your attention is the storage of food. The production of cereals, which are the staple food in most developing countries, fluctuates from year to year depending on the natural factors. In the years when there is a surplus of cereal production, these countries are not equipped with the proper facilities to store the excess crops; therefore it is of prime importance to increase the storage capacity of such countries, not only for the purpose of fulfilling their own needs but for fighting hunger in the region. We are volunteering to serve as a centre for the implementation of a regional cereal storage programme for the Middle East. The role of FAO in this proposed scheme could be to encourage the organization and support for the establishment of regional cereal stocks throughout the world.

The final point is that not much has been accomplished at the international level in reforestation, afforestation activities, protection of forests from fires, insects and diseases and the more efficient use of existing resources. The depletion of forest resources is a problem not only of the developing countries but for the developed countries as well. FAO should therefore consider the preparation of a forest management action programme. A cooperative network programme on forest management could be initiated by FAO, similar to other cooperative network programmes enabling the initial step for worldwide cooperation to begin.

In summary, population control, the support of the International Crop Research Centres to increase productivity, better land use, the establishment of regional cereal stocks and the improvement of cooperation in forest management are a few measures which we think are of major importance in the improvement of the status of food and agriculture in the world.

R. ROSE (Canada): Mr. Chairman, before beginning my remarks, allow me to say how pleased I was to note your election as Chairman of this important commission. You and your Vice-Chairmen are indeed deserving of our congratulations. The unanimous confidence expressed by the Conference in affirming your choice indicates that we will indeed be able to work together to complete the work of this Conference.

I also want to congratulate the Secretariat on the timely and comprehensive documents which they have prepared and also Professor Islam on his introductory remarks.

We are of course pleased to note the increasing trends in world food production reported in these documents and the increased margin of food safety which this larger production provides. Canada shares the importance which the international community attaches to global food problems and welcomes the enhanced priority being accorded by a number of developing countries to their agricultural sector. The Ottawa Summit gave high priority to this sector, as indeed did the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Melbourne. In Cancún the participants agreed on a certain number of priorities: first, they agreed that hunger must be eradicated; secondly, they called for a sustained internal effort on the part of developing countries to obtain greater self-reliance in food production, notably by means of national food strategies covering the entire cycle of food production, productivity, distribution and consumption and comprising adequate price incentives to farmers; and, finally, they agreed that food aid is to be recognized as a temporary tool and not to be used as a permanent replacement for internal production. With these points I believe we can all concur.

During the current year, wheat production in Canada has increased by 27 percent to a record crop of 24 million tons. This was partly in response to advice to farmers, offered by the Government of Canada, to increase their acreage in view of the lower global food grain stock and in recognition of Canada's place in the world food security system. Farmers were also encouraged by the existing market prices last Spring. Despite a bad start, we were blessed with good growing conditions as the season progressed. Wheat exports this crop year are expected to be higher, in the vicinity of 17.5 million tons, and Canada will of course meet its commercial and food aid obligations. Year-end stocks will increase, providing additional food security.

Canada has also had a marked increase of 17 percent in coarse grain production during the current year, resulting in total production of 26.5 million tons. All of this extra grain production will not be exported and stocks will increase by approximately 50 percent.

I have already noted that Canadian farmers increased their plantings of wheat this past Spring, partially in response to one level of world market prices which they considered adequate to cover the costs involved in wheat production. Canada is becoming increasingly concerned about the recent weakening of world grain prices and the adverse effects this could have for future production. The Canadian grain farmer, like many around the world, is already in a price squeeze, caused by increasing input costs and high interest rates. The consequences of this cost-price squeeze are serious since, while not wishing to belabour the point, a fair return to producers is one essential key to increased food production.

The document before us on the state of food and agriculture goes on to examine the state of world food security. Canada will be fully addressing this important topic under Agenda Item 6.2. We only could wish to repeat here, as our Minister of Agriculture has said many times, that national food security and self-reliance is the key to world food security.

Turning to the longer term aspects of agricultural assistance: Canada remains convinced that increased local production in food deficit regions will be the solution to food security problems. The backbone of such an approach must be a coordinated national food sector strategy, encompassing both an appropriate investment strategy and incentives for agricultural producers.

As mentioned yesterday by my Minister of Agriculture, the Canadian Government intends to make food and agriculture the most important priority for our international development programme in the 1980s. The proportion of Canadian development assistance devoted to the food and agriculture sector will rise from the present level of 30% of our assistance to a level of approximately 45%.

The document before us highlights trade in agricultural products. We have a number of problems with the lack of disaggregation in the statistics themselves. The developing countries include in their number some countries which are industrialising at a rapid rate, countries which are members of OPEC, countries with rich resourcebases already engaged in commodity exports, as well as those low income food deficit countries which are deserving of the focus of our concern. Surely it is misleading to treat the statistics from the developing countries as a group. The important agricultural exporters deserve treatment which is separate from the oil exporting countries or those with an expanding export trade in manufactured goods or in resource commodities.

We also feel that agricultural trade should not be looked at in isolation from total trade. We note from a recent GATT study that the share of agriculture in the total world trade sector has declined to 15% in 1980 as against 21 in 1973. This represents a reordering of trade values, with fuels taking over the position formerly occupied by agriculture.

Looking ahead in this decade, we shall all need to adjust to changing conditions in world trade. The developing countries will register the most growth in food demand as a result of higher population, increasing urbanisation, and greater purchasing power which will result from their economic progress. Part of this increased demand for food will be met within the country, but imports will have an important role. The question then arises as to how these imports will be financed. In most cases we cannot look for a balancing of agricultural imports against agricultural exports. Rather, many countries will rely less on exported food and other commodities and more on export of manufactures and also services-in particular, tourism, for which many developing countries are uniquely suited. In other words, developing countries will move towards food self-reliance rather than food self-sufficiency. The GATT NTN was an important milestone towards the liberalisation of trade generally, particularly with regard to the codes covering non-tariff issues and the conditions of trade.

The liberalisation of trade is a continuing process and there are now plans in GATT for a new trade programme for the 1980s to be launched at a ministerial meeting under GATT auspices next November. The elements of the trade agenda for the 1980s contained problems such as barriers to trade in agriculture and fisheries and the special problems of the developing countries. We recognise that successive GATT initiatives have not been successful in meeting the problems of agricultural trade. As an agricultural exporter, we are very aware of non-tariff barriers affecting such trade. These obstacles stem from the domestic policies which in turn are based on internal political economic and social considerations. Such problems do not lend themselves to ready solutions, but we are trying to come to grips with these issues both in GATT and OECD.

Given the difficulty of negotiating price and other economic provisions, Canada supports commodity councils and such groups or inter-governmental groups as consultative fora for improving market information, analysing problems, and seeking joint solutions.

Turning to the other sectors under review, we share the concern expressed in the document that fisheries output appears to be stagnating. This is particularly significant in view of the importance of fish as a protein food in the developing countries, where the catch has actually declined. We in Canada also have problems in the fisheries sector, both with a decline in certain species and in marketing.

The focal point of our attention at this conference is how to expedite fisheries development in the third world. Canada is providing assistance in the sector in our bilateral programmes. Just recently, at the Melbourne Summit, our Prime Minister announced our intention to set up and finance in Canada an international -centre for ocean development. FAO has a vital role in fisheries development, to help the developing countries to exploit the marine resources in their exclusive economic zones, to build up their managerial capability and to introduce appropriate technology.

Turning to the forestry sector: No doubt all delegates are aware of the alarming rate at which deforestation is taking place in many parts of the world, and particularly in the tropical zones, with resulting desertification and erosion. This is primarily the result of shifting agriculture and the increasing demand for fuel wood.

We want to underline the statement made by Mrs. Gandhi in her address to Plenary when she said, "without trees there is no food". This puts forestry squarely in the centre of the food and agriculture problem and gives it the attention it deserves.

Canada strongly supports those land management practices which give due attention to both agriculture and forestry, and therefore sees FAO's agro-forestry programme as a high priority item.

We would also mention the efforts of the International Centre for research in Agro-Forestry with head quarters in Nairobi.

Canada recognises the need for vastly increased reafforestation programmes and has indicated, in the light of fuel demands, its support for the World Bank's energy affiliate suggested at the United Nations conference in Nairobi.

In connection with the role of fuel wood in energy supplies, Canada is active in developing techniques to replace conventional energy sources and its energy efficiency. We shall refer to these matters during our discussions on Agenda Item 8.

E. HJELMAR (Denmark): Mr. Chairman, today at an advanced stage of the second day of the meeting of Commission I, I will not only congratulate you, but I congratulate the Commission, on the election of you as Chairman of the Commission. We have been very happy with you in the chair, as an efficient leader of the meeting. Thanks also to Professor Islam for the two documents which form the basis for our discussion. We, as well as previous speakers, accept the documents as a well balanced report on the world food and agricultural situation today, towards the end of 1981. I will try to follow the advice of the Ethiopian delegate not to repeat the statements. The documents reflect correctly the differences between the different regions of the world, but in view of the statements of yesterday and today of the member countries, I think it might be useful to stress the differences as well as the similarities between the developments in the industrialized countries and the different regions and categories of developing countries.

A large number of developing countries have referred to the influence on agriculture of the economic recession, inflation and unemployment, of monetary instability as well as to the distorted terms of trade for agriculture and the balance of payment difficulties for non-oil exporting countries. These difficulties caused by the general economic environment are common difficulties for the developing countries as well as industrialised countries. As mentioned in the documents, growth of GNP in the industrialised countries is projected to be less than 1 percent in 1981.

The heading of this item of the agenda is the state of food and agriculture, and according to our mandate this commission should be the main forum for discussions of broad policy questions concerning the state of food and agriculture. So far, most speakers have concentrated on food problems and food policies and have paid less attention to agricultural policies. It is not the same thing in all countries. Here there is an obvious difference between the developing countries and the industrialised countries.

To take my own country, Denmark, as an example, we have no food problems in the sense that we have no hunger or no malnutrition. On the contrary, we produce food enough to nourish a population three times as large as the Danish population. But we have serious problems with an agricultural policy due to the general economic problems, with an alarming number of farmers being forced to leave their farms, and to give up at a time when we have unprecedented unemployment elsewhere. I think it useful to stress these similarities and these differences between the situation in the industrialised countries and the developing countries.

We suffer all of us with the consequences of the general economic recession which has caused difficulties for agriculture in many countries, and especially in countries mainly dependent on imports and exports whether these countries are industrialised countries or developing countries. Each country must accept these consequences of the man-made disaster, the general economic recession, and adapt their general economic and their agricultural policy to the circumstances.

But it is important that we all accept that we live in the same world and that the adaptation of the policies don't lead to new protective measures which harm others. Many countries have moved towards such measures and I think we have a common interest in avoiding such developments.

It is also important, and I would like to stress, that we in the industrialised countries accept that our own difficulties are minor ones compared with the problems of the least developed countries which not only have agricultural problems but also food problems and that assistance to the development of agriculture in these countries must be continued in spite of the economic problems. We for our own part accept this. The Swedish Minister of Agriculture mentioned yesterday that Denmark together with Sweden and Norway and the Netherlands use more than 0,7 per cent of our GNP for development purposes. We will continue to do so but the developing countries must also accept that the growth in GNP's is very low at the present and may be negative in some countries.

Under the present economic circumstances it is more important than at any time before, that aid for disposal on agricultural development should be utilized efficiently with the primary goal that food production in the developing countries rises so that they reach a higher degree of self sufficiency. The developing countries themselves will have to make the major effort to obtain this. We consider the development of regional and national food strategy for this purpose very important. The first goal must be to obtain a higher degree of food security. We are a very long way from this goal, as long as one year's bad harvest can lead to a hunger situation in a country, therefore the next item on the agenda must be considered very important.

C. de MELO (Brasil): En primer lugar, en nombre de la delegacion del Brasil, deseo felicitarle por su eleccion a la Presidencia de esta nuestra importante Comision y tambien felicitar al señor Islam por su presentacion clara y concisa del documento C 81/2 y C 81/2 Sup. 1.

Permitame, Sr. Presidente, mencionar aqui la frase con que empieza el parrafo y del documento C 77/2, relativa al decimonoveno periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO en 1977: "Entre los paises en desarrollo las tendencias de la produccion a largo plazo han sido particularmente insatisfactorias en los paises menos adelantados, que son los mas afectados". Menciono tambien el primer parrafo del documento C 79/2 de la XX Conferencia de la FAO en 1979: "El estado de la agricultura y de la alimentacion en el mundo permanece inseguro, si no fragil en los paises en desarrollo" y hace un llamamiento al Director General, para : "tomar lo mas temprano posible acciones para hacer frente a situaciones de emergencia que puedan ocurrir". Y de este modo, señor Presidente, si siguiéramos en adelante la lectura del documento de Conferencias anteriores acerca del estado de la alimentacion y de la, agricultura, podríamos encontrar frases semejantes que reflejan la falta de cambios para mejorar durante los años sucesivos, y lo que es mas grave los mejoramientos, etc. , casi siempre son atribuidos a situaciones climatológicas desfavorables.

En fin, Sr. Presidente, que en la lectura de todos estos documentos encontramos siempre los mismos problemas: proteccionismo, barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias, deterioro de las relaciones de inter-cambios, erosion de los precios de productos agricolas provenientes de los paises en desarrollo, etc. , y la aplicacion de las mismas soluciones, pero permanecen los mismos malos resultados. En este año, como dice el parrafo primero del documento C 81/2, "recesion, inflacion y desempleo, inestabilidad monetaria, continuada de largos desequilibrios en las balanzas de pagos, se ha combinado con una situacion alimentaria y agricola incierta".

Señor Presidente, permitame discurrir brevemente acerca de los esfuerzos que el Gobierno brasileño, en la medida de sus posibilidades, esta desarrollando como parte de su cooperacion para mitigar la dificil situacion alimentaria y agricola mundial. El Brasil tiene plena consciencia de que en primer lugar cabe a los propios paises en desarrollo la responsabilidad y la opcion de aumentar la produccion de alimentos y la productividad agricola como medios para conseguirse la autosuficiencia alimentaria y el mejoramiento de nivel de vida de sus poblaciones. De acuerdo con este juicio, el Gobierno brasileño atribuye prioridad al sector agricola en sus economia y alcanza varios objetivos, asi como el aumento de los suministros de alimentos, la expansion de las exportaciones de los productos agricolas y de sus excedentes, la disminucion de las importaciones de alimentos y la de combustibles. La produccion de semillas mejora, el desarrollo de nuevas investigaciones de cultivos y el incremento en la asistencia técnica, llevada sobre todo a los pequeños y medianos productores, todo eso ha concurrido para que en 1981 la produccion brasilena de granos llegara a 54 millones de toneladas, en contra de los 49 millones de toneladas en 1979. En el corriente año el sector agricola mantiene su lugar destacado como contribuyente en la falta de las exportaciones nacionales. Este sector será responsable por más del 50% de los ingresos del país, con mas de 12 millones de dolares.

Sin embargo, para un país con las dimensiones y la potencialidad de Brasil, estas cifras y otros resultados mas ya alcanzados no son suficientes, pues estamos todavia muy lejos de lo que se desea. Así el Gobierno brasileño trabaja con instrumentos específicos para desarrollar otros frentes agricolas en su territorio. Uno de ellos constituye la incorporacion a medio plazo de aproximadamente un millon de hectareas de la region conocida como Los Arados, una especie de sabana localizada en el centro del país. Esta region hasta hace poco tiempo no era aprovechada para la agricultura, debido a su suelo seco y baja humedad relativa del aire, ademas de los prolongados periodos de sequia durante el año. Los técnicos brasileños ya dominan la utilizacion del suelo y un sistema de riegos debiera transformar la region en grandes plantaciones de trigo, ademas de otros cultivos. La segunda zona agricola está en la region preamazonica, en la cual están siendo desarrollados muchos proyectos de asentamientos, lograndose grandes éxitos. En el aprovechamiento de los valles se ha comprobado que la produccion es de 6 a 7 toneladas de grano por hectárea, en cuanto que la media nacional es de poco más de 5 toneladas por hectárea. Esto constituye el mas grande de los proyectos agricolas y a corto plazo aumentara significativamente la produccion de alimentos en Brasil.

Por ahora nuestra nacion cuenta para sus proyectos con la confianza de ejecucion financiera internacional para la utilizacion de un millon de hectareas hasta 1984. Ahf esta, sefior Presidente una buena muestra del esfuerzo de Brasil para contribuir al mejoramiento de la situacion agricola mundial. Mi delegacion espera que los experimentos hechos, sobre todo en la produccion de semillas geneticamente mejoradas en el aprovechamiento de Los Arados y de los valles humedos, puedan ser utilizados por los demas paises en desarrollo, que tengan características semejantes de clima y de suelo.

El Gobierno brasilefio tiene plena conciencia de que es imperative, la necesidad de una creciente coope-racion tecnica entre los paises en desarrollo y que el estado de la agricultura y de la alimentacion dejarã de ser analizado bajo una optica negativa en los futuros documentos de la FAO, cuando los paises desarrollados abandonaran sus practicas proteccionistas y cambiaran las pollticas sobre soluciones mas justas y equitativas en las relaciones internacionales.

The meeting rose at 12. 45 hours.

La seance est levee a 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesion a las 12. 45 horas.

conference

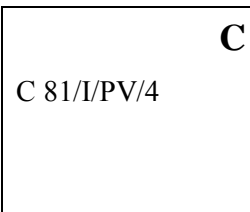
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FOURTH MEETING QUATRIEME SEANCE CUARTA SESION

(12 November 1981)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14. 55 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatrieme seance est ouverte à 14 h 55, sous
la presidence de Joseph Tchicaya, President de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 14. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- II. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- III. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuacion)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation, including:(continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment: (suite)
- 6. Situacion alimentaria y agricola en el mundo, en particular: (continuacion)
- 6. State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
- 6. 1. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. 1. El estado de la agricultura y la alimentacion (continuacion)

Mrs. W. B. EIDE (Norway): My delegation has read with interest the document before us and has found a number of useful informations and view points in it. In particular, my delegation is glad to see an increasing proportion of what we can call general analytical considerations concerning the basic causes of the current food and agriculture situation. This will help in our understanding of the data available. It also no doubt reflects a greater consensus compared to some years ago of the nature of these causes. For example, my delegation appreciates the emphasis laid on the role of access to land, inputs and services to the producers. As the document points out, the effect on income distribution of the access to productive inputs on the alleviation of rural poverty must not be ignored. We could state that the opposite is also true, that there is an effect of the income distribution on access to production inputs, or in other words that there already exists a skewness in access due to differences in economic levels. Whatever way we put it, the increasing attention to the small farmers and the landless must continue and even be enforced. In this it is important that we do not generalize about who those are or where. The document strongly points out that there are wide variations in the composition of the rural poor in different regions. Only by knowing more about this composition and how it is linked to the processes of development of underdevelopment can we avoid rhetorical generalities and hope that the different efforts will have a real effect where it is most needed. This leads me to the main point of my delegation's comment. Since it is agreed that there are these wide internal differences with respect to how development efforts can affect the population and that the nature of these differences varies between countries, it is important that we have as good a statistical basis as possible for following the effects in different groups. To this end we need data on a continuing basis. My delegation would therefore like to draw the attention of the Conference to the present discrepancy between the instruments available for comparing distribution between countries and those which exist within countries. In the section of the document dealing with this point the average caloric availability for regions can be studied over time and we know that behind these data there are data for the individual countries. Based on such data it is stated in the document that there was a small improvement in the nutritional situation over the years 1977-79 measured in terms of average availability of calories. My delegation would warn against the use of this terminology here since the actual nutritional levels can only be described on a much lower organizational level than the nation. The changes referred to may in fact make it possible for those who can afford it to consume more without there being any changes in the consumption of the lower income groups.

In any case, reference to differences in caloric availability within countries is only given on *ad hoc* basis, that is, by means of results from token studies showing the close linkage between assumption levels and various socio-economic factors like size of land holdings, income, agricultural season, and so on, and we know that current research is unveiling others. None of the data referred to here are more recent than 1977 and in any case can only serve an analytical purpose regarding the ways in which consumption and nutritional levels link up with various aspects of poverty.

The Norwegian delegation thinks the time has come to ask for more systematic data of this type and, above all, that such data are collected as time series. By that we would bring in the dynamic aspects of changes in distribution and consumption-and I emphasize here, the changes. We think that understanding of such changes is a prerequisite for monitoring the general development process and specific efforts so that governments and international assistance agencies will know what is happening and be able to adjust their strategies and inputs accordingly. We believe that much of this work could be done within the present budgetary framework and linked to ongoing programmes under food and agricultural information, food and nutritional assessment and even evaluation of field programmes.

The hope that we are trying to express here is that at some time we may see the results of information collection under such headings as I mentioned combined into changes over time, data of changes over time, regarding consumption levels of representative social and economic groupings in selected areas. I am tempted here to borrow from the language of epidemiology and public health and say that the goal

for world food statistics must be to turn from giving figures only for the incidence of under consumption and under-nutrition to reporting on the prevalence, meaning that we should know not only absolute figures but also how such figures are spread in the society. When that happens, the already excellent reviews presented to the FAO Conferences will be even better and we will also have a better basis for realizing the combined goals of implementing a new economic order at the international level and those of WCARRD at the domestic levels, both of which are emphasized in the document as being necessary to alleviate poverty and malnutrition.

P. A. BLANDON (Nicaragua): Señor Presidente, en primer lugar deseo saludarle a usted y a los compañeros Vicepresidentes, al mismo tiempo que felicitar a la Secretaria por los documentos eficientemente preparados. Nuestra delegación desea hacer un breve comentario acerca de la reactivación agrícola para la producción de alimentos que nuestro país ha tenido en el período reciente a través de las siguientes políticas.

En primer lugar, la introducción de una Ley de Reforma Agraria ha permitido verdaderamente incorporar a las cooperativas de producción de alimentos básicos, sextuplicando de esta manera el área sembrada de alimentos, dando al mismo tiempo tasas preferenciales a través del crédito, distribuyendo los insumos y servicios mecanizados a los productores; brindando asistencia técnica de acuerdo con los programas campesinos del Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario, otorgando precios de garantía que reconozcan al productor sus verdaderos costos y un margen generoso de rentabilidad de acuerdo con los rendimientos tradicionales: maíz, arroz y frijoles, lo que incluso ha mejorado el porcentaje de la recuperación del crédito, capacitando a activistas agrícolas, productores campesinos, para multiplicar los paquetes tecnológicos acordados con los mismos productores, introduciendo sistemas de acopio campesinos a través de la autoconstrucción en un programa de 40 000 trojes rurales para el almacenamiento de más de 70 000 toneladas de maíz, evitando así, con la cooperación de FAO, grandes pérdidas poscosecha; integrando una red de abastos rurales con 300 nuevos centros de abastecimiento rural administrados por cooperativas, haciendo que el campesino y su familia reciban una canasta de productos básicos de 30 productos.

Estas medidas son las políticas que han permitido a nuestro país en un corto plazo reactivar ampliamente la producción de alimentos, obteniendo aumentos de un 10 por ciento en maíz, de un 20 por ciento en arroz, de un 10 por ciento en frijoles y un 15 por ciento en sorgo, con relación al período anterior.

Tenemos algunos problemas inmediatos por resolver como es el de disminuir la alta dependencia de insumos importados, sustituir las importaciones de oleaginosas mediante la introducción de nuevas variedades de soja, mani, y otros productos, debido a reducción en las áreas de siembra de algodón de donde extraemos aceite de semillas. Tenemos el problema del acopio para almacenar reservas. Además tenemos que un porcentaje alto de nuestras exportaciones de algodón, de café, de tabaco, de carne y azúcar va hacia el campo del petróleo, y en este sentido debemos reconocer el trato preferencial que países como México y Venezuela han dado a Nicaragua y al resto del Caribe y Centroamérica.

Por otro lado, debemos de mencionar que nuestro Gobierno ha trazado una línea estratégica de producción agrícola, incluyendo fundamentalmente el Programa Alimentario Nicaragüense (PAN) que, apoyado principalmente en la Reforma Agraria, es un proyecto prioritario de la Revolución.

El segundo programa nos introduce en un plan agro-industrial destinado principalmente al establecimiento de una exportación permanente de nuestras materias primas transformadas que actualmente debemos de exportar como tales, y el tercer programa, el desarrollo de la ganadería, la carne, la leche, con un programa de 500 millones de dólares para los próximos cinco años.

Después de lo expuesto la delegación de Nicaragua se permite hacer la siguiente recomendación a la Conferencia a través de la Comisión I para someter a la consideración de los Estados miembros de FAO. . . Nuestra recomendación es la siguiente; A pesar de contar Nicaragua y muchos otros países similares a ella con grandes recursos naturales como suelos, agua, clima; con recursos humanos y técnicos, además de la cooperación externa a través de FAO y de otros Organismos especializados de las Naciones Unidas, y a pesar de la significativa colaboración bilateral de países amigos, Nicaragua se siente coartada en su genuino propósito por aportar a nuestro pueblo, a nuestra región y a nuestro mundo subdesarrollado una verdadera situación de autosuficiencia alimentaria, debido a las causas que aquí denunciaremos, Nuestra recomendación es la siguiente:

A pesar de contar Nicaragua y muchos otros países en similar situación ella con grandes recursos naturales como suelos, agua, clima; con recursos humanos y técnicos, además de la cooperación externa a través de FAO y de otros Organismos especializados de las Naciones Unidas, y a pesar de la significativa colaboración bilateral de países amigos, Nicaragua se siente coartada en su genuino propósito por aportar a nuestro pueblo, a nuestra región y a nuestro mundo subdesarrollado una verdadera situación de autosuficiencia alimentaria, debido a las causas que aquí denunciaremos.

La primera, la suspension de unos creditos ya ofrecidos para la produccion agricola y para la importación de alimentos. La segunda, el deterioro cada vez mayor de los precios de intercambio de nuestros principales productos de exportación contra los insumos, y maquinaria, cada vez mas cara, de la cual carecemos y que la necesitamos para producir mas alimentos. Tercera, los afflictivos y serios pasos burocraticos exigidos por instituciones financieras internacionales para la toma de decisiones para financiar a nuestros paises proyectos de desarrollo agricola, atrasando el primer desembolso, cuando a lo mejor ya es demasiado tarde, o el precio ya se ha elevado por encima de los limites del credito aprobado para ello; y mas aun, por los altas tasas y plazos de financiamiento otorgados en terminos "impagables", generando una seria contraccion en los proyectos de inversion para el desarrollo agricola, obstaculizandose gravemente la solución tecnológica de autosuficiencia alimentaria.

En cuarto lugar esta la constante e irresponsable introduccion en el ambito internacional y especifica-mente en la region de Centroamerica y del Caribe, de un clima guerrerrista, fundamentalmente agresivo, con la seria intencion de impedir que nuestros pueblos logren las metas por tanto tiempo anheladas, como es el destierro para siempre del hambre y de la miseria.

Por tanto y en vista de los graves obstaculos para producir alimentos, recomendamos formalmente ante esta Comision I, en el debate sobre el Estado de la Agricultura y la Alimentacion en 1981, lo siguiente: En primer lugar recomendamos solicitar urgentemente de la Comunidad internacional representada por las Naciones Unidas y en especial a sus organismos, tales como la FAO y al resto de las instituciones multi-laterales, gubernamentales y no gubernamentales, que brinden una especial atencion para que nuestros in-expugnables propositos de producir mas alimentos, con una agricultura acorde con las necesidades de nuestra region y se nos permita hacerlo en paz. En segundo lugar, recomendamos realizar una acción concertada de todos los paises amantes de la paz para que verdaderamente se preocupen del problema de la alimentacion y del hambre en el mundo, a fin de lograr el cese inmediato de la postura irresponsable y guerrerrista de una potencia mundial, que esta empenada en llevar al mundo al caos y a su autodes-trucción.

De no realizarse acciones concretas en este sentido que recomendamos y que hemos traído a esta Comision, resultaría un tanto irrisorio hablar de resolver los problemas de la alimentacion y del hambre, cuando nos encontramos bajo el serio peligro de ser testigos y victimas de una hecatombe.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

J. THINSY(Belgique): Je voudrais tout d'abord vous feliciter pour votre election et pour la maniere tres efficace dont vous conduisez les travaux de cette Commission. En s'exprimant sur le point de l'ordre du jour qui concerne la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, on peut soit se borner a une analyse de cette situation, soit, de facon plus large a partir de cette analyse, examiner les resultats des mesures prises actuellement et voir si un changement de politique ne s'impose pas. C'est vers cette recherche de solution que se tournera mon intervention. Je ne ferai pas une analyse detaillee du document C 81/2 qui nous sert de base. D'autres l'ont deja fait.

Je me bornerai a remarquer que sur un plan global la situation alimentaire serait plutot meilleure qu'au cours des annees precedentes. Les recoltes de cereales atteindraient des niveaux records en 1981 et les quantites disponibles pour l'exportation augmenteraient de plus de 10 pour cent.

L'OCDE, dans une etude sur la securite alimentaire, note que la production a augmente de 2,5 pour cent par an durant les annees 70 et 3,2 pour cent dans les pays en voie de developpement a economie de marche; cependant, et c'est ici que le tableau devient plus sombre comme le souligne la FAO si les pays en voie de developpement dans leur ensemble ont enregistre une augmentation de la production alimentaire plus forte que la croissance demographique, tel n'a pas ete le cas pour l'Afrique et les pays les moins avances. En constatant cette situation de coexistence d'un equilibre global et de la persistance de la faim on se doit de rechercher les causes de cette situation. Or le probleme de la faim est si vaste et ses causes tellement nombreuses et complexes qu'elles sont liees a l'en semble du probleme du developpement et que l'on doit absolument se garder de privilegier certaines causes.

En effet, les causes de la malnutrition et de la faim se trouvent dans la production locale insuffisante ou qui est mal conservée, on peut les trouver dans une aide alimentaire trop reduite, dans un manque de reserves internationales de cereales et de prix stables, dans les troubles politiques que creent des centaines de millions de refugies, dans l'absence de reformes agraires donnant aux paysans les plus pauvres l'acces a la terre, dans le trop grand developpement des cultures d'exportation.

Cette enumeration est incomplete mais bien suffisante. Tous ces themes ont ete examines cent fois, ici, et dans d'autres instances des Nations Unies, pourtant sans que la situation de l'alimentation soit fondamentalement modifiee. Et lorsque l'on arrive au choix de solutions on doit remarquer que si de nombreuses actions sur le terrain sont entreprises, l'essentiel du debat au niveau politique se porte depuis des annees sur l'accroissement de l'aide alimentaire et la constitution sous une forme ou sous une autre de reserves de cereales.

Tout d'abord l'aide alimentaire qui permet de fournir directement la nourriture necessaire a ceux qui en ont besoin a longtemps ete la solution privilegiee. Vous vous rappellerez que les engagements souscrits dans le cadre de la convention relative a l'aide alimentaire sont passes de 4,2 a 7,6 millions de tonnes; la Conference mondiale de l'alimentation a fixe a 10 millions de tonnes l'objectif de l'aide alimentaire. Le Secretariat de la FAO lui-meme estime que les besoins passeraient de 16 ou 17 millions de tonnes en 1985. Or, on s'est rendu compte depuis quelques annees que la fourniture d'aide alimentaire, aussi indispensable qu'elle soit dans certains cas, peut finalement avoir des consequences negatives sur l'alimentation. Ainsi, une aide alimentaire reguliere, livree gratuitement ou a bas pris, peut dans de nombreux cas faire concurrence a la production locale, elle peut decourager les agriculteurs de developper leur production et favoriser l'exode rural. Cet exode rural peut aussi etre favorise par une distribution d'aide alimentaire surtout orientee vers les populations urbaines. De plus, les pays en voie de developpement eux-memes se plaignent que l'aide alimentaire contribue a changer les habitudes de consommation des populations qui en arrivent a preferer les produits alimentaires importes aux produits locaux,

Ces commentaires ne sont d'aucune maniere une critique des actions menees par le PAM dont je voudrais souligner l'efficacite et le devouement, Il va sans dire que sans son intervention des milliers de refugies seraient morts de faim. En conclusion, nous estimons que l'aide alimentaire est indispensable dans les cas d'urgence et les penuries generalisees, mais elle doit etre limitee a ces occasions et non devenir permanente. Un accroissement majeur des quantites d'aide alimentaire ne nous semble donc pas une mesure adequate pour ameliorer valablement et de fagon durable la situation alimentaire mondiale.

Je voudrais ajouter quelques commentaires sur cette autre mesure qu'on presente comme une solution aux problemes alimentaires: la constitution de stocks de cereales. Nous ne voulons pas meestimer ces mesures. Nous avons toujours considere qu'une nouvelle convention sur le commerce du ble, pouvant contribuer a stabiliser les prix des cereales, serait un element important pour la securite alimentaire mondiale. En attendant nous avons accepte le plan en 5 points de la FAO qui entre autres a etabli des criteres pour la gestion et le deblocage des stocks.

Le Conseil de l'alimentation lui-meme a avance des propositions quant a la constitution de reserves internationales. Comme je l'ai dit, nous ne voulons pas negliger ces propositions mais nous pensons qu'elles visent comme l'aide alimentaire, a chercher une conclusion internationale a un probleme d'alimentation qui est essentiellement national.

La Belgique apprecie l'evolution recente des idees qui reconnait que la priorite doit etre donnee aux:: actions a mener au sein meme des pays ou le probleme de la faim et de la malnutrition se pose. Nous pensons que le concept de strategie alimentaire developpe par le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation et soutenu par la Communaute internationale recouvre ce retour a l'action sur le terrain. En effet la definition et la mise en oeuvre d'une strategie alimentaire permet d'integrer dans un plan d'ensemble coherent les divers facteurs dont on doit tenir compte pour ameliorer la situation alimentaire de la population et parmi ces facteurs je citerai le niveau de la production agricole et la conservation de la production (je vise par la les lutttes contre les pertes apres recolte). on citera parmi ces facteurs le stockage local d'aliments, le niveau des prix a la production, les problemes egalement de distribution et d'infrastructure, la prise en compte d'une aide alimentaire eventuelle, les besoins de reforme agraire necessaire pour donner acces a la terre aux paysans pauvres, les problemes de l'approvisionnement en eau, l'exode rural, la repartition entre la production pour l'alimentation locale et l'exportation. Pour nous, la mise en oeuvre de ces strategies au niveau national constitue le moyen de lutte contre la faim auquel on doit accorder la priorite, et c'est dans ce cadre que l'aide, tant bilaterale que multilaterale, doit etre consacree et accrue. C'est sur le terrain que la faim doit etre vaincue par ceux-la memes qui en souffrent avec l'assistance accrue de la Communaute internationale.

K. S. BINGANA (Botswana): Since this is my first intervention please allow me to congratulate you on your appointment to the chairmanship of this Commission. With your permission, Sir, I would also like to congratulate Professor Islam for the excellent job he has done in presenting The State of Food and Agriculture as brought to light in document C 81/2 and its supplement.

Botswana's state of food and agriculture is not very enviable. Botswana has for many years been regarded as almost exclusively a beef cattle country and as a result arable agricultural production suffered such serious neglect that today we are amongst the lowest cereal producing countries in the world.

Cognisant of this neglect, my Government has implemented an Arable Lands Development Programme (ALDEP) whose main objectives are to increase arable production by about 6 percent per year with a view to reducing the annual 20-40 percent food grain deficit and achieving self-sufficiency in the long-term and to enhance rural development and welfare by raising arable incomes through improved agricultural productivity and optimising incomes distribution by concentrating on smallholder developments; it is hoped that 2 000-3 000 arable farm households will participate annually in one or

more of a number of schemes designed to improve production for subsistence and cash. The programme also aims at creating productive and remunerative employment in the land areas to absorb the rural under-employment and reduce rural urban drift.

Alongside ALDEP there are other areas which are receiving the priority they deserve within the plan period 1982/86 and these are: horticulture, forestry, poultry, inland fisheries, and dairy industry.

I am happy, Mr. Chairman, to mention that our FAO mission, namely the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development, will be in Botswana from January to February 1982 to review the whole dairy industry and, hopefully, come up with acceptable recommendations for future dairy developments.

H. F. NAJEB (Iraq)(original language Arabic): Allow me first and foremost to congratulate you Mr. Chairman, on your election to the Chair of this Commission and at the same time, perhaps I might congratulate and compliment Mr. Nurul Islam on his very detailed and complete introduction to this item and his remarks on the two documents at present before us. Similarly, I would like to tell the secretariat how appreciative we are of these two excellent documents which they have prepared.

We agree in general terms with the contents of these two documents. However there are one or two remarks we should like to make now if we may. Now, this document we feel shows that the nearest Near East region registered a production increase which did not reach a desirable level, the level we had hoped might be reached and this perhaps could be explained as the result of the fact that governments did not show sufficient concern for agriculture. But the Near East region, and in particular the Arab part of the Near East is an area which suffers from a rather difficult, indeed, a very difficult climatic situation. We have extreme temperatures and we suffer from drought which sometimes goes beyond six consecutive months. We have a very extreme climate as you see, rainfall is barely above 250 mm per annum. These 250 mm per annum only fall during about 5 months of the year. Now, in such an important area and in a very large part of that area there are no rivers where we have the waters flowing constantly throughout the year. It is our consideration here that this is a desert area as in other regions there is at least pasture land or arable land. But over and above all this we must realize that there is very little land in our area which has a rainfall of more than 400 mm in the winter which would enable us to grow wheat once every two or three years. We have a very poor distribution of rainfall over the seasons. That is why it is necessary for us to prepare special programmes for our area, special programmes which will enable us to tackle the problem of desertification, soil salinity and make better use of our water resources.

We do not think it appropriate to talk on this subject now because after all, it is an item which will be covered later on in our debate. But, the only possible agriculture that can be carried out in our area is on the banks of our rivers. In Iraq we have two historical rivers: the Tigris and the Euphrates, and along the banks of those two rivers we are trying to make the best use of their gifts by controlling the water. We are trying to distribute this water in a balanced manner throughout the area. Next year we shall be trying to build dams creating reservoirs, and for the very first time we have managed to link these two great rivers by an important canal. We believe that the building of this canal is an outstanding engineering achievement. In this way we have diverted waters of one of these rivers towards the other. This enabled us to control each cubic metre of the two rivers.

A very important operation has been launched to improve the quality of the soil. These are lands which have been farmed for more than six thousand years, and we have tried to introduce an integrated irrigation network, and we also are engaged in desalination operations.

Before this we introduced a globally integrated agrarian reform programme of the distribution of land. This does not mean that we shall soon complete the programmes. We are, however, forging ahead and trying to make the best use of what land we have in transforming our water resources. And we have introduced the necessary extension programme to improve livestock care and we have invested vast sums of money in these programmes. Yet, despite these efforts Iraq has not failed to take into account its duty vis-a-vis the development of agriculture in developing countries.

We are, in so far as we are able to, offering our participation and providing aid to other developing countries in this same context.

Now, as regards the Document at present being adopted we would say that despite the concern we feel and despite the fact that there has not been an increase in food production, and bearing in mind there is a galloping population boom we are nevertheless bound to congratulate some developing countries for having managed to increase their food and agricultural production from 3 to 4 percent per annum. Some developing countries have even managed to achieve self reliance as regards grains.

In the case of Africa we wish to express our serious concern. As regards agriculture and food production in the African continent we would ask for an increased amount of aid to be provided for the African continent so that it may reach self reliance. In this context I would also point out that we are very pleased to note the remarks made by the delegate for Canada to the effect that the Government of Canada will increase its aid for agriculture from 30 to 45 percent out of the total amount of aid provided by Canada.

Another point concerns the use of vegetables and grains and cereals for animal feed. This procedure will always be followed up in the Near East region because of the special circumstances applying in our area where we have not sufficient pasture land.

Now, we would also express our support for the increased use of chemical fertilizers in developing countries and we would like to see a change in the use of these fertilizers in developing countries raising use to a higher level.

We are concerned about transport cost increases and the increase prices due to currency exchange rates fluctuation. We welcome improvements in cereal and grain production expected at the end of the 1981-82 season, as compared with the previous years. The 16 percent objective registered shows there is a very serious situation that still prevails.

Now, as regards food aid, the level of 8.6 million tons is the lowest level registered since 1975. This gives us cause for serious concern but we are even more worried to note that this year there has been registered a very clear change in the use of food commodities as a weapon. Food commodities are now being used as a weapon, and we cannot accept such an approach and we reject this most formally and energetically.

As regards food trade we are far from satisfied by the drop in exports from developing countries in general. In order to try and solve this, we must abolish tariff barriers and assist developing countries wherever possible in that respect.

Indeed, in concluding, we must point out that we very much regret the fact that there has been a drop in the real value of the foreign aid or external aid offered to agriculture in developing countries. We ask for an increased role to be played as regards external aid for agriculture.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus) : It is indeed very disappointing that despite three decades of international and national development efforts the world is still living precariously on insufficient annual food harvest and at this very minute while we are discussing here food and agriculture somewhere in the world there are many people, many women and children, who are living their last breath because of lack or inadequacy of food and related diseases.

I do not intend to repeat what again and again has been said in this room now, and in previous conferences with regard to statistics and figures. These are already well known, nor would I want to be labour the Conference on the role of food aid and the official development assistance, the augmented food assistance in the developing world. These are crucial and necessary in the process of agricultural development in developing countries thus I would like to stress the fact that the long term solution to the problem of hunger and malnutrition in developing countries lies in developing themselves, and cooperation among them selves and to the developed countries as well as a self-sustained economy and self reliance in food production.

Neither food aid, however important indeed it is, nor continuously rising food imports on their behalf, constitutes sound long term options. These create often precarious situations and perpetrate dependencies in the political and economic spheres, whereas they do not solve the problem once and for all. I will urge that national and regional self-reliance in agricultural production be the primary objective in the development strategies for agriculture in developing countries. I would underline that developing countries alone cannot afford the time or the resources to go through the process of development for self reliance single handed. This should be done in sincere cooperation and with genuine and substantial assistance from developed countries. The principles of the plan of action we agreed upon during the World Conference on Agrarian Reform, as well as the principles of the plan of action set by this special Session of the United General Assembly on Food and Agriculture constitute sound platform to start from.

What should be done specifically is, of course, the sovereign right of each individual country which we must respect, but in order for such plans and principles to be implemented successfully and effectively, science and technology is not enough. There should be a favourable international economic environment

in which economic forces interact in a more equitable and just pattern; in other words, where the terms of trade are more just, protectionism is reduced in trade. and aid in financial and technological resources, as well as in kind, is more genuine and substantial. Such an environment would definitely be to the benefit of not only the under-privileged of the world but also to the developed countries as well, because in a world of such complex interdependencies paradise and hell cannot exist side by side.

L. PEREIRA BRAMAO (Portugal): Ma delegation a plaisir à saisir cette opportunité afin de présenter au Président nos plus sincères félicitations pour sa nomination. Les programmes du Gouvernement de mon pays donnent priorité à la régionalisation du territoire et à l'augmentation de la production globale agricole parce que nous sommes de très grands importateurs, ce qui nous rend très vulnérables. Nous avons aussi des difficultés à équilibrer notre budget. L'augmentation de la production agricole, nous la considérons comme très importante et c'est un des quatre points les plus importants de notre gouvernement. Nos importations d'aliments sont d'environ 50 pour cent de la consommation. D'autre part nous avons comme objectif de produire des produits agricoles de qualité pour les exporter, produits pour lesquels notre climat est plus favorable. L'importance du système du secteur agricole est aussi différente. A peu près 30 pour cent de la population portugaise est liée à l'agriculture, bien qu'une partie importante de cette population la réalise en occupation partielle. La production de nos terres est très basse et chaque agriculture fait vivre simplement deux personnes. Cette situation grave résulte non seulement de l'agriculture en transformation technologique et sociale, mais aussi en raison de conditions écologiques assez peu favorables. Par exemple, nos pays souffrent d'une période de trois années successives de sécheresse très intensive.

La production agricole est tombée drastiquement et le pays a souffert d'une réduction considérable d'extension. En même temps, l'énergie hydraulique est tombée drastiquement et la consommation de pétrole a augmenté sensiblement. Les questions concernant les différentes alternatives d'énergie, nous les présenterons au moment opportun. A notre avis, on devrait encore valoriser davantage les systèmes de coopération technique entre les pays et la FAO, afin de faciliter la mise en oeuvre de leurs ressources. Mon pays se sent en conditions très favorables pour des aides de ce type parce qu'il possède beaucoup de techniciens avec une large expérience du milieu tropical. Il en existe déjà quelques-uns qui sont intégrés dans les programmes de la FAO. Nous maintenons en ce moment des programmes de coopération avec les pays africains d'expression portugaise, avec les résultats les meilleurs, non seulement pour aider le développement agricole mais aussi et plus spécialement au niveau de l'éducation parce que nous pensons, et les pays cités pensent comme nous, qu'il n'est pas possible de parvenir à un très grand progrès au niveau de la production agricole si la population agricole ne reçoit pas la préparation de base.

Ms. R. C. ELARD (Syria)(original language Arabie):The developing countries work hard to secure their needs of basic foods, but it is confronted by the lack of expertise and the high expenses of modern technology.

The Syrian Government in its five-year plan has given key significance to agriculture, it provides the necessary services to boost production. We have launched a plan to reach the small farmer through extension. The technical cooperation programme is helping us in training field extensionists. We have not forgotten the rural woman as she is after all the most significant in rural development.

Despite all these efforts for better use of the land and water resources, we are confronted by the increased prices of the imported agricultural inputs compared with the decreased prices of our agricultural exports.

I agree with the delegate of Jordan for the need to apply indigenous technology and the improvement of local varieties of crops and livestock.

The application of modern technology needs, in addition to the heavy investment, training. Training needs time, and we have to take all necessary measures to ensure higher production.

H. L. CHAWLA (India): Mr. Chairman, I will take only a few minutes to make one or two points in continuation of my intervention yesterday.

Many of the difficult problems facing the developing countries have been very lucidly summed up in the introduction given by Professor Islam, which I did not have the privilege of listening to yesterday but which I can read today. I must say that it brings out very clearly the important points on which the attention of various countries needs to be focussed.

It is a matter of concern that there is a fall in the purchasing power of agricultural exports and certain important exports of developing countries are facing stagnation in world demand and competition from synthetics, as also tariff and non-tariff barriers. The problem of developing countries gets more difficult because of rising requirements of cereal imports, particularly by many developing countries in Africa, and deterioration in the terms of trade. It is indeed something to ponder over that the real prices of commodities like jute, tea and a few others have declined by 30 percent over the last decade. Similarly, other commodities like cocoa, sisal and rubber have also suffered in terms of real value.

These are disturbing trends. To improve the situation action has to be taken from several directions. An increase in aid alone will not be enough and it is necessary that the real value of exports of developing countries is not allowed to fall, leading to stagnation or a decline in their resources for development.

It is a happy development that UNCTAD is availing itself of the technical support of the FAO in its efforts to tackle problems of international trade in agricultural commodities. The Indian delegation would urge that the measures for relieving the difficulties arising from deteriorating terms of trade in agricultural commodities be taken expeditiously. This is necessary not only for dealing with current food shortages but also for overall development which would improve the capacity of the poorer sections of the population to buy food.

Secondly, I want to say a few words on forestry. The delegate of Canada has rightly referred to the importance of forestry to stable agriculture in the words of our Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Programmes for the conservation and development of forestry have to be given more attention. This is also indicated by the Nairobi Conference recommendations. In this context I would like to suggest that programmes of afforestation may be so planned that they cater not only to the needs of fuel wood timber and industrial materials, but also add to the supplies of fruits, raisins, vegetable oils, etc. , for human consumption and for increasing supplies of forage and leaf fodder, etc. , for animal use. This approach, in my view, would be helpful in augmenting food supplies and therefore would have relevance to the food problem in the coming years.

H. MARMILLA (Observateur pour la CEE): Ainsi que la majorité des delegations, je veux me permettre de vous présenter également nos félicitations pour votre élection et celle des deux vice-présidents. Nous tenons également à remercier le secrétariat pour les excellents documents de travail qui ont été préparés pour servir de base à nos travaux.

L'objet de mon intervention est de vous présenter la position de la Communauté économique européenne sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Malgré certains progrès, les problèmes évoqués lors de la dernière conférence de la FAO qui s'est tenue en 1979 sont restés graves du fait que la crise mondiale déclenchée par la récession économique et accompagnée de la crise de l'énergie a touché aussi bien les pays en développement que les pays industrialisés. Cependant, la CEE souhaite poursuivre ses efforts de contribution au développement des pays défavorisés même si des sacrifices s'imposent.

Les problèmes alimentaires doivent être le centre des préoccupations des enceintes concernées, pas seulement ici mais également à l'Assemblée des Nations Unies et dans le dialogue Nord-Sud où les instances communautaires en ont constamment souligné l'urgence.

Par ailleurs, le rôle joué par la Communauté et ses Etats Membres dans le cadre du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation et lors des négociations avec les pays les moins avancés témoigne de sa volonté en la matière. Une nouvelle initiative lancée par le Gouvernement italien vient d'être approuvée par les instances compétentes de la Communauté: il s'agit d'un programme d'action sur la lutte contre la faim dans le monde comportant une série de mesures concrètes qui a été déjà présenté en séance plénière de cette conférence par un membre de notre Commission, M. Pisani. Je ne voudrais pas reprendre ce qu'il a dit, cependant j'aimerais souligner que ce nouveau programme d'action fait preuve encore une fois de la conscience des responsabilités et de la ferme volonté de la Communauté d'aider les pays en développement dans l'avenir aussi. D'ailleurs ceci ne vaut pas seulement pour notre politique de développement mais est également un des éléments essentiels de notre politique agricole.

L'importance de l'agriculture et de la politique agricole de la Communauté pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans le monde m'amène à consacrer quelques réflexions spécifiques à l'état de la politique agricole commune de la Communauté économique européenne. Vu la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, il faut en premier lieu noter que la Communauté s'est efforcée

de mener sa politique agricole en pleine conscience de ses responsabilités d'une part, dans l'approvisionnement en produits agricoles des pays qui en ont besoin et d'autre part en tant que le plus grand marché agricole du monde.

Dans ce contexte, les exigences souvent adressées à la Communauté d'ouvrir d'une part encore davantage ces marchés agricoles et de produire d'autre part suffisamment de denrées pour pouvoir participer activement à la lutte contre la faim dans le monde sont parfois difficiles à concilier. Toutefois, il restera un but important de notre politique agricole de rechercher un optimum possible de complémentarité dans la production et les échanges agricoles avec nos partenaires internationaux.

Par ailleurs, l'instauration d'une politique agricole commune au début entre six, après entre neuf, et aujourd'hui entre dix pays partant d'un nombre respectif de politiques nationales et de structures agricoles bien différentes, était déjà très difficile. Cependant, ces tâches ont été encore substantiellement alourdies par l'évolution récente, en particulier il s'agit de la crise économique, de problèmes budgétaires et de nouvelles techniques de production. Cette évolution a déclenché dans les dernières années des tendances à un aménagement adéquat de la politique agricole commune. Accompagnée par des discussions approfondies menées simultanément au sein du Parlement européen, la Commission des Communautés européennes mandatée par le Conseil vient d'élaborer une conception générale d'aménagement de la politique agricole. Cette conception sera prochainement traitée par les instances compétentes de la Communauté,

D'ailleurs il faut noter que certaines mesures d'aménagement de notre politique agricole ont déjà pu être aménagées dans quelques cas; par exemple, des aides directes ont été introduites dans une certaine mesure et dans un cadre bien précisé: les producteurs de lait participent depuis deux ans aux frais d'écoulement de leur production, une nouvelle organisation commune pour le marché du sucre vient d'être mise en vigueur et comporte une couverture par le producteur des frais d'écoulement sur le marché d'exportation. Toutefois, ce régime ne pouvait pas encore se répercuter sur les récoltes de cette année qui ont d'ailleurs été considérablement influencées par les conditions climatologiques très favorables, ce qui a amené la Communauté et ses producteurs à envisager de retenir de l'exportation environ 2 millions de tonnes de sucre communautaire et ceci tout en maintenant son engagement d'importer un peu plus de 3 millions de tonnes de sucre dans le cadre de la Convention de Lomé.

En ce qui concerne encore le sucre, une autre remarque: compte tenu des travaux actuellement engagés au sein de l'Organisation internationale du sucre en vue du renouvellement de la renégociation de l'Accord de 1977, le Conseil de la Communauté vient de renouveler la volonté de la Communauté de se joindre à tout effort entrepris par les Membres de l'Organisation internationale du sucre pour améliorer de manière significative la stabilité du marché mondial du sucre. Dans cette perspective, le Conseil a chargé la Commission de rechercher avec le Conseil international du sucre les moyens d'établir les bases de cette coopération en vue d'une adhésion éventuelle de la Communauté à un accord international amélioré dans le sens indiqué ci-dessus et qui soit compatible avec la réglementation communautaire.

Dans ses efforts d'aménagement de la politique agricole commune, la Communauté vise à maîtriser d'une façon générale des excédents structurels qui ne trouvent pas de débouchés et en même temps à harmoniser sa politique avec les exigences de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde.

Enfin, M. le Président, je me permets de vous assurer à nouveau, à l'occasion de cette 21ème conférence de la FAO que la Communauté est prête pour une coopération à l'échelle mondiale au sein de toutes les Organisations internationales et notamment au sein de notre Organisation, la FAO.

P. A. FONSECA, S. J. (Holy See) Although I am last on the list I hope I will not be too late to join in congratulations to the Chairman and the Vice Chairmen on their election to the Chair. I would also like to add how much we appreciate the report that has been placed before us on the State of Food and Agriculture in 1981 and the work of Dr. Islam in particular. By welcoming this excellent report on the State of Food and Agriculture this observer would like to make some comments on a few of the important issues regarding the distribution of the increases in food production in the years ahead, to determine informally immediate nutritional needs in terms of calorie availabilities. In the section on nutrition in document C/81/2 especially table 6 the FAO Secretariat has chosen 2,200 calories as a cut-off point for availabilities per capita in the various countries. No explanation has been given for the choice of such a figure. May one therefore infer that to some extent the choice of 2 200 calories per capita means the requisite minimum nutrition per person per day. It must be noted that there is still quite a lot of discussion regarding the needed calories not only for bare sustenance but for sufficient nourishment. In fact only a few years ago this minimum was determined at a higher level of calories than 2 200 but of late there has been a diminution of this level. However as has been made quite

clear from paragraphs 85, and the following and now I quote: "Table 6 deals with national averages without taking into account within-country distributions of calories and therefore direct distributional implications with respect to population totals cannot and should not be derived from the table. "

Thus it is obvious that the 2,200 calories is an average and even if it is true that there are a number of countries that have crossed this minimum or rather this average, it is still true that there must be quite a few people below this average. What would be very useful for the purposes of comparison is to have a set of figures representing both the average availabilities and the minimum number of calories that FAO thinks is essential for declaring a person to be receiving enough nourishment. Experience also shows that not everyone below the so-called poverty line in different countries is in deficit of the required calories. On the contrary, even those that are in fact above the poverty line may purchase less than the number of calories required. But the point is that we have to take the preferences of people into consideration and it is therefore necessary it seems to us not to confine production targets to just one type of food like cereals. The assistance required by the low income, food deficit countries therefore must include a variety of foods to cover the various preferences.

Let me now come to the second point. It is not only production that is the most urgent issue at this time. Obviously, without increased production it would be impossible to provide everyone with increased quantities of food, but it is certainly imperative to pay some more attention to the equitable distribution of the increased foodstuffs. There are studies to show that where attempts have been made to provide food for the vulnerable and needy groups the food often fails to reach them. No doubt the best way for the food to reach them is that they have the purchasing power to buy the food when it is available in the market, but for this they need to have the purchasing power to do so and this will accrue to them only through increased employment.

Further, it is not only the lack of purchasing power but it is often the very structure, the social structure, of the society in which they live that becomes the main obstacle in the way of their receiving the foodstuffs. One does get the impression when reading the report that not enough attention is being paid to an analysis of any structural changes that are taking place in agriculture side by side with increases in production. Many of the rich farmers have profited by the new technology and the availability of cheap credit, but unless specific efforts are made to open up or bypass the unjust structural obstacles in the flow of national aid and assistance to the weaker sections of the rural population it will take a long time before absolute poverty and malnutrition will be banished. Indeed, such efforts may only strengthen unjust structures instead of weakening them. Perhaps attention to this problem could be part of FAO's monitoring system.

What has been said here about the situation at the national level applies equally well at the international level. In the supplement to the Report there is mention of the unhappy way in which international price changes are affecting small farmers in developing countries. Higher prices for their production are often offset or negated by a fall in the exchange rate of the currency. Once again, structural changes will have to be undertaken to preserve them from such fluctuations, for which they are not to blame. We are living more and more in an interdependent world and a rise or fall in interest rates or the rate of exchange in one country may have grievous effects on another. This is specifically true of groups of countries as well, groups of rich and poor countries. It is only through multilateral aid and global negotiations undertaken in a truly human spirit of collaboration and concern for the weaker neighbour that we will ensure a better distribution of the world's wealth.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci Monsieur le délégué du Saint-Siège. Avec cet orateur s'achève notre liste. Je pense qu'il n'y a plus d'intervenants. Nous allons pouvoir passer la parole au Prof. Islam afin qu'il réponde aux questions qui ont été posées, après quoi, nous pourrions tirer ou plutôt faire un résumé de nos débats. Prof. Islam vous avez la parole.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): We are very grateful for the comments and suggestions made by the distinguished delegates and we will certainly take them into account when writing our full report on the state of food and agriculture for 1981. We are also gratified to note that the delegations find our analysis of the food and agriculture situation helpful in the formulation of policies at the country level as well as in the explanation of the international framework within which national policies are formulated. We are also happy to note that delegates agree with our assessment of the food and agriculture situation and find it balanced, pointing out both the positive and the negative elements in the situation.

Reference has been made in the course of the discussion to population growth in developing countries and its impact on the food and agriculture situation. We certainly agree with the importance of this factor and we recognise the need to examine the inter-relationship between socio-economic development, including agricultural development, on the one hand, and population growth on the other. FAO's work in

the field of population programmes, I may mention here, is carried out in close cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and is largely financed by it. It covers such areas as population education, specially integrated women's programmes, population components in education extension training programmes, as well as analysis of the inter-relationships between agriculture and rural development and population.

The Delegate of India referred to the importance of the analysis of development in such crops as pulses, vegetable oils, meat and dairy products and also emphasized the need for research and development efforts in this area. We would like to mention that we have given some data in our summary report, paragraphs 29 and 30, and we will certainly do more of this analysis in our full report.

Although it is not mentioned in the present report, I would like to remind delegates that these commodities are also covered in our Commodity Review and also in the deliberations and reports of the inter governmental commodity groups relating to some of these commodities. Some time back we have indeed done special work on pulses which was considered by the committees.

The Delegate of Tanzania referred to the need for more work on livestock production and trade, especially in meat and meat production, in the world as a whole as well as in the developing countries. We have referred to this matter, of course, in a very summary way in paragraph 33 of the document and paragraph 27 of the supplement. I may add here, however, some more detailed information which we will give in a fuller form in the final report.

The long-term expansion of world meat production slowed down in 1981 as world output rose only about 2 percent over 1980. Overall meat production in developing countries increased by about 4 percent in 1981, which is close to the growth rate of recent years. Among the main producing countries, however, only Brazil achieved another substantial rise this year. In developed regions, total meat output remained virtually unchanged in 1981 from the previous year.

World milk production increased very slowly for the third consecutive year in 1981. In developed countries a growth occurred, mainly in North America. In developing countries the overall increase was about 2.7 percent. There was a further, expansion in Latin America, but milk production in India, after several years of substantial increase, suffered from adverse weather.

The Delegate of France referred to the need for analysis of protectionism among developing countries and also for trade liberalization to promote intra-developing-country trade. In this matter we are working in close cooperation with UNCTAD, which as we all know, is pursuing a programme of preferential arrangements among developing countries. Also in our work on TCDC economic cooperation among developing countries we do place special emphasis on trade expansion among developing countries.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom has questioned the basis of the statement in paragraph 158 that the real prices of many agricultural commodities have declined. I would like first to emphasise that this refers to a fall not in absolute prices but in relative prices, that is, to a comparison of international prices per unit of commodity concerned with the unit value of manufactures entering into international trade. This refers therefore to gains from international trade and not to the profitability of domestic production costs and returns. Producers around the world do not all face the same price and cost conditions. Some are much more highly insulated and protected than others from adverse changes in prices on the international markets. Secondly, in our analysis we have dealt with both short-term and long-term changes in terms of trade. It is not quite clear what is meant by significant productivity changes in the short term when you have changes in the terms of trade within a year or a two-year period. Of course it is true that in the long run increases in productivity, through higher yielding varieties and so on, could still leave producers with favourable net margins when the unit price of their output falls. In fact, however, the cost of manufactured inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, machinery and fuel, which are necessary to achieve productivity gains, have tended to increase-indeed, from time to time have sharply outstripped movements in commodity prices. In the face of this we doubt for instance that adequate incentives exist at present even for highly efficient exporters of commodities like sugar, with international prices as low as 12 cents per pound. The same applies to jute, tea and bananas.

In Secretariat document C 81/2-Sup. 1, in Table 5, we indicate the commodity terms of trade as well as income terms of trade by regions, and commodity terms of trade referred to a purchasing power of exports, and this shows the deterioration since the mid-70s.

The distinguished delegate of Colombia asked that information provided in paragraph 162 of the document, referring to sugar, should be updated in the light of the latest developments in GATT. GATT has been discussing EEC sugar policy for some time, in response to a complaint that the Community's practice of giving cash advances on sugar exports was in violation of GATT rules. Following examination by two GATT panels, a working party was established last year to look further into the matter, but it could not

reach agreement. Its report was discussed by the GATT Council in March 1981 and again in September when the Community announced changes in the EEC sugar regime, in view of the fact that several countries had said that the Community's new system is still constituting a threat to their exporting interests. The latest development is that the GATT Council has decided to set up a working party, open to GATT members, to review the situation and report by March 1, 1982. In the meantime, the EEC has begun exploratory efforts on the possibility of community membership for the revised International Sugar Agreement.

The distinguished delegate for the United Kingdom questioned the use of food balance sheets giving estimates of supplies for assessing the food and nutrition situation in the world. It is true that food balance sheets do not provide the estimates of actual food intake, but what they do give is per capita supply of different foods at national level. In the absence of significant crops of food at national level in developing countries, the food balance sheets would indicate or reflect consumption. To estimate the actual intake of foods and related incidence we certainly need a national food consumption survey which would also provide information on the distributional aspects of food consumption between households. Unfortunately, however, only a few countries collect such information; we have therefore no other alternative but to rely on food balance sheets for practically all countries.

All this was noted and examined in our twelfth world food survey at the time of this analysis. Whatever other objective data could provide more definitive measures of nutritional intake, the fact remains that food balance sheets are the only measures which we can compile regularly for all countries, and as such we find them the only tools available at the present moment for monitoring and assessing the food and nutrition situation in different parts of the world. With all its imperfections and qualifications, the food balance sheet is quite a useful indicator, widely used to average supplies of food and nutrition. We use it as an indicator of the trend of availability of food and nutrition, as we use other indicators similarly derived from other data also, such as index numbers of food production for measuring the trend in available supply of food from domestic sources.

Regarding the relationship between income and food intake, it is true that income is an important explanatory variable: there is a positive relationship between per capita income and overweight. The risk of being overweight is higher in the households consuming a higher percentage of calories from fats.

The United Kingdom's delegate has also questioned the validity of the statement that there is no evidence of any major progress in the reduction of the incidence of undernourishment. If we have a decline over time in per capita supplies in relation to requirements, or if there is no change in average per capita calorie supplies over time then the conclusion is obvious that there is either a decline or no change in the nutritional status-unless of course there has taken place a redistribution of income in favour of the poor.

All I would like to say at this stage is that in nearly half of the developing countries, food production has not been keeping pace with population growth. This is particularly so in low income countries, especially Africa. Secondly, that there is no evidence of any major improvement in the distribution of income in most of the developing countries. Therefore, we find no difficulty in coming to an a priori conclusion that there is no reduction in poverty and undernourishment.

I should mention here, however, that over the past several years FAO has been instrumental in compiling more comprehensive data on food consumption. We are establishing an international data bank of food consumption data and we urge all member countries to have conducted food consumption surveys to cooperate with us in this compilation process. This will undoubtedly be of considerable value in meeting the estimates of magnitude of world hunger and future food surveys.

I may also inform the Commission at this stage that we are initiating work on our fifth World Food Survey in the next biennium. We will use new and additional data collected from various food consumption surveys as well as nutrition surveys. Secondly, we are also engaged in reexamining the nutritional standards which were established earlier on and we have recently had an expert consultation jointly with WHO and the United Nations University on this subject and later-early next year-we will have another expert consultation for policy makers and users of data to see how these standards could be used for estimating under-nourishment.

The distinguished delegate of Norway has also referred to the same problem, to the paucity of data - comprehensive data-on the nutritional status and the need for the collection of systematic data over time. As I had just mentioned we entirely agree with this; I would, however, like to emphasise that this task of collecting comprehensive detailed data on the nutritional status over time has to be done at the country level-in other words it will be necessary for the countries to devote resources, both financial and manpower to this task.

The distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom has also emphasised the importance of environmental factors, including water and fuel, in the improvement of child nutrition. We are in full agreement -in fact, I think he will have noticed that in the meeting of the Committee on Agriculture, where the

guidelines for cooperation of nutritional rural policies was discussed, this was done. The guidelines do incorporate means of providing better health and sanitation and environmental development projects.

I was however surprised to hear the distinguished delegate dismiss FAO's concern with breast feeding and weaning practices. The promotion of breast feeding and sound weaning practices is an important component of nutritional education and training activities, which are functions of FAO. This is a major area of concern in our nutrition programme; also, the development of suitable weaning foods is an area of concern in FAO's programme. Clearly, there is no conflict here between FAO and what is going on in other agencies. As you know, we have successfully coordinated our activities with other agencies, not only bilaterally but also through the ACC Special Committee on Nutrition.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Professeur Islam. Je pense que toutes les questions qui ont été soulevées au cours de ce débat et qui n'avaient peut-être pas trouvé de réponse dans le document viennent de les recevoir. Le débat sur la question est donc terminé. . . On me signale que le délégué du Royaume-Uni voudrait prendre la parole; alors je la lui donne.

A. B. CAWTHORN (United Kingdom): I am extremely grateful to Professor Islam for his comprehensive analysis and response to the numerous questions which I asked: he has treated us with his usual courtesy and given us very full answers.

I would hasten to assure him, through you Mr. Chairman, that we recognize the problems that he has to deal with. He spoke at some length in response to our questions on nutrition and food balance sheets and in the course of that he accepted that the figures were not available. I would simply like to point out that the object of our intervention was to question whether, if statistics are not available, the exercise is worth the effort. The point that we would like to stress is that perhaps the Secretariat ought to direct its efforts into getting the appropriate data rather than analysing inadequate information.

I am glad to note that Professor Islam has himself made this point, and has requested Member States to adjust their domestic activities to provide this data if possible, and I, on behalf of the United Kingdom, would thoroughly endorse this request.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I think there is a misunderstanding—I did not say that information is not available at all. I said that the information available in food balance sheets data did not have distribution of income data. But on the analysis made, even on the basis of information available in food balance sheets data, you can derive some kind of conclusion, as I had analysed in detail, and you can arrive at assumptions. Therefore, I still insist that the analysis in the documents on the basis of limited information on food balance sheets leads to the conclusion which we have arrived at and that this is valid. But certainly, at the same time, I entirely agree that detailed distribution of income data is not available and should be collected by detailed consumption surveys and nutrition surveys, and over time the analysis will be considerably improved through better and more comprehensive data.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que nous sommes maintenant d'accord. S'il en est ainsi, je vais poursuivre pour dire que nous en avons terminé avec l'examen de ce point 6. 1 de notre ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Le débat consacré à cette importante question a été très vaste et fructueux. Soixante-cinq délégués des pays membres et deux observateurs ont pris la parole. Le document clair et complet présenté par le Secrétariat a été généralement apprécié, ce qui a permis à la Commission de porter son attention sur les principales tendances, les faits nouveaux et les programmes qui ont marqué la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. C'est ainsi que certains orateurs ont suggéré qu'à l'avenir un examen plus attentif soit consacré à d'autres denrées alimentaires telles que les légumineuses, les huiles végétales, les produits carnés et laitiers, ainsi que les plantes à tubercules, comme le manioc et autres.

Il a été reconnu d'une manière générale que cette année une certaine amélioration s'est manifestée dans la situation globale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture mais on a admis que cette amélioration ne devait pas nous conduire à trop d'optimisme car les inquiétantes tendances de fond et les problèmes

à long terme sont toujours là. En particulier, de nombreux pays en développement à déficit alimentaire se trouvent confrontés à des pénuries croissantes et à une aggravation de la situation de la balance des paiements. Il a été signalé qu'une meilleure distribution des disponibilités pourrait, dans une grande mesure, atténuer le problème.

De nombreux délégués ont évoqué les efforts, ou plutôt les effets néfastes des politiques protectionnistes sur les recettes d'exportation, en particulier celles des pays en développement. En effet, les obstacles tarifaires et non tarifaires continuent à bloquer l'expansion des exportations. On a également indiqué que le protectionnisme affectait aussi bien les pays développés que les pays en développement. On a souligné qu'il était nécessaire d'accroître les préférences commerciales mutuelles entre pays en développement.

On a fait observer également que la récession prolongée influe négativement sur la demande d'importations de nombreux produits agricoles.

Beaucoup des délégués ont mentionné les baisses de prix de plusieurs produits agricoles exportés par des pays en développement.

On a rappelé que lorsqu'on analyse l'évolution des échanges il faut classer les pays en développement en différents groupes en fonction de leur niveau de développement économique.

On a également indiqué que l'évolution des échanges agricoles devait être considérée par rapport à celle de l'ensemble du commerce.

La Commission a reconnu d'une manière générale la nécessité pour les pays en développement d'être plus autonomes en matière de disponibilités alimentaires. On a insisté sur l'importance qui s'attache au renforcement de la base de la production vivrière qui représente la solution à long terme aux problèmes alimentaires.

Les délégués de nombreux pays ont rendu compte de leur politique, programmes et plans, en vue d'accroître la production alimentaire. On a rappelé qu'il faut fournir des stimulants adéquats aux agriculteurs et mettre en place le soutien institutionnel nécessaire dans les domaines de la vulgarisation, du crédit, de la commercialisation, etc.

On a souligné la nécessité d'utiliser la technologie d'origine locale et de promouvoir les produits locaux nutritifs et faciles à produire. On a mis l'accent sur l'amélioration de l'utilisation des terres et sur l'accroissement de l'appui accordé à la recherche.

On a également mis l'accent sur le fait qu'il importe de consacrer une attention particulière aux programmes destinés aux groupes économiquement faibles, ainsi qu'à la protection des écosystèmes.

Plusieurs délégués ont rappelé la possibilité de recourir à la coopération technique entre pays en développement pour intensifier la production alimentaire.

Beaucoup de délégués ont également souligné l'importance du développement de la pêche et des ressources forestières, notamment dans les pays en développement.

De nombreux délégués ont rappelé que la hausse des coûts de production, notamment des engrais, rend plus difficile l'accélération de la production alimentaire et agricole.

On a observé que le problème de la hausse des coûts, affecte aussi bien les pays développés que les pays en développement.

L'accent a été mis sur la nécessité pour la communauté internationale d'accroître le soutien qu'elle accorde aux pays en développement dans leur effort en vue d'augmenter la production alimentaire et de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire.

On s'est en général accordé pour appuyer le système d'alerte rapide et souhaiter son renforcement. Une proposition a été présentée qui visait à créer un fonds international spécial pour aider les petits exploitants à accroître leur production.

Certains délégués ont souligné par ailleurs la nécessité d'adopter, parallèlement aux mesures visant à accroître la production alimentaire, des politiques démographiques appropriées. De nombreux délégués ont rappelé l'importance de l'aide alimentaire en tant que mesure intérimaire, car elle permet aux pays à faible revenu de faire face à des pénuries alimentaires en attendant que leur production

augmente. Il a été noté à cet égard que ces dernières années l'aide alimentaire a été soit stationnaire, soit en régression, et que les objectifs de 10 millions de tonnes et 500 000 tonnes fixés respectivement pour l'aide alimentaire et pour la réserve alimentaire internationale ne sont pas encore atteints.

Certains délégués ont déclaré que l'aide alimentaire ne devait pas être utilisée à des fins politiques. Les délégués de plusieurs pays donateurs ont informé la Commission des programmes d'aide alimentaire et autres types d'assistance technique et financière qu'ils mettent en oeuvre pour promouvoir l'agri culture dans les pays en développement et pour renforcer la sécurité alimentaire.

Quelques délégués ont mentionné également qu'ils prévoyaient d'accroître dans les années à venir l'aide à l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Plusieurs délégués ont souligné la nécessité de conclure rapidement un accord international efficace sur le blé comportant des prix et des clauses économiques et souhaité que des négociations similaires s'ouvrent sur d'autres produits. Un délégué a estimé que le manque de données n'avait pas permis de procéder à une analyse significative de la situation nutrition-nelle ou de son évolution dans le temps.

Ce sont là les principaux points qui ont été soulevés pendant les débats. Selon la pratique habituelle, le Secrétariat en reprendra les points importants dans le projet de rapport qui sera examiné par le Comité de rédaction et, si besoin, adopté par la Commission.

Je signale également qu'une recommandation a été déposée par le Nicaragua, cette recommandation sera examinée par le Comité de rédaction.

Voilà ce que nous avons à dire sur les points qui nous ont préoccupés hier et aujourd'hui. Compte tenu du léger retard que nous avons sur notre programme nous proposons de continuer cette séance en passant à l'examen du point suivant de l'ordre du jour: il s'agit du point subsidiaire 6. 2, "Mise en oeuvre du plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale".

Le document relatif à ce point de l'ordre du jour porte la cote C 81/20. Le Secrétariat l'a préparé pour aider la Conférence à examiner l'état d'avancement du plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui, vous vous en souviendrez, a été approuvé par la Conférence à sa 20ème session dans la Résolution 3. 79. Je donne maintenant la parole à M. Islam, sous-directeur général, responsable du Département des politiques économiques et sociales qui va vous présenter le point 6. 2.

6. 2 Progress in implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security.

6. 2 Mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

6. 2 Progresos en la aplicación del Plan de Acción para reforzar la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): It is now two years since the Conference endorsed the Plan of Action on World Food Security and urged all governments to take immediate steps to put the plan into operation. The Paper before the Commission reports on a number of steps that have been taken in these two years to implement the Plan of Action. Some progress has been made but much more still needs to be done. A partly positive step is a new food aid convention which guarantees, at least until the mid 1980's, food aid in cereals of 7. 7 million tons annually. While this is a step forward, food aid level is still below the minimum annual target of 10 million tons of cereal stated by the World Food Convention.

It is, however, encouraging to record that the target of 500 000 tons for the International Emergency Food Reserve will be met in 1981 for the first time since establishment. Moreover the International Monetary Fund member countries experiencing temporary increases in the costs of their cereal imports have now the possibility of drawing on the Fund compensatory financing facility, in line with the recommendation contained in the Plan of Action.

Further at its spring session this year the Committee on World Food Security elaborated a specific set of recommendations on the ways of improving the state of preparedness to meet acute and large scale food shortages. The recommendations, which were subsequently endorsed by the Council, concern measures for greater national preparedness, as well as arrangements for international consultations and coordination to tackle food shortage situations.

Many governments now have explicit national stock policies for cereals, although a number of developing countries have not yet been able to fully implement these policies.

Moreover, apart from strictly national food security policies, a number of governments in various regions are in the process of considering various possibilities for joint regional or sub-regional action to strengthen their collective food security.

However, in spite of these positive developments, overall progress towards world food security has been limited and slow, as was pointed out by the Council earlier this year, and the long-term world food security situation remains precarious. Under the preceding agenda item the Commission has already reviewed recent developments in food production and trade and their implications for world food security. The lack of progress regarding a new effective International Grains Arrangement is well known to delegates. Another disquieting feature in the world food security situation is the recent decline in food aid in cereals in the face of growing import deficits of the low-income countries and a continuing deterioration in their balance of payments position.

There are two central issues to which the attention of the Commission is drawn. First, there is the crucial long-term food security problem of achieving a more rapid growth in food production especially in the low income food deficit countries. The Commission may wish to reiterate the need for high priority to be accorded to food production in developing countries and for donor countries to increase the flow of financial and technical assistance to support these efforts.

The second outstanding issue arises from the fact that there still is no internationally coordinated system of national food reserves. The absence of such a system not only places an unduly heavy burden of carrying stocks on a few countries, but also does not guarantee that the poorest will have access to sufficient supplies in future periods of shortage and crop failures.

The FAO's Five-Point Plan of Action adopted by the FAO Conference in 1979 and endorsed by the UN General Assembly, is the only internationally agreed continuing framework for policies and action for the promotion of world food security. In the light of experience so far, it is necessary to refine and strengthen it for promoting world food security through harmonizing national food security policies and programmes.

For example, it may be necessary for the Committee on World Food Security to intensify its consultative function in reviewing and harmonizing national stock policies as suggested in the document (paragraph 50). As has been widely recognized, full participation by developing countries in a scheme of world wide stocks requires increased foreign assistance as a supplement to their domestic efforts. The Commission may wish to request the Committee on World Food Security to examine how to improve its ability, firstly to assess the needs of developing countries in respect of resources for building up physical infrastructure and stocks; and, secondly, to assess and evaluate food security assistance available for these purposes from both bilateral and multilateral sources.

In view of increasing food import requirements, on the one hand, and less than commensurate improvements in export earnings and balance of payments on the other, there is an urgent need for not only attaining the minimum annual food aid target of 10 million tons, but also for revising it upwards in view of the anticipated increase in food aid requirements in the 1980s. In response to a request by the Director-General, the Committee at its 12th Session agreed to consider at its next session the general approach for a review of food aid requirements and food aid targets which it will undertake in 1983.

Moreover, considering the vulnerability of many countries to food emergencies, the Conference may wish to urge developing countries to improve their national preparedness to deal with large scale food shortages along the lines recommended by the Committee on Food Security's Ad Hoc Working Party on Preparedness for meeting Acute and Large Scale Food Shortages. In this context, the various proposals considered by the Committee on Food Aid for ensuring the adequacy, predictability and guaranteed availability of resources at the disposal of the International Emergency Food Reserve, deserve serious follow-up and regular review should be made of the actual performance and possible further need for strengthening the IEFRR.

In view of the close interrelation between stable and expanding agricultural export crops, on the one hand, and ability to import food and agricultural inputs, on the other, the Commission may also wish to underline the importance of a balanced expansion of agricultural trade for the achievement of greater food security. Also, the Commission may wish to invite the FAO Council and the Committee on World Food Security to continue to pay special attention to the opportunities for increasing collective self-reliance through regional and sub-regional cooperation amongst developing countries in respect of food security measures.

The limited progress so far in strengthening world food security and, in particular, the failure of the negotiations on a new International Grains Arrangement with effective food security provisions, calls for new ideas, fresh approaches and different directions to safeguard the food security of the poorer countries. For example, exporting countries could explore ways to guarantee jointly that additional quantities of cereals will be available on reasonable terms for the low income developing countries to import in times of exceptional need. In return, importing developing countries possibly could assure to the exporters a minimum security of market outlets for sales in normal years. This could be one way of assuring access to essential food supplies at times of world shortages, to importing countries,

especially low income food deficit countries. The Commission may wish to call on the Committee on World Food Security and the FAO Council to take a fresh look at these issues and consider feasible solutions and alternative approaches which could lead the world community out of the present deadlock.

LE PRESIDENT: M. Islam a appelé l'attention sur un certain nombre de problèmes à propos desquels la Conférence voudra peut-être formuler des recommandations en vue de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Je suggère que dans vos interventions vous vous attachiez particulièrement à ces problèmes. Le débat est maintenant ouvert et j'invite les membres qui le désirent à demander la parole.

Said A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): I do not wish to speak. I am not prepared for this subject. I propose that we adjourn. Since Professor Islam has opened the discussion, we shall go and prepare ourselves and then be able to respond tomorrow morning.

PRESIDENT: Puisque c'est le voeu de la Commission nous allons lever la séance et la reprendre demain matin à 9 h 30 précises. Soyez à l'heure afin que nous puissions terminer les débats sur cette question.

The meeting rose at 17. 10

La séance est levée à 17 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 17. 10 horas

conference

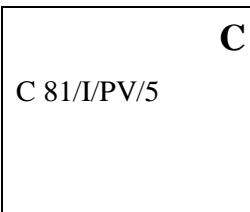
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FIFTH MEETING CINQUIEME SEANCE QUINTA SESION

(13 November 1981)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 9. 55 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième seance est ouverte à 9 h 55 sous la présidence de
Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 9. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia de
Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation, including : (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment : (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo, en particular : (continuación)
- 6. 2 Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security
(continued)
- 6. 2 Mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (suite)
- 6. 2 Progresos en la aplicación del Plan de Acción para reforzar la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial
(continuación)

LE PRESIDENT : Nous allons reprendre nos travaux de la 5ème séance. Comme vous le savez, hier, le professeur Islam a introduit le second point de notre ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire le point 6. 2 "Mise en oeuvre du plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale".

Miss V. WIGHTMAN (Canada): We would first like to thank and commend the Secretariat for their very complete progress report on this very important issue. I should also like to thank Dr. Islam for his introduction yesterday. He raised certain other points which we will take back to Ottawa and consider very carefully of course. We can agree with the assessment in the document that the two central unresolved issues in world food security are firstly, the need for a more rapid growth in food production in the developing countries and secondly, better coordination of food support for the developing countries-not primarily reserve stocks which are just the backstop-but also emergency assistance, the creative use of food aid, multilateral consultations, and mutual assistance amongst the developing countries and on a regional basis.

The real answer to world food security lies in increased production and national self-reliance everywhere-in developing importing countries, developed importing countries and in exporting countries. This year we are blessed with good foodgrain crops in the major exporting and many importing countries; the supply situation for the 1981/82 crop year will therefore be in balance with expected demand and permit some rebuilding of stocks. However, this is due essentially to higher production in the main exporting countries, particularly North America. The problem facing us is not overall supply which is adequate on paper, but the distribution of such supplies to those most in need, in other words adequate nutrition.

We note, both at FAO meetings and elsewhere; an increasing recognition of the need, and even determination, on the part of the developing countries to become less dependent on imports of essential foods, especially because of the drain on scarce foreign exchange. While the newly industrialized countries in this category are better able, and probably well advised, to feed their growing work force from outside supplies, a great many low-income countries must inevitably become more self-reliant, particularly where this employs unused land and human resources and puts money into the rural economy.

We find at international meetings too much emphasis on remedial and stop-gap measures such as reserve stocks and food aid. These measures have a role in meeting emergencies and short term deficits resulting from variability in production but we really must strive for the longer term solution of adequate production.

Food emergencies will no doubt continue to occur from time to time and will receive an immediate and generous response. The summit at Cancun agreed quite rightly that food aid should be regarded as a temporary tool. We should all the time be working towards a reduction in food aid, not an increase, as production in present recipient countries improves. The success of countries in South Asia in increasing domestic production, and becoming independent of food aid, provides a goal toward which we must all aim for in other parts of the world.

The Food Aid Convention which has been extended for two years provides a firm commitment of 7.6 million tons of foodgrains but as we are aware, total food aid transfers amount to about 9 million tons per year. It behoves us to look ahead and to reassess the situation every few years and adjust to changing circumstances. The Committee for Food Aid Policies and Programmes will undertake this task next year and its conclusions will assist us all in forward planning.

Many of the documents before us refer to the need to place the International Emergency Food Reserve on a more permanent basis. This has two aspects: first, the need to provide an adequate level of resources for emergencies, and, second, to ensure continuity and reliability. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes has conducted an extensive analysis of the options placed before it and concluded at its recent meeting in October that the preferable route would be a parallel pledge at the regular World Food Programme Pledging Conference held every two years. This prior commitment would provide forward planning for emergencies in committing resources up to three years in advance. In Canada we are very pleased with the conclusion.

We think that the distribution objectives of improved food security can be achieved through support for an open and viable international trading system, remunerative returns to efficient producers, equitable burden-sharing in stock carrying and by guaranteeing supply to needy countries in time of difficulty. Canada is prepared to continue efforts to achieve a new International Wheat Agreement but views the establishment and management of grain reserves as a matter essentially for individual countries to decide nationally in support of their overall food production objectives.

As to formal reserve stocks, we individual countries should all take our own responsibility for holding adequate year to year stocks in our own national interests. This would add up on a global basis to greatly enhanced food security. The schemes proposed so far for international coordination of nationally held stocks, while commendable in theory, would nevertheless require massive financial outlay and tie up funds which we feel could be better used for more productive purposes. Canada and the other major exporting countries have proven their responsibility in holding stocks on a year to year basis to meet commercial requirements, domestic needs and also food aid, and collectively, in meeting world food demands.

The negotiation of a new IWA, specifically a new Wheat Trade Convention, has eluded us for a number of years unfortunately, the Wheat Council at its June meeting set in train further consultations to try to resolve the impasse. However, we must recognize the realities which have to date prevented the conclusion of such an agreement. Uncertainties in the international trading environment render unlikely the conclusion for some time of an agreement with firm economic provisions.

I would also add that caution is needed in addressing the question of market stability. While provisions limiting upward movement of prices are an understandable objective for the importing countries, this could be a disincentive to production by exporters unless at the same time the causes of world-wide inflation could be eliminated. Also we spoke yesterday on the price squeeze at the moment affecting the Canadian grain producer who depends mainly on the world market for his returns.

Finally, we would repeat our view that increased primary production in the food-deficit developing countries is the only durable underpinning for food security. Many farmers in these countries have passed from the subsistence level to production for the market place. They respond to price incentives; this is the group that feeds the cities and provides exports. They must be encouraged with adequate financial returns, firm assurance as to outlets, and the means to do the job.

Since the last Conference, I think we can point to several positive developments. First and foremost is the increased production of food grains in the current season. Secondly, the IMF has endorsed the food financing facility which provides assistance for the low-income, food-deficit countries in times of shortage and high prices. Thirdly, the two-year extension of the FAC and WTC provides continued

assurances of food aid commitments under the former and further time to consider the best approach to a new WTC while continuing the valuable work and the ongoing consultations in the Wheat Council.

Finally, governments have agreed, as we know, to a more formal consultative procedure to be called by the Director-General within the framework of the "Agenda for Consultations" as adopted by the Committee on World Food Security last spring.

Specifically regarding food security assistance, Canadian development assistance for food storage facilities and related infrastructure projects has been an important part of our bilateral programmes for some years. Canada will spend approximately \$25-30 million in this sector during the next fiscal year.

Turning briefly to the Director-General's proposals contained in the document, we can of course agree wholeheartedly with many of them, such as the need to expand food production especially in the low-income food-deficit countries, a better understanding of the food security needs of the developing countries, improved preparedness on their part to meet acute and large-scale shortages and mutual assistance. I should like to comment briefly on the other points.

On the matter of national targets for cereal stocks, we have pointed out many times that even without direct government intervention, our centralised marketing agency, the Canadian Wheat Board, is able to ensure the supply for our domestic market, for food aid and for commercial export. As to the proposed "review and harmonising of national stock policies" in the CFS we are, of course, always prepared to discuss these important issues. However, it should be recalled that the chief protagonist in the IWA negotiations have so far not been able to agree on the control and coordination of such stock policies. We do have consultative fora in the IWC on a regular basis and within the FAO on a less regular basis. More particularly, we would question the need to "harmonise" national stock policies which, as we can see, do not appear to be in conflict and we consider that countries should practise systems best suited to their own particular conditions.

With regard to food aid requirements for the future, obviously these will be considered in the CFA. We can certainly support the thrust of the Section on Commodity Trade and subscribe to the proposal that the Conference "underline the importance of maintaining a balanced expansion of agricultural trade as an integral part of world food security and to stress the need to reduce trade barriers." It is our hope that GATT trade programme for the 1980s will concentrate on this task.

K. HAMADA (Japan): My delegation heartily welcomes this discussion on the important issue of food security under the precarious food and agriculture situation with which we are now faced.

Analysing the world food and agricultural situation in 1981, the Secretariat document C 81/2 points out that the world food carry-over stocks of cereals at the close of the 1980/81 crop seasons are now estimated at having declined to only 14 percent of the world's apparent consumption in 1981 and will be lower than in any other year since 1975/76.

As Japan is a major food importing country, we are seriously concerned with the world food and agricultural situation.

My delegation appreciates the progress made in stock policies in many countries. It believes that the most important guarantee of world food security is for each country to adopt independent stock policies along the lines of the International Undertaking on World Food Security. In this connection my delegation welcomes the Sixth CFS's decision on procedures, mechanisms and remedial action including the consultation items and possible actions to deal with acute and large-scale food shortages.

The recent decision by the International Monetary Fund to extend compensatory financial assistance to cereal importing countries is also very much appreciated.

We recognise the need for financial and technical assistance to improve food security infrastructures, such as grain storage, transportation and so forth in developing countries. The Japanese Government intends to contribute \$300 000 to the Food Security Assistance Scheme in 1981 and also to cooperate with the Scheme on a bilateral basis.

I would now like to introduce my Government's food stock policy and its practices. First, concerning the formulation and objectives of stock policies: the current supply-demand situation of major agricultural commodities in Japan is characterised by the fact that rice, the major staple food of Japan, is in the situation of continued over-production and self-sufficiency has been fully attained, whereas wheat and barley for food, soybeans for vegetable oils, and coarse grains for feedstuff largely depend on importation.

The Government is formulating directly or indirectly the necessary reserve stocks for rice, wheat, barley, and feed grains, taking into account that the fluctuation in supplies and in prices caused by the imbalance in the supply-demand situation of such major commodities has been largely affecting the livelihood of the people. The background and objectives of reserve stocks of food grains in Japan are as follows.

First, rice: through the 1960s rice production was relatively stable, but due to the lean crops of rice in 1971 and the tightness of the international cereals supply-demand situation after 1972, the necessity to accumulate a national reserve stock of rice has arisen in order to ensure the stable supply of the national staple food. In 1975, Japan decided to accumulate 2 million tonnes of rice as a reserve stock within the three years to 1977.

However, since this, due to the continuing decline of rice consumption in Japan owing to changes in the national diet pattern, and the bumper crops of rice in the latter half of the 1970s in Japan, carry over stocks of rice reached 4.4 million tonnes of husked rice at the end of October 1981. The background to the 2 million tonnes of the reserve stock of rice is to ensure the smooth supply even in two consecutive years of the leanest crop which was experienced in 1971, being the worst crop in the past 20 years. The rice reserve stock of 2 million tonnes is equivalent to two months' current consumption.

The Government reserve stock of rice is of great significance to the national food security of Japan for securing a stable supply of the national staple food to consumers. The idea of a reserve stock policy of rice and other commodities including wheat and barley had existed and had been implemented to a certain extent in the past but it has been strengthened since 1974 taking into account the recommendation of the International Undertaking on World Food Security in 1974 adopted by the 64th FAO Council of November 1974. Our policy has the same objectives as the International Undertaking has which are to contribute to the stability of market supply and to the avoidance of urgent and acute food shortages.

Secondly, wheat and barley. Reflecting the rising trend of wheat and barley prices on international markets, continuing long-term strikes by port facility workers of exporting countries, and the imbalance of the international supply/demand situation of grains since autumn 1972 the national concern in food problems in Japan has been increasing and it was pointed out that the necessary reserve stocks for food security should be established as an addition to the ordinary running stocks. And now for the purpose of ensuring to keep the necessary amount of food and barley the Government formulated reserve stock policies of wheat for 2.6 months and barley for 4.0 months of the current consumption level at the end of each crop season. In the light of ensuring smooth supply of food for the nation, especially since wheat and barley mostly depend on importation, the Government has been endeavouring to promote planned importation from the main exporting countries and also, as I mentioned before, the Government has been making efforts to supplement this by formulating the national reserve stock as a short-term counter-measure to cope with the imbalance of the international supply/demand situation. The reserve stock of wheat and barley in Japan covers materials not only for food, but also for feed use as well, and then I think it contributes to world food security through working a bigger action against the stringency of world food supply and assisting indirectly the stable importation of grains by developing countries.

Secondly concerning the management of reserve stock:

The reserve stock of rice which is under Government control as a staple food of Japan is directly managed by the Government in line with the Food Control Law. The stock is reserved in warehouses by the Government. The Government decides the Government selling price year by year and the reserve stock to be released in lean crop year. There is no specific criteria for stocks of rice. Although the reserve stock of rice in Japan was not necessarily established or managed directly in line with the criteria laid down in the Plan of Action of World Food Security it had the same objectives as the Plan of Action.

My Government does not control directly the total amount of reserve stock of wheat and barley but controls the total amount of imported wheat and barley and its reserve stock. Therefore the reserve stock which is built up with the imported wheat and barley is also directly managed by the Government. The targets of each stock including the ordinary running stock are established to be 2.6 months of current consumption of wheat and 4.0 months of current consumption of barley. The level of the stock is maintained by using the special account of budget under the Food Control Law. The stock of wheat and barley as well as rice is reserved in the Government-owned warehouses. Since the Government selling prices of wheat and barley are also decided by the Government, the reserve stock will contribute to the stabilization of supply rather than the stabilization of price of wheat and barley.

E.N. BIRICHI (Kenya): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for producing the Document C 81/20 on the progress in implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security and Professor Islam for his excellent introduction. My delegation would first of all like to commend nations and regional organizations, the FAO and other international bodies, for the initiative already taken since the last Conference. In particular my delegation would like to support the initiative taken by nations to adopt and implement food and grain stock policies. We have set our target of grain reserves at 360 000 metric tons of maize which is our chief cereal, which is double the present figure. This figure of 360 000 metric tons is equivalent theoretically to about 3 months' consumption for the whole nation but it would be in reality sufficient for about 5 months assuming that only urban areas would draw 100 percent of its requirement from the reserve. The rural areas would need about 45 percent of their requirement from the reserve. This reserve is intended to ensure continuity of supplies for domestic use and is under the ownership and management of a Government agency and is intended to ensure food security. However owing to recent setbacks in production, inadequacy of storage facilities and other factors this reserve will be initially 180 000 metric tons. We would also like to support the four main elements in the broad approach towards achieving national preparedness and the suggested agenda for discussion at the international level to prepare against possible shortages. We also welcome the decision of the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund to extend financial assistance to members encountering balance of payment difficulties as a result of the rise in the cost of cereal imports, the increase of commitments in the 1980 Food Aid Convention including the special provisions for emergency needs and the establishment of reserves by some donors to guarantee food aid commitments. We note the assistance that the World Bank has provided to improve handling and storage facilities, the contribution of World Food Programme in the building of national cereal reserves and the possibility of building national or even regional reserves with EEC assistance. We commend particularly the initiative by regions to establish reserves in the spirit of collective self-reliance. We regret the failure so far to conclude an equitable international grains arrangement; the continued erratic nature of the cereal flows to the International Emergency Food Reserve and the reduced resources of the FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme. We therefore endorse the recommendations regarding further action to strengthen world food security as outlined in the documents and specifically: the recommendation about expanding food production in which respect we support fully the Lagos Plan of Action and welcome the involvement of FAO and indeed the UN as a whole. We also endorse the recommendation regarding a world reserve system, food security assistance, food aid and international emergency food reserve, preparedness to meet acute and large scale food shortages, collective self-reliance and the improvement of trade relationships. We realize that the onus is upon developing countries to improve their own agriculture but these countries are not operating in a vacuum and their interaction with other countries is partially responsible for the unenviable situation in which they now find themselves. It is for these reasons that the international community is being called upon to assist in food production efforts.

J. SCHERER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (Original language German): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the document they have prepared, C 81/20, and we would also like to thank Professor Islam for introducing this item 6.2. My Government supports as in the past the targets of the FAO action plan. In particular I would like to stress the necessity for increasing food production in the developing countries and the setting up of adequate stockpiling in countries where there is a frequent food deficit. We also attach great importance to the international coordination of national stockpiling for the purpose of market stabilisation and as a contribution towards world food security. We are grateful to the FAO Secretariat for its progress report on the implementation of the action plan. My Government in principle shares the views of the analysis and the description of the situation contained in this report. We welcome the fact that more and more countries are following a policy of national stockpiling which corresponds to the criteria laid down in the FAO action plan. As far as my country is concerned, a member of the European Community, I might say that we, through the EEC market organization for grains also have an instrument which is in line with these criteria. Further success in the implementation of the FAO action plan we consider the adoption of a working programme for consultations and possible actions for the preparation for acute and extensive food shortages by the Committee on Food Security (CFS). This was adopted by the Meeting of this Committee in April of this year. There is no doubt that it is in the interest of the efficiency of the new instrument that the CFS resisted the temptation to set up an automatic system whereby action would be the compulsory consequence of consultations. This would have reduced not only the flexibility of the instrument but it would also have reduced in the case of many countries the preparedness for the support of the working programme. A further important step forward we consider is the decision of the IMF adopted in May this year according to which countries with temporary, above-average high grain import costs are given financial support. This instrument should enhance food security in many developing countries.

We regret, however, that in 1980 it was not possible to get an adequate number of new donor countries to contribute to the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) within the framework of the World Food Programme, so that the target of 500 000 tons could not be achieved. We are convinced that the change of the IEFR into a legally binding convention would not be the right way of achieving this aim.

As to the wish to know in advance the level of contribution, this is something we understand, my country will try to maintain the quantities which were made available in the past. In this connexion we feel that the proposal for a joint pledging conference for the WFP and the IEFR is certainly worthy of discussion and is full of purpose. Unfortunately - and this is something that we particularly regret - in spite of intensive efforts it has not yet been possible to negotiate a new effective international wheat agreement. My government considers, together with its partners in the European Economic Community, such an agreement not only an instrument for market stabilization but also an important contribution towards the improvement of world food security. The efforts towards such an agreement should therefore be continued.

In conclusion, I should like to stress once again that as far as we are concerned, the key for a lasting improvement of the world food situation lies above all in the food-importing developing countries themselves. We realize that all efforts of the developing countries towards reducing their dependence on food imports requires assistance from outside. We must add, on an international level, supplementary measures such as those contained in the five-point plan of FAO or those of a newly negotiated international wheat agreement. That international wheat agreement would then also meet the particular needs of the developing countries.

My government will support within the framework of its possibilities all promising efforts towards the improvement of the world food supply situation, on the bilateral and multilateral level.

SHIN-HAENG HUH (Republic of Korea): We have before us a very clear report on progress in the implementation of the plan of action on world food security and I wish to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the paper for this Commission. One cannot over-emphasize the importance of world food security in circumstances where many developing countries are experiencing insufficient food production, lack of storage facilities, inadequate foreign exchange to finance additional imports, the low-level of food aid available for this purpose and other financial or technical constraints as mentioned in the document.

As the demand for food rises more rapidly than the availability of supply, the problem of food security appears to be one of the most important policy areas that individual governments and FAO have to deal with. It is definitely necessary to prepare for times of severe or widespread physical shortages in food production. In this regard, the delegation of the Republic of Korea supports the effort being made by FAO to strengthen world food security, therefore we are in agreement with the recommendations of the Committee in paragraph 12 of document C 81/20.

Korea experienced poor harvests of rice in three consecutive years from 1978, due to severe drought, disease, and unusually cold weather conditions in the growing season. In this difficult period of time we came to the conclusion that the maintenance of food reserve stocks had become essential to secure an adequate supply of food. Last year, we were in haste to import an unexpected amount of rice from various countries. That sudden move caused a high price for rice in the international market, throwing a heavy burden on the balance of payments and a false indication to producers to produce more rice in 1981/82 in major rice exporting countries.

Thanks to the weather, we do have a good crop this year, leading to a surplus of rice, including stocks, which in turn discourages farmers from producing next time. To prevent a wide fluctuation in the supply of food, the Government of the Republic of Korea is setting up a national food reserve system of 1.44 million tons of food grain to improve the state of preparedness to meet acute and large-scale food shortages while continuing the implementation of the buffer stock scheme for both rice and barley, in order to stabilize their prices.

From our own experience, I would like to make two comments, briefly, on some of the important issues raised in the document.

First, I welcome the idea of collective self-reliance of developing countries in the vital sector of food security, which is clearly noted in paragraphs 29 and 30. Within that context, the Government of the Republic of Korea is willing to join both FAO and all concerned countries in making efforts to establish cooperative arrangements, including the setting-up of regional reserves to

strengthen food security to meet emergency food requirements. However, we should not ignore the fact that a greater benefit over cost should be guaranteed by doing a careful economic feasibility study, because if any action taken by FAO appears to be too costly compared with the benefits to related member countries, then it will not last.

Secondly, I would like to stress, among other things, the importance of early warning systems at the national and regional levels. To move physical commodities between countries and regions, a certain period of time is absolutely necessary to search for commodities available at a reasonable price, transport and distribution. Thus early warning systems may help individual countries to be able to prepare in advance for emergency food requirements, as well as short-falls in food production in developing countries. Therefore, I strongly urge FAO to put priority on the establishment of early warning systems.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): My delegation expresses its great satisfaction that the problem of food security is again on the agenda of the Conference. We consider that the solution of this problem is one of the greatest tasks that FAO has to face at the present time, and everything which has been done and will be done to achieve food security will be for the benefit of the whole of humanity.

Unfortunately, as a member of a small delegation, I was not able to attend to hear the introduction by Professor Nuri Islam, but we have studied very carefully the document before us (C 81/20) and also the relevant part of The State of Food and Agriculture, a recent publication of the Organization.

We see from the present report that great progress has been made since the last session of the Conference and that production has been increased in many countries. We see that consultations have been held on world food security. We see the information on the International Monetary Fund and the steps taken in harnessing the coordination of national food stock policies.

However, as a small country we are particularly interested in regional food stock policies, as outlined in the Resolution adopted by the last session of the Conference, which we regret has not been reproduced in full in the document before us. We regret it the more because it is valuable notice of what is perhaps a great possibility which as not yet been sufficiently taken into account, namely, that the establishment of food aid reserves at the regional level could be furthered by schemes for the establishment of a joint fund by interested countries to buy food to be stored at a regional centre. It is of great interest to establish national food reserves and also to harmonize them, but unfortunately this is not enough in itself and cannot resolve the problems of the small countries, for which it is too expensive to build warehouses and to take all the necessary steps for the establishment and management of regional reserves. We would therefore be very pleased if the question of regional food reserves could be mentioned in the report of the present session of the Conference, and in particular the point which I have just raised regarding the setting-up of a joint fund from which the establishment of such reserves could be promoted. As you know, for several years we have proposed, and offered, warehouses for a regional food reserve in an area which is a food-deficit area. Practically most of the countries in the Mediterranean area are food-deficit and food-importing countries. None the less we are surprised that we have had no request so far to utilize the warehouses which the Government of Malta has been offering for some years.

I would like to close my remarks by thanking FAO for putting the question of food reserves on the agenda and I hope it will be on the agenda of the next Conference also, and we would be very pleased if the establishment of a regional fund could also be mentioned in the report of the present session.

P. KANGA (Angola): Comme c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, permettez-moi de vous présenter à vous et aux deux vice-présidents nos vives félicitations pour votre élection. Mes félicitations s'adressent aussi au Secrétariat pour la qualité du document dont nous sommes saisis.

Ma délégation appuie les recommandations tendant à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. La conception de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale est claire, c'est de garantir à tous une base alimentaire indispensable à son bien-être, indépendamment des conditions naturelles et spécifiques de chacun. Ainsi, la sécurité alimentaire passe en premier lieu par la capacité productive de chaque pays, et passe par la formation de la gestion des excédents.

La République populaire d'Angola a comme l'un de ses principes de base non seulement l'autosuffisance alimentaire, mais aussi l'introduction et l'expansion de nouvelles cultures alimentaires capables d'augmenter le niveau alimentaire de nos populations. Ces objectifs seront atteints dans la mesure où sa définition fait partie d'une volonté politique définie par notre Parti lors de son premier Congrès

extraordinaire et appliquée rigoureusement par le gouvernement. Ces objectifs se matérialisent par la priorité donnée à l'agriculture dans le domaine des investissements de la formation des cadres, à l'appui aux petits paysans par la location des machines, l'approvisionnement en semences améliorées, fertilisants, pesticides et l'achat de leurs excédents à un prix rémunérateur.

Comme objectif à moyen terme, la dynamisation des coopératives en tant que moyen d'assurer la participation populaire dans la production et sa gestion et aussi comme moyen effectif pour rationaliser les efforts de l'Etat dans la concentration des moyens matériels et humains dans l'agriculture et enfin dans l'implantation de grands projets agro-industriels.

Dans cet ensemble d'aspects, le point le plus important pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire réside en premier lieu dans le fait que chaque pays, dans la mesure de ses possibilités, garantit son autosuffisance. Dans bon nombre de nos pays les investissements dans l'agriculture sont consacrés à la production des matières premières pour l'exportation; ainsi la production vivrière abandonnée aux mains des petits paysans mal équipés et sans assistance arrive difficilement à dépasser leur niveau de survie. Les excédents de leurs produits lancés sur le marché sont très réduits et insuffisants pour alimenter les populations urbaines toujours croissantes.

La nécessité de recourir au commerce international dans lequel on rencontre beaucoup de difficultés et des problèmes de prix, nous place devant les effets négatifs du protectionnisme et des barrières commerciales qui doivent être bannis; j'ajouterai qu'en plus des coûts élevés, certains pays en voie de développement sont parfois obligés d'accepter des compromis politiques que certains pays développés utilisent comme objet de pression politique.

Nous pensons que pour concrétiser les objectifs que nous nous sommes tracés pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire dans nos pays, l'aide extérieure multilatérale est indispensable pour renforcer les efforts nationaux, ainsi qu'elle nous a été proposée, sur la coordination de la FAO et du PAM.

Nous reconnaissons que plusieurs pays en voie de développement ne possèdent pas encore un réseau d'infrastructures capables de stockage dans de bonnes conditions d'aliments nécessaires à leur sécurité alimentaire. Ainsi, nous pensons qu'il est impérieux que la FAO aide ces pays dans l'établissement de ce réseau et que cela fonctionne auprès d'autres organismes internationaux afin que ces infrastructures soient priorisées en termes de financement. Nous sommes aussi de l'avis que les programmes de sécurité alimentaire régionaux et sous-régionaux devraient être renforcés.

Vous connaissez bien la situation difficile que traverse mon pays, provoquée par le gouvernement raciste et fasciste de Pretoria dès le premier jour de l'accession de mon pays à l'Indépendance, ce qui oblige notre pays à échanger la charrue contre le fusil. Par ailleurs, nous vivons une situation de sécheresse depuis deux ans dans cette même région. C'est pourquoi il nous est vraiment difficile d'équilibrer notre sécurité alimentaire.

WU TIAN XI (China) (original language-Chinese) : While discussing the world food and agriculture situation the day before yesterday, the Chinese Delegation expressed its view that to accelerate food production in developing countries is still a matter of primary urgency. Concerning the viewpoint that development of production is the basis for food security the Chinese Delegation has often reiterated its significance and specific implications at this forum. It would be unnecessary for me to elaborate further. Please allow me to make a few additional remarks here in the light of document C 81/20.

We hold that at a time when the world cereal carry-over stock has dropped below the minimum level of security after two successive years' poor crops, it is indeed opportune and necessary for the document to put forward seven recommendations for further action to strengthen world food security, including, inter alia, expansion of food production, establishment of food reserve stocks, and increase of food aid. Measures must be taken to implement these recommendations.

Even though it is stated in the conclusions of document C 81/20 that "overall progress towards world food security has been limited and slow", one cannot but note that this progress has been scored against considerable difficulties for world food security. Take the establishment of international regional cereal reserves on the principle of "collective self-reliance", two years ago only the ASEAN countries were considering setting up such reserves. By now, dozens of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America have already established or are planning to establish such reserves. It is certainly a positive achievement. Progress has also been recorded in the other aspects of the Director-General's Five Point Plan of Action. So long as this trend continues and accelerates, we believe it is bound to lead to changes of positive significance.

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to food security. On the basis of emphasizing the development of food production, a series of comprehensive measures from distribution, trade, reserve up to consumption have been adopted so as to guarantee food security. Among these, distribution is an important link, on which I would like to say a few words.

On food distribution policy over the years, the Chinese government has taken into consideration the interests of the state, the collective and the individual. Various policies have been adopted to ensure the people's need for basic food grain in line with the specific circumstances of different areas. Concerning the distribution of food grain among members of people's communes located in grain producing areas, the policy is followed to make sure that commune members receive enough food grain for their own consumption and can get more when they produce more, as well as to store grain among the people and encourage them to save grain in good years against lean years. In the cash crop areas, the state guarantees the supply of grain so that the grain ration of the commune members there is not lower than that of the neighbouring grain producing areas. Through planned procurement and supply, the state purchases grain at fixed quotas after each harvest to meet the requirement of both the urban and rural people. The procured grain is rationed to each person according to his age and kind of job in order to guarantee the supply in the urban, industrial and mining and cash crop areas. This, plus the state food subsidy to the consumer and grants to individual families who cannot afford to buy enough grain, has ensured sufficient food for everybody at stable prices, despite the fact that the per capita production of grain is not high in our country.

We consider, therefore, that proper improvement of food distribution should be taken as one of the important measures to strengthen food security.

The meeting rose at 11. 00 hours

La seance est levée à 11 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 11. 00 horas

conference

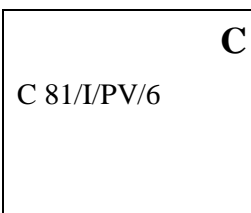
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE
SEXTA SESION

(13 November 1981)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 15. 00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 15. 00 heures sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 15. 00 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE(suite)
- I PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation, including: (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (continuación)
- 6. 2 Progress in Implementation of the Plan of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security (continued)
- 6. 2 Mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la securite alimentaire mondiale (suite)
- 6. 2 Progresos en la aplicacion del Plan de Accion para reforzar la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (continuacion)

T. J. KELLY (Australia): The Australian Government is a supporter of the five-point plan and we believe that in the context of our Constitution and of the institutional framework within Australia we are adhering to it. At the same time I think it appropriate to remind delegates that Australian Government policies for the cereal industries do not entail explicit commitments to hold stocks. The Government's programme for providing wheat producers, for example, with a guarantee and the support of the level of price within that guarantee is, we believe, completely consistent with the principles of maintaining and expanding the availability of an adequate supply of foodstuffs as espoused in the International Undertaking on World Food Security and in the Plan of Action itself. We believe, as do many representatives of the developing countries who have spoken on this matter, that it is from there that the major thrust in increasing food production must come. We believe also that Australia, as a major exporter of grain, can contribute to increased world security through a rational expansion of our own trade production. We support the emphasis given to expanding production and as a producer country we stress the need for remunerative prices and the need to reduce the level of agricultural protection to encourage production in developing countries. In the main we find that we can accept the generality of what is suggested in the document before us but I would like to make a couple of observations in which we put up some cautionary signals which we feel will be helpful. We are at one with the Plan of Action's role in encouraging countries to maintain national stocks but we would strongly oppose the idea of the CFS intensifying its consultative function into a mechanism for harmonizing national stock policies. We, as we have said so often before, view the International Wheat Council as the appropriate forum for negotiations on reserve stocks and we are opposed to measures which could in any way prejudice the continuing discussions in the International Wheat Council. We agree that a greater effort is needed in working towards an international grains agreement which safeguards the interests of both exporters and importers and recognizes the particular needs of developing countries. We are certainly prepared to explore approaches that will strengthen the present agreement. In relation to food security assistance we agree that there is a need for increased external assistance for agricultural development and for short-term food security problems. We would have no problem about the CFS, as part of its review under the Plan of Action, examining how to improve food security in developing countries and for our part we are prepared to give both technical and financial assistance on grain storage to the developing countries, as was announced by the Prime Minister of Australia at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Melbourne last month. Turning now to food aid, Australia supports the World Food Conference target and urges more countries to join the Food Aid Convention as donors, including the Socialist countries. Our own food aid programme this year has been increased by 15 percent. Our feed grain aid will rise from 400 000 tons to about 445 000 tons only a few years ago. We are also increasing our contribution to the IEFRR from 30 000 to about 45 000 tons. We have been a constant supporter of the IEFRR and we strongly support the need for it and we recognize the need to strengthen it. On the role of commodity trade we share the concern of other countries at the unsatisfactory situation about agricultural protectionism.

We believe that there is an important link between world food security and agricultural protectionism and the related problems of structural adjustment, and we will certainly be doing all we can to continue to promote efforts at increased liberalization in world agricultural trade.

If I may sum up our general position, we believe that we are appropriately recognizing the need for food security with marketing commitments made by our central marketing authority, the provision of skills to help increase food production in developing countries and the provision of food aid to help alleviate food problems. As a final element in the summary, Australia has reservations about the effectiveness of current proposals for international reserve stocking arrangements. None the less we remain

prepared to participate positively in negotiations on such an arrangement if that is the international consensus. We believe that negotiations to that end would need to avoid placing all the burden on just a few, and especially on the shoulders of exporters alone. We think, too, that any negotiations would need to consider individual countries' marketing and production systems, because ultimately it is the attainment of the objective, not the mechanics and procedures, which is crucial.

Finally, we assert our willingness to continue to collaborate with everybody in the international community who is seeking a solution to what is becoming a very vexed question indeed.

A. L. MACHADO de MORAES (Brazil): The Brazilian Government considers that the most efficient and appropriate way of dealing with the problem of world food security is to improve prevailing conditions of production and trade in each country and of international trade. Increasing efforts to raise food production should be made particularly through greater productivity as energy costs assume an increasing importance along an extensive frontier. In that sense, the activity of agricultural research and rural extension plays a key role. The occupation of new areas, however, will continue to increase for the majority of agricultural production, which we consider important also for the objective of world food security, because it alleviates the pressure upon traditional producer and consumer regions.

The extension of the agricultural frontier has been emphasized by the Brazilian Government, through the creation of specific programmes aimed at promoting food production in the humid valleys and the savannas and in the pre-rAmazon region. These programmes are not only economically feasible but also of very high social benefit as well as of great importance in terms of food security. These efforts, and similar ones made by other developing countries, face the restriction imposed by the scarcity of financial resources; therefore it would be through technical assistance and financial cooperation in favour of such initiatives that the interests of world food security could better be fulfilled.

Each country should also give more attention to the improvement and expansion of its stock facilities, so as to ensure a more stable and secure agricultural market.

The Brazilian Government has expanded the over-all storage capacity in the country, reaching this year the astonishing capacity of 54.4 million tons against approximately half that in 1975. In addition to this effort, the market in basic food is to some extent regulated by the Brazilian Food Company, which is very active as an agent in the marketing of food among small suppliers and low-income communities.

All of these actions would be ineffective, or have no impact, if the over-all national economic policy particularly related to agriculture were not consistent with the necessary stimulus required by investors. Agriculture, historically, has been viewed as a sector to be exploited and a source of inputs to promote industrial development, and such a policy orientation has penalized the agricultural sector. World food security would be greatly improved if each nation followed policies more consistent with the interests of agricultural development.

In the particular case of Brazil, now policy orientations have been introduced in relation to food price controls, reducing agricultural subsidized credit and allowing market forces to work more freely, as well as increasing the availability of credit to the sector.

Even more limiting than inadequate domestic policies to the development of agriculture are the external constraints represented by the worsening in the terms of trade and by an increasing protectionism by developed countries, which is a clear indication that the worsening in the terms of trade between the food exported by the developing countries and the manufactures exported by developed countries affect negatively the production food in the former countries. That is precisely the sector where their comparative advantages are higher. In addition the development of agriculture faces the limitations imposed by protectionist policies of developed countries, affording the free access of goods from abroad and competing unfairly in the "third" markets with agricultural exports of the developing countries. Therefore any progress in favour of changing the structure of world trade towards a more equalitative and fair basis will definitely have a positive influence on world food security. That is why we believe that the actions of this Organization to improve world food security should be based on adequate national policies, technical cooperation through developed countries, cooperation by countries with available financial resources and fair international trade.

M. SAISSI (Maroc): Je vous remercie M. le Président. J'estime comme les autres représentants éminents des pays membres de la FAO qui m'ont précédé que le document relatif à la sécurité alimentaire est tout à fait satisfaisant et présente de façon exhaustive le problème qui nous préoccupe: la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Le caractère critique de la situation alimentaire mondiale nécessite que des mesures urgentes soient prises aussi bien à l'échelle internationale qu'à l'échelle nationale notamment dans les pays en développement en vue de mobiliser, plus que par le passé les énergies pour augmenter la production alimentaire et assurer la couverture des besoins essentiels de toutes les populations.

La sécurité alimentaire mondiale, objectif ultime des efforts déployés par notre organisation suppose nécessairement que tous les pays développés ou en développement mettent en oeuvre toutes les actions susceptibles d'entraîner une croissance harmonieuse des productions alimentaires et une libéralisation des échanges internationaux de manière à réaliser un équilibre judicieux et adéquat de répartition des disponibilités alimentaires à l'échelle internationale ainsi qu'une mobilisation rationnelle, fiable et valable des potentialités humanines et matérielles existantes partout dans le monde.

Les pays en développement disposent de potentialités naturelles considérables susceptibles de permettre l'augmentation de façon substantielle de leurs productions agricoles; grâce au recours à l'utilisation des facteurs modernes de production et à la mise en valeur rationnelle de l'ensemble des terres agricoles, les pays développés peuvent contribuer de façon efficace à la réalisation de cet objectif en orientant vers les pays en développement le flux d'une partie de leurs investissements. La mobilisation des potentialités et des ressources naturelles des pays en développement, avec une aide technique et financière concrète de la part des pays développés, rendra grandement aisée la mise en place et la mise en oeuvre effective d'un système cohérent et fiable de sécurité alimentaire appuyé notamment sur des dispositifs régionaux et nationaux, comportant la constitution de réserves obligatoires de denrées alimentaires à la fois dans les pays importateurs et exportateurs. L'objectif de sécurité alimentaire doit reposer essentiellement sur la mobilisation des capacités productives nationales dans le cadre des stratégies de développement accordant une haute priorité au secteur agricole.

Il est utile d'indiquer à cet égard que l'explosion démographique que connaissent les pays en voie de développement contribue à l'augmentation excessive de nos besoins en produits alimentaires et rend impérative la réflexion sur une stratégie de développement originale permettant notamment d'envisager un développement intégré et autoentretenu au niveau du monde rural. Mon pays envisage précisément d'introduire cette nouvelle dimension dans son processus de planification.

Aperçu sur la politique de stockage au Maroc: La politique de stockage au Maroc est basée sur la nécessité de constituer d'une part un stock de sécurité dont le volume pourrait se situer à 18 pour cent de la demande et d'autre part un stock outil minimal équivalent à deux mois d'écrasement de la minoterie industrielle.

Cependant la réalisation de ces objectifs reste tributaire de l'extension de la capacité de stockage intérieure dont les besoins additionnels sont estimés en 1958 à 9 millions de quintaux et en 1990 à 13 millions de quintaux par rapport à la situation actuelle.

Par ailleurs, la réalisation des opérations d'importations de céréales dont le volume continuera malheureusement son ascension au cours des années à venir, malgré les efforts déployés pour développer la production céréalière, doit presque tripler d'ici à 1985 et quadrupler en 1990 pour atteindre respectivement à ces horizons 3 millions de quintaux et 4 millions de quintaux. Le plan de construction de silos allant de Tanger (qui doit avoir à lui tout seul une capacité de 1 million de quintaux et servir à l'usage de toute la région ou la sous-région où il se trouve) à Agadir et même bien au sud du Maroc se met progressivement en place. Je dois noter ici que la réalisation de plans nationaux de développement de stockage, au niveau des pays en développement comme le nôtre nécessite un soutien financier extérieur pour permettre sa réalisation rapide.

Le point II du Plan énonce les critères généraux que les gouvernements devraient appliquer pour orienter leurs décisions relatives au déblocage des stocks en temps de pénurie aiguë ou généralisée, mais il ne précise pas les mesures à prendre pour affronter de telles situations. A ce propos le comité de la sécurité alimentaire a examiné, à sa sixième session tenue en avril 1981, les moyens propres à mieux préparer les pays à faire face à des pénuries alimentaires aiguës et de grande ampleur. Il devient de plus en plus impérieux. d'adopter rapidement ces mesures et de les mettre en service.

Devant la situation préoccupante de l'alimentation dans le monde, et la multiplication des foyers de pénuries alimentaires, on ne peut que se féliciter de la prise de conscience par la communauté internationale de la nécessité de mettre en place les moyens propres à mieux préparer les pays à faire face à des pénuries alimentaires aiguës et de grande ampleur.

Particulièrement sensible à cette question, le Maroc appuie les recommandations faites dans ce sens là par le comité de la sécurité alimentaire à l'issue de sa sixième session, et approuvées ensuite par le conseil à sa 79ème session.

En ce qui concerne l'instauration d'un système d'alerte rapide au Maroc: La garantie d'un approvisionnement suffisant et régulier du marché intérieur en céréales étant l'une de nos préoccupations majeures au Maroc, nous avons dû mettre en place un système de collecte des informations statistiques sur la production agricole nationale qui permet de fournir à temps des indications sur l'importance de celle-ci. En particulier, nous réalisons chaque année une enquête subjective qui nous permet d'obtenir déjà au début du mois de mai une estimation de la production de céréales alors que celle-ci n'a lieu effective ment qu'à partir du mois de septembre.

Le point V du Plan souligne la nécessité urgente d'encourager l'autonomie collective des pays en développement dans le secteur vital de la sécurité alimentaire.

Diverses initiatives ont été prises par les Gouvernements et par les organismes régionaux et internationaux afin de renforcer l'autonomie collective des pays en développement.

Le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, à sa septième réunion ministérielle qui a eu lieu en Mai 1981, a évoqué le potentiel considérable de coopération entre pays en développement qui existe dans le domaine de la production et du commerce alimentaires, et notamment les possibilités qu'ont les pays d'accroître la production vivrière tant pour la consommation intérieure que pour l'exportation, avec les ressources financières, administratives et technologiques d'autres pays en développement qui peuvent les aider.

Je pense que le renforcement de la coopération économique entre les pays en développement peut également au regard des potentialités importantes que recèlent ces pays au même titre que la coopération classique entre pays riches et pays pauvres, contribuer dans une large mesure à faciliter la réalisation des projets identifiés dans le secteur vital de la sécurité alimentaire.

C'est d'ailleurs dans cet esprit là que le Maroc a toujours souscrit aux initiatives visant à renforcer la coopération inter et intra-régionale entre les pays en développement, que ce soit à l'échelle de l'Afrique, des pays arabes, des pays islamiques, ou des non alignés, en vue de mettre en oeuvre une stratégie susceptible d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire de ces groupes de pays.

Si par ailleurs le renforcement de l'autosuffisance alimentaire nationale et la libéralisation du commerce international des produits agricoles constituent à nos yeux deux éléments importants et décisifs pour atteindre une répartition équitable des disponibilités alimentaires à moyen et à long terme, ma délégation attache aussi beaucoup de prix à la mise en place des mécanismes concrets rationnels et valables pour faire face aux situations d'urgence alimentaire et assurer une meilleure stabilité alimentaire mondiale.

Mon pays accorde aussi son soutien aux efforts tendant à stabiliser le marché mondial des aliments de base par la conclusion d'accords internationaux et la mise en place de mécanismes susceptibles de permettre la constitution de réserves mondiales de sécurité.

Ma délégation insiste notamment sur la nécessité de parvenir rapidement à un accord international sur le blé, comportant la constitution obligatoire de réserves au niveau international et introduisant un système valable de régulation du marché de cette denrée.

En ce qui concerne les mesures spéciales destinées à aider les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire à satisfaire leurs besoins d'importation courants et leurs besoins d'urgence nous enregistrons avec satisfaction: d'une part, la décision prise par le Fonds monétaire international, en mai 1981, et qui consiste à accorder une assistance financière aux membres qui connaissent les difficultés de balance des paiements en raison du coût de leurs importations. D'autre part, l'accroissement des engagements annuels d'aide alimentaire qui s'élèveront de 4,2 millions de tonnes (convention de 1971) à 7,6 millions de tonnes en vertu de la Convention relative à l'aide alimentaire de 1980 prorogée jusqu'au 30 juin 1983.

A ce sujet, il est à souligner que le Maroc a entrepris les démarches nécessaires auprès du F. M. I afin de bénéficier de ces facilités qui, quoique insuffisantes (puisque leur montant est généralement faible par rapport au coût des importations, et l'association entre la compensation des importations et celle des exportations est injustifiée) constituent un premier pas vers l'instauration d'un système d'échanges internationaux plus équitables.

Mon pays estime qu'il est nécessaire d'envisager l'augmentation de l'aide alimentaire qui n'a pas pu atteindre jusqu'ici l'objectif chiffré fixé par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation en 1979, à savoir, 10 millions de tonnes. La situation est à cet égard d'ailleurs, d'autant plus préoccupante que les perspectives des besoins d'aide alimentaire à l'horizon 1985 supposent que le volume d'aide actuel soit pratiquement doublé. S'il est difficile en tout état de cause de concevoir une augmentation

indéfinie de cette aide, vu le caractère limité des possibilités des pays donateurs, il serait plus efficace et plus rationnel de s'orienter parallèlement à cette aide en nature vers l'aide à la production de manière à favoriser l'accroissement des disponibilités alimentaires locales des pays en développement disposant de ressources et potentialités agricoles sûres et importantes dans ce domaine.

De même, il y a lieu d'appuyer la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO qui vise à garantir un minimum de ressources pour répondre aux besoins d'aide alimentaire d'urgence, et qui consiste à faire de la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence (RAIU), une convention ayant force obligatoire, de manière à garantir un minimum de ressources susceptibles de servir à répondre aux besoins d'aide alimentaire d'urgence.

Cette réserve permet en effet aux pays qui subissent les méfaits de calamités naturelles telles que la sécheresse, de bénéficier d'une aide d'urgence leur permettant de pallier rapidement, quoiqu'en partie seulement, à leurs besoins en céréales, notamment ceux des populations les plus affectées. Il est à souligner à ce propos que le Maroc qui a subi une sécheresse aiguë au cours de la campagne 1980-81 a bénéficié à ce titre d'une dotation globale de 40 000 tonnes de céréales.

P. A. BLANDON (Nicaragua): En el marco del trabajo alrededor de la seguridad alimentaria regional, nuestra delegación estimaba conveniente hacer del conocimiento de esta Comisión los importantes trabajos que en esta materia hemos realizado conjuntamente con el sistema económico latinoamericano CELA, en la última reunión sostenida en México sobre expertos, gubernamentales de alto nivel en materia de seguridad alimentaria. En este sentido nuestro país está participando en un comité de acción del CELA, junto con cinco países más del área latinoamericana, con el propósito de llevar a cabo acciones de ejecución descentralizada, que permitirían crear una seguridad alimentaria regional para los países de Centroamérica y del Caribe.

En primer lugar parte de estas actividades están relacionadas con la formación de un fondo de reserva de alimentos básicos que esté encaminado a que nuestros países cuenten con una fuente de abastecimiento que en situaciones difíciles y de déficit les permitan solventar situaciones determinadas a través del pulso del fondo. En segundo lugar está planteado un sistema integrado de comercialización. Este sería un mecanismo de acción que permitiría, por medio del intercambio regional, un sistema muy adecuado para los productos alimentarios básicos, en especial cereales, entre los países participantes, de forma tal que con ello se evitarían situaciones de crisis en el abastecimiento interno de dichos productos.

Dicho sistema requeriría de cuatro apoyos fundamentales: primero, un subsistema de información orientada a que los países se informen entre sí de manera sistemática sobre los diferentes elementos que juegan en la determinación de la oferta y de la demanda interna de los productos básicos de que se trate y de la situación del mercado y de los precios. Esto ya se ha empezado a hacer y se ha delegado a uno de los países miembros del comité de acción para ejecutar esta actividad.

En segundo lugar, un subsistema de coordinación, por medio del cual se formarían las corrientes del comercio entre los países, cuando se presentan situaciones de excedentes y de déficit de los mismos. Asimismo se establecerían las acciones a seguir para compras a realizar fuera de la región.

El tercero sería un subsector de consultas, que significaría disponer de los medios y formas de comunicación más convenientes para realizar las operaciones de compra y venta entre los países participantes, incluso para las transacciones fuera de la región. Esto implicaría utilizar consultas multilaterales en la forma que se considere más conveniente.

Y en cuarto lugar estaría por establecerse un subsistema de concertación de las transacciones, es decir, el mecanismo de economía que defina cómo se realizaría el intercambio entre los países y cómo actuar ante terceros.

Nuestra delegación quería hacer partícipe a esta Comisión de estas actividades que se están desarrollando dentro del marco del sistema económico latinoamericano y debemos de cumplir con un calendario de trabajo, que seguramente ya tendremos en una próxima reunión del comité de acción del CELA, en enero del próximo año y agradeceríamos que esta Comisión tomara nota de que dentro de las actividades para desarrollar un plan de seguridad alimentaria Nicaragua está con el firme propósito de participar, ejecutando descentralizadamente las actividades que aquí hemos expuesto.

S. SABER (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): We thank the Secretariat for the document prepared for us in such an excellent and clear manner, with respect to the implementation to the Plan of Action for world food security. We noted with satisfaction that progress has been achieved in agricultural production in the developing countries generally except for the case of some countries which suffer from food-deficit. We also noted with satisfaction the policy IMF which aims at granting credits for the purchase of emergency reserves. We appreciate the fact that negotiations have taken place in the light of the resolutions adopted by non-aligned countries and the Group of 77, especially at its last meeting in Caracas. We also noted with satisfaction that the Islamic countries and the Arab countries have adopted a resolution in order to seek the best ways for attaining food security and creating food reserves regionally and sub-regionally. We believe that all these attempts will lead in the near future to positive results in this field, particularly after the greater awareness within world public opinion since the last Conference and the meetings held in this organization for that purpose. We also think that world food security can only be achieved if we increase production by increasing agricultural acreage or by increasing the yield per acre cultivated regionally. We also have to intensify our efforts in order to attain self-reliance. It is natural that the international community should be aware of its responsibility and support developing countries in order to achieve food security and help them prevent post-harvest losses.

Iraq, for its part and as far as possible, offers aid of different types indirectly through the funds in which it participates and directly to the developing countries, particularly in Africa in order to increase agricultural production in these countries as well as to help them reduce their balance of payment deficit and import their needs of agricultural products. Although Iraq is a country import ing agricultural foods at this stage, we hope through the implementation of 5-year plans in our region where we have invested large sums, we shall be able to develop agriculture and achieve self-reliance particularly for important crops in the near future.

Iraq, with respect to food reserves, has set up a plan for the establishment of silos and storage facilities for grains and we also hope that we shall be able to avoid post-harvest losses. We believe firmly that no food security and no development can be achieved nor can we improve the food situation of the poor countries unless we are able to create a fair system of distribution and unless we enable the poorest masses to benefit from this through prices in line with their income. We should also provide loans to small farmers to enable them to increase their production.

Finally, generally speaking, we support everything in this document as well as the proposals submitted for the increase of food production and the development of food reserves enabling an equitable distribution of foodstuffs, and enabling food-deficit countries to meet their needs in conformity with the resolutions of the W. F. Conference so that a fair situation may be achieved in the trade of food stuffs and food commodities and in order to attain world food security.

E. HJELMAR (Denmark): The time at my disposal for discussing this very important item is limited. It would not be reasonable to repeat statements we have delivered elsewhere in this Organization so I will try to summarize our viewpoint in three main points.

Firstly, we agree with earlier speakers that the greater world food security in the long run must be sought through a growth in food production in areas with food deficits. The countries themselves have the major responsibility in this respect, but it must be the main aim of the FAO to encourage and to assist in such a development.

Secondly, the establishment and management of reserve stocks is a necessity to ensure food security. Reserve stocks should in principle exist in those areas where acute food shortages might be feared. The pre-condition for this is, however, that the necessary infrastructures for storing and for management of the stocks exists.

In this connexion I might support points made this morning by the Delegate of Malta. It would be unreasonable to suppose that each single country in an area could create the infrastructure necessary for the establishment of reserve stocks, however small the country might be. Groups of countries in different areas should cooperate to create regional and sub-regional reserves. We are happy with the support from developing countries to the principle of collective self-reliance.

To deal with our own situation in a very few words, Denmark followed, as a Member of the EEC, the rules established for marketing cereals and other food and which are common for all member countries in this western European region. As mentioned in the document it has also been decided by the EC Council that community food aid might be used for food security stocks in developing countries, and also on a regional level. I take it that the Representative of the EC Commission will refer to it.

Thirdly, national and regional initiatives to obtain a higher degree of food security should be supported internationally and supported in international consultation. The International Wheat Council has a specially heavy responsibility to try to ensure this. This responsibility includes discussions on the ideas expressed in the World Food Council concerning international food security reserve in the terms of 9 million tons of wheat, the IFSR.

The World Food Programme is another international organization with important responsibilities. Denmark supports strongly the development work carried out through the WFP projects and is of the opinion as will be mentioned in the speech of the Danish Representative in the Plenary this afternoon, that it would lead to a better utilization of food aid if aid to a greater extent was channelled through the World Food Programme. We consider the six food projects in Africa to which our basic document refers in paragraph 27 as a very interesting experiment and we look forward to the report on these projects which we expect at the next meeting of CFA. We hope to have positive experiences. We look forward to a situation where less food aid at the disposal of WFP is used for emergency purposes, but we must accept that the need for emergency aid continues to exist as long as we have not established a better food security system.

The general agreement, which now seems to materialize on biennial pledging conferences concerning the International Emergency Food Reserve will make it easier for the World Food Programme to manage food aid in emergency situations, especially by establishing a better predictability concerning the input in the reserve.

Finally, under this third point in my statement on international coordination in the field of food security, I will have to comment on the role of the FAO Committee on Food Security, the CFS. The document before us mentions a number of points which the Conference might wish to invite the CFS to consider. We find those points in paragraphs 50, 51 and 57. Professor Islam also referred to these points in his introductory statement.

Denmark supports strongly the work carried out through the WFP projects and is of the opinion as will be mentioned in the speech of the Danish Representative in the Plenary this afternoon, that it would lead to a better utilization of food aid if aid to a greater extent was channelled through the World Food Programme. We consider projects in Africa to which our basic document refers in paragraph 27 as a very interesting experiment and we look forward to the report on these projects which we expect at the next meeting of CFA. We look forward to a situation where this food aid is at the disposal of WFP and is used for emergency purposes. We must accept that the need for emergency aid continues to exist as long as we have not established a better food security system.

The general agreement, which now seems to have materialized on biennial pledging conferences concerning international emergency food reserve, makes it easier for management of food aid in an emergency situation especially concerning the mobility of imports in the reserve.

Thirdly, the last point in this statement on international cooperation and coordination in the field of food security, I will have to comment on the role of the FAO Committee on Food Security. The CFS document before, mentioned a number of points which Conference might wish CFS to consider. We find those points in paragraphs 50, 51 and 57. Professor Islam also referred to these points in his introductory statement.

Denmark is of the opinion that the FAO has done good work in the food security field so far, and we would like to see the Organization continue to play a very active role in achieving world food security. We therefore support these proposals.

YUSOF bin KHALID (Malaysia): First of all, let me compliment the Secretariat on having prepared a comprehensive Report on the Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security and also Professor Islam for the very clear introduction yesterday.

As all of us know, the Plan of Action on World Food Security, as formulated by the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, was adopted by the Seventy-fifth Session in June 1979 and subsequently endorsed by the 20th FAO Conference and the World Food Council.

Under the five-point plan of action, special measures were called for to assist low-income, food-deficit countries to meet current import requirements and emergency needs. They welcomed the decision by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund to extend financial assistance to member countries of the Fund for their food imports in times of balance of payment difficulties.

My delegation is also pleased to note in the document that efforts have been and are being undertaken by many countries and regional groupings to formulate and implement explicit stock policies for their staple foods. This is indeed encouraging as it represents a positive step in fostering and promoting collective self-reliance in food among the developing countries. However, in view of the economic and financial conditions prevailing in the developing countries, we found that only certain countries could mobilize the necessary investments to improve food security, particularly in building up national reserve stocks which involve, inter alia, the setting up of cereal storage and handling facilities. Many countries lack the facilities and resources for implementing food security projects. As a result, these countries are unable to achieve the basic objective of food security, which is to ensure a steady rise in food supplies in step with demand and to ensure that each country is able to meet national requirements in times of severe food shortages.

It is in this connexion that FAO's Food Security Assistance Scheme becomes crucial, since it is focus-sed on the more immediate needs to improve food security in the developing countries.

My delegation supports the targeted annual level of \$10 million for the FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme to enable it to respond to increasing requirements of food security assistance. It would also like to suggest that when possible FSAS activities and projects should be undertaken in conjunction with the World Food Programme.

Malaysia has always supported FAO's efforts in spearheading food security programmes in developing countries and would like to reaffirm here its support for the programme presently undertaken by FAO over the five-point plan of action on World Food Security.

W. S. NAIMOOL (Trinidad and Tobago): The very clear and very informative document, C 81/20 is, in the opinion of my delegation a document to be generally supported. It seems to us to be virtually without seriously controversial issues and its general acceptance, which I believe it already enjoys, should not be encumbered by a mass of lengthy interventions which, excellent as they may be, in them selves, can do little else but positively emphasize the points which the document has made with such clarity and balance. It will be gathered from this that I speak essentially for myself and that I intend to be brief.

My delegation is impressed by the fact that page 9 in the English version of the document is entirely taken up in hammering the cardinal point that in this matter of food security nothing is more import ant-to use the Secretariate's words-than "a more rapid growth of food production, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries. " That is the heart of the matter and my delegation would suggest the most careful elaboration of a forceful resolution on this subject in keeping with paragraph 45 of page 9 of the said document, C 81/20.

Lest we tend to forget it, food production, and indeed food reserves as well, embrace living resources in our rivers, lakes, ponds, swamps, and seas. My delegation can think of no better form of stocks and reserves than the teeming abundance closely cared for and rationally exploited of fish- life (I use this term in its all-inclusive sense) in our waters.

This naturally raises, directly or indirectly, the vital question of environmental care, a subject, incidentally, that seems to be sadly losing the importance it has deserved and it goes hand-in-hand with the production of cereals, livestock, vegetables and other land food commodities.

My delegation would very much like to enlarge on this question of the environment about which it has heard little or nothing so far at this Conference but it prefers not to do so in the interests of time and your patience, Mr. Chairman.

Increased food production, therefore, is the answer to the problem with which we have for so long been plagued and is one of the essential issues to which the attention of the Conference is drawn. This point is made succinctly in paragraph 60 of document C 81/20.

Having said the foregoing, my delegation recognizes, as we all do, that increased food production is not realized to the degree desired over-night. It is a long and laborious task and for many, especially those lacking in water and land space and soil fertility, a very painful one. The interim period, therefore, must be taken care of and proper provision made for meeting at any point of time food needs arising from natural or man-made disasters. The prospect of man-made disasters looms more real day by day especially as the production of arms seems to take precedence over the production of food. For those reasons we support those measures formulated by FAO for a better system of food security. These will include a close examination of, and appropriate action on, the problem defined at paragraph 51 of the document under reference which states: "a number of developing countries which have adopted

national stock policies have experienced difficulties in building up food reserves due to insufficient food production, lack of storage facilities, low level of food aid or other financial or technical constraints. "

In this context of affairs, individual country cases, as well as cases involving regional possibilities of firm cooperation, must receive our sympathetic attention.

A. B. CAWTHORN (United Kingdom): Once more we have before us a reflection of the comprehensive and efficient efforts of the Secretariat and we are very grateful to them for this working document.

I would like to express the United Kingdom's pleasure at the decision taken by the International Monetary Fund to extend financial assistance to members encountering balance of payments difficulties. This is a valuable contribution which will assist low-income food-deficit countries to meet urgent requirements.

The United Kingdom is also pleased to note that on stocking policies progress has been made by developing countries in adopting domestic stockholding policies. We shall leave it to the Commission's spokesman to outline in due course our views on cereal stocks. However, we would repeat our view that specific commitments to hold stocks for the benefit of the international community need to be seen in the context of a new international grains agreement and we would only say that although we are as disappointed as others at the lack of progress towards a new wheat trade convention, we will continue to play our part as a member of the EEC in negotiations on an agreement which will benefit the LDC's and enhance world food security.

We have some concern that any concerted effort by a large number of countries to establish stocks could have the effect of removing from the markets grain which would normally have been available for export. A large proportion of wheat purchased annually by developing countries is acquired on commercial terms thus the food aid convention, while undoubtedly important to the LDC's can of itself, make only a limited contribution to world food security.

Although the 10 million tonne target has not been reached under the FAC, we must not lose sight of supplementary aid outside that Convention. The Community is giving such aid specifically this year. In the longer run the United Kingdom agrees with Canada that food aid needs should decline rather than increase. Point III of the Plan of Action calls, amongst other things, on all countries in a position to do so to contribute to the International Emergency Food Reserve. This year the United Kingdom is making available 5,000 tonnes of cereals from its national actions allocations under the Food Aid Convention. We endorse the views of the Canadian delegate that turning the IEFER into a legally binding convention would not necessarily produce a higher level of contributions. We think that the arrangement now agreed for double pledging to the WFP and the IEFER will be a much more satisfactory approach. The United Kingdom is actively cooperating with the Food Security Assistance Scheme. Bilateral projects in the field of food security have been mounted in association with FSAS in a number of poorer countries including Tanzania, Mali and Nepal and there is a United Kingdom specialist liaison officer on FSAS matters.

The services of our Tropical Products Institute, in particular the stored products centre, are at the disposal of developing countries under technical cooperation arrangements. Expansion of the training facilities begun in 1979 have now been completed.

In his introductory remarks Professor Islam suggested that the Commission might like to reiterate the need for high priority to be afforded to food production in developing countries and for donors to increase the flow of financial and technical assistance to support these efforts. We would endorse this but we would suggest that donors are more likely to increase assistance only when appropriate policies are instituted to give incentives to domestic producers and to landless peasants.

O. LUCO ECHEVERRÍA (Chile): Señor Presidente: El otro día, un distinguido representante manifestó que en el marco mundial de alimentos la variación ocurrida en estos últimos años no había sido importante. Aún más: solo son los factores climáticos principalmente los que deciden si se tendrán buenas o malas cosechas. También hubo otro distinguido delegado que se encontraba preocupado por una posible baja en los precios del trigo, pues gracias a un valor apropiado de este cereal se había conseguido un aumento considerable de la producción en su país.

Chile cree en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas y en su Organismo especializado para la agricultura, FAO. Es así como hace un aporte anual a este Organismo internacional de alrededor de un millón de dólares, que se desglosan, en cifras globales, de la siguiente forma: aproximadamente 760 mil dólares a la Oficina Regional; 123 mil a la Oficina Nacional, 15 mil al PMA y 92 mil a un Programa Lechero que se sostiene con un país nórdico, FAO y mi propio país.

Todos los países, en la medida de sus posibilidades, quieren que no haya hambre en el mundo, pero las estrategias que hasta ahora se siguen continúan siendo demasiado lentas y poco efectivas frente a la trage día diaria del hambre y la malnutrición. Además, esta situación es tan apremiante, que no impide ver y estudiar lo importante.

Mi delegación se encuentra inquieta por lo que se refiere a la conservación, manejo adecuado e incremento de los recursos naturales renovables que es parte fundamental de la estrategia contra el hambre y pieza clave en la seguridad alimentaria mundial a mediano plazo. Sin suelos o con agua contaminada, mañana no tendremos que comer.

Mi delegación estima que quizá sea conveniente reestudiar la estrategia general que hasta ahora se aplica, revisar los postulados en conciencia y ver si realmente se tiene la voluntad política por parte de los países en una mejor situación relativa de colaborar efectivamente a una solución, solución que evidente mente significa sacrificio porque implica dejar de tener uno algo para que otro lo tenga. Si no tenemos esta voluntad política quizás continuemos en muchas reuniones aquí o en otras partes del mundo, pero llegará el día en que nos demos cuenta de que las reuniones no fueron lo suficientemente imaginativas ni audaces para dar una solución y veamos con tristeza que llego el momento en que tengamos que lamen tarlo.

H. L. CRAWLA (India): At the outset I express my deep appreciation for the document C/81/20 which has been brought out by the FAO Secretariat. Yesterday Professor Islam gave us with his realistic lucidity the salient aspects of this subject in his introduction. It is indeed gratifying to note that awareness concerning food security is catching the imagination of a large number of countries and international organizations. This is evident from the comprehensive review of the progress on implementation of the Plan of Action. The initiative of the IMF is certainly a significant landmark in this regard. More recently the Conferences of the non-aligned countries, Commonwealth Heads of Governments and the summer Conference at Cancun have already expressed deep concern at the problem of food security. All this may augur well for the future. Everyone hopes for it. As of today the situation is not quite satisfactory. The 10 million target of food aid per annum which was considered reasonable in 1974 has not been reached till now. The present requirements are considerably higher. As regards IEFRR, although it was a matter of some satisfaction to learn yesterday that commitment to the extent of 500 000 tons had been made, expert opinion is in favour of a target of 1 million or at least 750 000 tons per year. A matter of greater concern however is the existence of serious handicaps in the capacity of developing countries to improve their food security. There are productive resources which can be developed. There is the will to develop them. But the investment source base is poor and what is worse it is sinking due to unfavourable terms of trade for many of the exportable agricultural commodities. In this background it is of the utmost importance that the donor countries and international institutions increase the flow of financial resources and technical assistance to the developing countries for enabling them to intensify their food production efforts and help them to get an adequate and assured supply of basic inputs. All efforts by the CFS to assist the developing countries to plan and implement their food security would be highly desirable, and we extend our full support to such efforts. Experience in India shows that effective food management requires a great deal of attention, organizational effort and institutional infrastructure. It is therefore advisable that proper planning should precede the creation of an effective framework of food security to cope with large scale food shortages. In the context of my intervention on item 6. 1 of the Agenda I mentioned that for a large number of developing countries trade has a direct bearing on food security. Therefore UNCTAD and FAO may ensure that the foreign exchange earnings of these countries and their purchasing power are duly safeguarded. Cooperative endeavour can be of great value in ensuring food security. It may be useful to mention here that even though India is marginally self-sufficient it was possible for our country to give, during the last three years, 670 000 tons of food grains to neighbouring countries on a commodity loan basis to tide them over temporary difficulties. We appreciate and support the proposal of the Secretariat for collective self-reliance through measures like TCDC and ECDC. These are highly desirable. A great deal of relevant technology and experience useful to developing countries are available in some of the other developing countries which started with institution building some time earlier. It would be good for the world if bi-lateral and international efforts helped the diffusion of knowledge and experience among as many other countries as can benefit from the same.

G. ROSSI PEROTTI (Italie): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le secretariat pour son excellent document. Notre position sur le plan d'action sur la sécurité alimentaire est bien connue; plusieurs de ses points ont été en effet commentés à l'occasion des déclarations de l'Italie en session plénière.

A ce stade de nos débats, je voudrais donc me borner à réitérer ici l'importance que nous reconnaissons à la mise en place des politiques de stockage au niveau national et régional. Nous sommes également conscients que l'aide alimentaire est un instrument encore nécessaire pour faire face aux immenses besoins de l'humanité affamée. Nous reconnaissons donc que la sécurité alimentaire représente la priorité des priorités.

Le document C 81/20, au par. 25, inclut mon gouvernement parmi ceux qui, au cours de l'année 81, ont augmenté considérablement leurs contributions. Nous avons en effet donné notre adhésion au Food Security Assistance Scheme et nous chercherons encore à faire plus d'efforts dans le futur. Finalement, ma délégation encouragera les mesures qui tendent à favoriser l'autosuffisance des pays en voie de développement et notamment celles de l'augmentation de la production.

M. ZJALIC (Yougoslavie): We think that in spite of the consensus reached in 1974 the international community has failed to establish a dependable world food security system. Moreover this aim seems to be less attainable today than ever before while it is an established fact that the level of food security of the developing countries is constantly decreasing and that they are growing increasingly dependent on grain import. In fact their imports have trebled as we all know in the last ten years or so and will this year reach some 100 million tons. The 5-point plan remains the only instrument of the international community in the sector of world food security. Yugoslavia remains a supporter of this plan and has been undertaking since its inception a series of measures in implementing it. This plan we see as being of benefit for the international community as a whole and for each of our countries. This has been particularly reflected in our constant efforts in increasing domestic food production. We also have a well established and efficient food grain stock policy, with a system of grain reserves aimed at stabilization of the domestic market and covering consumption in case of crop failures.

We contribute to the World Food Programme and also give some bilateral food aid whenever we are in a position to do so. Our food security assistance has been limited as yet to technical cooperation and cooperation in the supply equipment, technology and storage construction under concessional terms.

My Government attaches particular importance to the collective self-reliance of developing countries. We participated in the series of actions mentioned in paragraphs 38 and 39 of document C 81/2. We think that the efforts of developing countries in establishing a food security system should be more energetically supported by FAO expertise in elaborating institutional arrangements for these security schemes. Also, there is an important role to be played by other international and intergovernmental institutions and organizations, particularly those of developing countries.

Regional security schemes combined with nationally held and internationally harmonized grain reserves could be viable and effective elements of a global system of food security. We commend the action of the Committee on World Food Security in elaborating agenda for consultation and coordination on tackling food shortage situations when they arise. We consider that it is essential to strengthen the consultative role of the CFS. We still believe that there is a need for the establishment of an internationally coordinated system of national food reserves, but since some major exporting countries are not in a position to agree with the concept of a legally binding agreement the consultative role of the CFS seems to be the only reasonable and practical option.

Finally, we reaffirm our support for the steps which have been taken in the past two years to implement the Five Point Plan of Action, and we commend the FAO Secretariat on having presented a good and useful document, as well as Professor Islam for his introduction. It is our hope that FAO will continue to play its role in this field in the future.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Gracias en aras de los países en desarrollo por permitir que el señor delegado de Yugoslavia no sea el último orador.

Quisiera expresar en primer lugar la satisfacción de la delegación cubana por la elocuente introducción a este importante tema hecha por el profesor Islam en la tarde de ayer, la cual complementa el ya valioso documento preparado por sus colaboradores.

Desafortunadamente, a pesar de estos análisis hechos por la FAO, así como por las declaraciones llevadas a cabo en el seno del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y a pesar también de los análisis hechos en otros foros, en los cuales se insta a que se refuercen los programas de ayuda alimentaria para los países en desarrollo y a poner en práctica sus planes y proyectos a establecer reservas nacionales como paso necesario para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, a pesar de los esfuerzos hechos por algunos países, nos encontramos aun ante la triste realidad de que los recursos totales de los programas no han alcanzado las metas recomendadas en 1974 por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, que actualmente son insuficientes.

El documento C 81/20 insiste una vez más en la necesidad de un eficaz fortalecimiento de la producción básica de alimentos de los países en desarrollo y garantizar sus políticas nacionales de reservas, así como una garantía de la existencia de alimentos básicos en el mercado internacional y una verdadera y justa situación de equilibrio entre las disponibilidades y las necesidades, que son elementos esenciales para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria. Este criterio es compartido plenamente por nuestra delegación y en tal sentido apoyamos las acciones desplegadas por la FAO en la aplicación de las medidas encaminadas a garantizar la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Consideramos que es digna de especial mención la ayuda que ha recibido la FAO de los países con más bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos para satisfacer sus necesidades de importación y las ocasionadas por situaciones de emergencia en materia de seguridad alimentaria, así como para promover la autosuficiencia de los países en desarrollo.

Consideramos dignas de elogio también las medidas desplegadas en las distintas regiones, especialmente en Africa, para establecer planes de seguridad alimentaria. En nuestra región de América Latina se comienza a dar pasos positivos por el sistema económico latinoamericano y por el Comité de desarrollo del Caribe, así como especialmente por el Comité del CELA, de que ya nos informó el distinguido delegado de Nicaragua. Asimismo los países no alineados tomaron una importante decisión en su cumbre para fomentar la autosuficiencia de los países en desarrollo, contándose con la colaboración de la FAO. Recientemente se celebró en la ciudad de Piong Yang un Simposium sobre el incremento de la producción alimentaria en los países no alineados, en el cual se llegó a importantes conclusiones.

Con respecto a la ayuda alimentaria, señor Presidente, mi delegación tiene criterios claros y precisos, que ya ha expresado en otras ocasiones. Consideramos que la ayuda alimentaria no debe considerarse como una especie de limosna o una caridad. A pesar de haber sido condenada en otros foros internacionales, la utilización de los alimentos para fines políticos sigue siendo puesta en práctica por algunos países desarrollados y mi delegación considera que esta Conferencia debe alzar su voz contra esos países; porque, mientras otros países que cuentan con menos recursos incrementan su ayuda, otros países utilizan la ayuda como arma política contra países muy pobres y necesitados.

Por último quisiera referirme a un aspecto que considero importante que analicemos y es la seguridad alimentaria mundial de manera integral. Se trata del aspecto del comercio, al cual ya han hecho alusión otros delegados. Nuestra delegación considera que para llegar a las tasas de crecimiento necesarias para satisfacer las necesidades estimadas de consumo es preciso el intercambio de los países en desarrollo, para lo cual se requerirá una participación más equitativa de dichos países en el comercio internacional, lo cual se conseguiría concediéndoles un trato especial, en el contexto del empeño por fomentar las relaciones comerciales entre los países en desarrollo y los desarrollados.

Asimismo quisiera hacer patente la necesidad de complementar los aspectos referentes a la agricultura y a la alimentación, recogidos en el documento para el desarrollo del tercer decenio, de las Naciones Unidas, en el que se hace referencia al plan de acción sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial de la FAO, así como a la ayuda alimentaria.

La delegación cubana apoya las propuestas hechas por la Secretaría en el párrafo 42 y siguientes, haciendo especial hincapié en dos aspectos fundamentales: primero, en la necesidad de que los países en desarrollo examinen sus planes y tomen las medidas posibles para fomentar la producción de alimentos; segundo, que se exhorte a los países donantes para que hagan todo lo posible a fin de fomentar los recursos financieros en apoyo de estas actividades que están señaladas en el párrafo 47 del documento C 21/47. "

H. A. LAM (Mauritania): Monsieur le Président, Honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs permettez-moi tout d'abord M. le Président, de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de la Commission. La présidence de la Commission I est une lourde charge car le problème de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde constitue la raison même d'être de la FAO. Je suis persuadé que vous aiderez à aboutir à"

des conclusions positives comme vous le faites si bien au sein du Groupe africain de Rome. J'adresse mes félicitations au Secrétariat pour la qualité et la clarté du document présenté. En application de la résolution 3/79, et pour rendre opérationnel le plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, la Mauritanie a pris diverses mesures. Nous avons, à travers notre organisme céréalier établi un système de stocks de sécurité alimentaire et de régulation de prix des céréales car la politique de stockage mise en place vise tout d'abord à assurer un approvisionnement régulier des produits céréaliers à l'intérieur du pays et nous avons ainsi ouvert des centres dans des zones rurales et particulièrement dans les zones structurellement déficitaires et enclavées.

Le but des productions agricoles est la nécessité d'avoir un meilleur système de sécurité alimentaire. Le point 2 du rapport C 81/20 revêt un caractère important. La question des blocages de stocks doit être régie par des critères solides et sains. Ma délégation adhère aux recommandations du comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Le point 4 mérite également une attention particulière et ma délégation se félicite de l'importance accordée à l'autonomie collective des pays en voie de développement. La Mauritanie participe à diverses organisations régionales et sous-régionales qui ont comme objectif de résoudre le problème de développement agricole, la FAO, CEEAO, OADA et l'ACDAD. Nous participons au projet de stocks nationaux et régionaux de sécurité alimentaire; ce projet qui est dans la phase finale de financement a pour principal objectif de mettre sur pied un système de stockage qui permettra d'assurer aux pays du Sahel une autonomie et une assistance en matière de sécurité alimentaire.

La volonté politique de notre pays pour constituer des réserves alimentaires connaît des contraintes majeures car pour que ces réserves puissent se constituer, il faudrait que la production vivrière soit suffisante et régulière; ceci paraît très difficile en Mauritanie et dans les pays du Sahel dans leur ensemble. Des efforts doivent être entrepris dans le sens de l'amélioration et de l'augmentation de la production vivrière. Il faudrait que l'aide à la production vivrière ne soit pas masquée par l'aide alimentaire qui est conjoncturelle et aléatoire; si nous arrivons à assurer nos réserves alimentaires par le biais de notre production vivrière à ce moment seulement nous pouvons parler de sécurité alimentaire; dans cette optique une politique claire et précise doit être dégagée pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et la FAO et ses organismes spécialisés peuvent jouer un rôle dynamique dans ce sens.

G. STUYCK, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the Chair

G. STUYCK, Vice-Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia G. STUYCK, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): As I am the first speaker since you assumed this seat, I wish to congratulate and to wish you a good tenure.

I would like to address my comments to two sections of the report.

The first section is the section on collective self-reliance of developing countries. It is very encouraging to note the progress that has been made by various groups of countries and sub-regions in mounting programmes towards collective self-reliance. In view of what has arisen in the discussions on the international grain problems, it may be more rewarding if FAO could shift considerable emphasis to help the sub-regional food security schemes to attain their goals. There does not appear to us to be much action towards collective self security in the humid regions of West and Central Africa. The Secretariat may wish to explain why not much is happening, or to perhaps update us on what has happened recently in this area. In view of the considerable focus on Africa, we would have liked to see some more details of the content of the Lagos Plan in action with respect to food security. What is contained in paragraph 45 is too brief to be able to assess what progress has been made in this regard.

Secondly, many delegates have acclaimed the Plan of the IMF to extend financial assistance to countries facing balance of payment difficulties in respect of their food import bills. This is a very good step and it is very welcome; but when it is recalled that cereal imports have virtually trebled between 1976/77 and 1980/81-that is, from US\$ 3.2 billion to US\$ 9.3 billion-it is rather worrying that these countries may be eternally indebted to IMF for food produce which is unconsumed in their own countries. Maybe the IMF should extend more of their financial assistance to develop infrastructures for local food production than to food importation.

D. E. DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun): M. le Président, puisque la délégation du Cameroun prend la parole pour la première fois au sein de cette Commission, je me fais aussi un agréable devoir de vous présenter mes vives félicitations pour votre élection à la tête de la Commission I.

Notre délégation se félicite également de la présentation du sujet par le Professeur Islam et de la pertinence des analyses développées dans le document de base.

Pour notre délégation, lorsqu'on parle de la sécurité alimentaire, la première idée qui vient à l'esprit apparaît dans le processus de l'accroissement et de la distribution des denrées alimentaires au niveau national.

Ce concept a d'ailleurs été déjà développé par les délégués qui m'ont précédé tant lors de la discussion du premier volet de ce point de notre ordre du jour qu'au cours des débats actuels. C'est pour cette raison que mon intervention sera extrêmement brève.

Il est établi en effet que les pays en développement ne pourront accéder collectivement ou individuellement à une sécurité alimentaire effective qu'autant que les gouvernements et les populations des pays concernés s'engageront à s'attaquer de façon décisive et coordonnée à toutes les contraintes qui bloquent l'expansion du secteur agricole, notamment celui de la production alimentaire.

Il s'agit d'appliquer en somme, au niveau national, une politique de développement agricole à long terme qui doit s'appuyer sur la mise en place au niveau des pays d'une véritable infrastructure de promotion de la production vivrière.

Dans l'immédiat, les niveaux et le rythme actuel de la production alimentaire dans beaucoup de pays en développement, particulièrement ceux d'Afrique, ne permettant pas d'envisager de constituer des stocks stratégiques initiaux à partir des ressources locales, il devient donc évident que tout programme visant actuellement à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire dans ces pays devra s'appuyer en grande partie sur l'assistance extérieure; l'aide alimentaire prend donc ici toute son importance. La création de stocks garantissant la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays en développement exige non seulement la mise en place d'infrastructures logistiques et de ressources de démarrage, mais aussi des structures de gestion fonctionnelles et de cadres avisés. Tout cela pour dire que les programmes d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire visent à mobiliser les ressources matérielles et humaines tant de sources intérieures qu'extérieures.

La réalisation de tels programmes doit se concevoir nécessairement dans un cadre de coopération technique et d'assistance financière impliquant la participation des gouvernements assistés, celle de la FAO et des donateurs.

Miss. M. SHAHEEN (Egypte)(original language Arabe):I should like first of all to thank the Secretariat and the Director-General for this excellent document which has pointed out that progress in the field of food and food security is still very slow. The question of food security is still fraught with dangers, despite the positive steps forward taken in the last few years-namely the implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security. Despite all the efforts deployed in this field, I would like also to point out here what has already been announced by the IMF, namely, that we must unburden the balance of payments due to the raising of prices of food supplies, and therefore we must give assistance and extend the convention in order to enable it to cover 1983 as well. That means that the objective already set may be attained. However, all these measures are not sufficient as such, and therefore we must deploy further efforts at all levels, national, regional and international. It is up to the Organization to further deploy efforts in this field with respect to regional and sub-regional projects.

My country supports the proposals made along the lines which we find in this document in order to make sure that there is proper development in the field of food supplies and better food security. We must also prompt the international community to restrict protectionism, particularly with respect to food commodities coming from developing countries, which play a great role in the setting up of foreign currency funds, and also in the economies of those countries.

Paragraph 57 says that importance should be attached to self-reliance of developing countries in the field of food production. My delegation supports this viewpoint both at the regional or sub-regional project levels. My country also supports participation in such efforts in the regional and sub-regional food aid projects. We also must try to achieve better collective self-reliance. In this respect we also support the idea of setting up a regional fund to finance regional and sub-regional programmes for food security.

My country has been practising agriculture for the last 4,000 years. We assure food production for our people. We have given particular priority to agricultural development plans, and we attempt to give the necessary motivation to the farmers and to give them the necessary equipment in order to achieve better production. We also give them tax exemption.

J. B. JACKMAN (New Zealand): If buffer stocks are to be effective they must be allowed to rise and fall to balance fluctuations in production. Strong economies should not use their financial strength to rebuild stocks in times of reduced international supplies. If the strong economies act in this way, the effective supplies available to those in greater need may even be reduced.

The ability to respond quickly in a crisis is also vital. National contingency plans which anticipate problems of obtaining supplies, and distributing and financing those supplies, may be as important as the reserve stocks themselves. Analysis of the factors would seem to be needed to determine levels of stocks which each country should hold.

Finally, we would comment that rehabilitation after a natural disaster should be given a high priority. Extra resources are needed for recovery. Limited supplies of basic inputs will prolong the period of recovery and will prolong the food shortage. We particularly wish to commend the remarks of the distinguished Delegate of India on this subject.

S. MURTAZA (Pakistan): Please allow me to start by paying compliments to the Secretariat for producing such a lucid document on the subject of world food security. It is encouraging to note that some of the developing countries have made significant progress in this field. But, somehow, the overall picture of the developing countries that emerges is not very bright, added to which is the fact that in spite of the increased need for import of foodgrain, the food aid target of 10 million tons is far from being achieved. This fact further appears ominous in view of the balance of payment condition of the developing countries. The IMF is providing assistance to the developing countries for meeting balance of payments difficulties for the import of food and it is certainly a most welcome step. But, it would certainly be better if conditions in agricultural trade are improved in such a way that protectionist tendencies are not allowed to hamper it, nor the instability of foodgrain markets is allowed to discourage it.

My country has always been giving keen attention to the world food security and making all efforts for implementing plans of action leading to the same. In order to achieve world food security it is essential for all countries to increase their cereal grain production. My Government has taken various steps to increase the same, particularly of wheat. I will not bother you with the details of our policy which were touched upon by the leader of my delegation in his statement. As a result of these bold agricultural policies we have had three successive good wheat crops and are now self-sufficient.

We attach great importance to the national food security to meet the needs of our country in a lean period. We have for these purposes built up adequate wheat reserves through increase in our wheat production. We have already laid down a criteria for the management and release of wheat from the national food reserve. The wheat in the national security reserve would be replaced every two years. While agreeing with proposals for action as contained in the document, in concluding we would urge that international agencies and donor countries, particularly developed countries, should provide increased financial and technical assistance to the developing countries for increasing their food production and move towards food security. Achieving self-reliance particularly on a regional basis, is an idea which needs immediate attention. The option of stock qualities by all developing countries is also one which needs our full attention and we hope if we act upon this and follow the suggestions contained in the document we will be moving closer to the world food security.

S. DE MARE (Sweden): As my delegation did not take the floor when the previous item on the agenda was discussed, allow me to start with some brief remarks concerning the current global state of food and agriculture.

My delegation shares, on the whole, the views expressed in document C 81/2 and its supplement that was discussed yesterday. Thanks to the good crops this year in many countries a global shortage has been avoided. We cannot, however, as yet see the reversal of several disquieting trends. One of those trends is the expanding import demand for basic foodstuffs of developing countries. There is, secondly, a pressing need for many countries to put up their efforts to achieve a higher degree of self-reliance in such foodstuffs. External assistance from FAO and other sources should have as a top priority to support these efforts.

Some speakers in our discussion on item 6. I stressed the need to secure more refined information on food consumption patterns within the national averages. My delegation shares this opinion since we, of course, are anxious to know whether the improvements in food supply are reaching those whose need is greatest.

We note with satisfaction the information given by Professor Islam that the FAO Secretariat is aware of this problem and is planning matters to get more extensive data in this respect.

As regards the present item on our agenda and document C 81/20 I wish to compliment the Secretariat for a very comprehensive progress report. I will limit my intervention to points mainly raised on point 3 of that document, that is Proposals For Further Action. It is almost self-evident as is mentioned in paragraph 43 that the lasting solution to food security problems lies in more rapid growth of food production particularly in low-income food deficit countries, and especially in the least developed food-deficit countries. I would like to stress the importance that the producers in these countries are given adequate economic incentives to increase their production also, if necessary, against short-term interest and the non-agriculture population of these countries taken into account the favourable long-term effects.

As regards the present lack of an internationally coordinated system of cereal reserves my country deeply deplores the failure of negotiations of the new Wheat Trade Convention. Prospects for such an agreement within the foreseeable future ought to seem almost non-existent today. Establishment of national stocks is not enough in our view to create adequate food security for all countries if they are not complemented by some kind of international coordination. For countries like Sweden with continuous and stable reserves of bread grain it is not always necessary, or effective, to establish stocks just in order to pick up and guarantee our food aid commitments and national needs. Although Sweden has established national security stocks of grain and essential production means for our national needs in case of real emergencies in very special circumstances, Sweden's food aid commitment under FAC/IEFR of at least 80,000 tons of bread grain annually was guaranteed by reserves made from the current crop at the beginning of each crop year.

Even if a new wheat agreement still must be the ultimate aim it is now necessary, as was stated by the Swedish Minister of Agriculture in Plenary, to start an active search for alternative solutions, one such solution would be to strengthen the FAO's Plan of Action on world food security. Another very interesting alternative would be to establish the limited wheat reserve in favour of least developed countries, as has been suggested by the Executive Director of World Food Council. The Swedish Government is prepared to examine actively and negotiate such solutions as soon as possible together with other countries. In the meantime, we welcome the decision by the IMF to institute new arrangements to extend balance of payments support to cover the increases in current imports of developing countries.

Finally, we support the increase of the FAC, that however must mainly derive from the enlistment of new donor countries. We also support the strengthening of the level of creditability of the IEFR. We are satisfied to learn that a preliminary agreement has been reached by the Committee on Food Aid, policies and programmes, at its last meeting, concerning the joint pledging conference on World Food Programme and IEFR resources.

B. SUSSMILCH (Observer for EEC): I would like to inform you Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission I, that the member states of the Community have not yet coordinated their viewpoints on the subject of world food security, as we thought we would have a chance to take up the matter on Monday morning as provided in the programme on Commission I. As we are informed that other delegates would also like to make their statement on Monday morning, we would ask you for permission to do so, but if there is no other way and as we would not like to hold up the discussion then, we would hand our statements in, in written form to the Secretariat of FAO that it can be given to the verbatims.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant des Communautés européennes et je tiens dès à présent à le rassurer, cette discussion se poursuivra lundi; plusieurs orateurs sont déjà inscrits pour la session que la Commission I tiendra lundi et les Communautés européennes auront ainsi l'occasion d'exposer leurs points de vue à ce sujet. Je voudrais, avant de lever la séance, vous préciser que le Comité de rédaction se réunira le lundi 16 novembre après la session de l'après-midi de la Commission. Je voudrais également vous rappeler les noms des pays qui font partie du Comité de rédaction, il s'agit de l'Australie, de la France, de l'Inde, du Lesotho, de la Malaisie, du Maroc, de Trinidad et Tobago, des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, du Venezuela, de la République arabe du Yémen et de la Yougoslavie. Si plus personne ne désire intervenir aujourd'hui, je vous remercie Mesdames et Messieurs, de votre participation à ce débat et je vous propose de nous retrouver lundi matin à 9 h 30 précises.

The meeting rose at 17. 20 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 17. 20 horas

conference

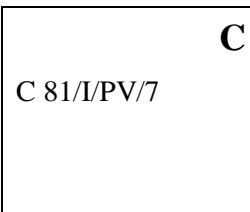
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SEVENTH MEETING SEPTIEME SEANCE SEPTIMA SESION

(16 November 1981)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 9. 50 hours,
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous la
présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 9. 50 horas, bajo la
presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons pouvoir reprendre nos travaux. Avant de poursuivre là point de l'ordre du jour de vendredi dernier j'ai une annonce à faire au sujet des nominations au Conseil, au Comité du Programme et au Comité des Finances. Comme vous le savez les nominations au niveau du Conseil vont se clôturer demain. Il faut que les candidats au Conseil puissent déposer leur demande. A ce jour, pour ce qui concerne la période 1981 et 1984, le Secrétariat n'a reçu que six demandes. Pour la période 1983 et 1985, le Secrétariat n'a pu avoir que cinq demandes. Il est donc demandé aux pays intéressés de vouloir accélérer les dépôts de candidatures étant donné que pour le Conseil la clôture se fera demain à 18 h.

Pour le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, là également il y a du retard et je vous rappelle que la clôture se fera aujourd'hui à 12 heures. Je vous prie donc de bien vouloir faire diligence.

Pour revenir à notre point de l'ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire à la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, que nous n'avions pas pu terminer vendredi dernier, nous avons pour l'instant sept inscrits.

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation, including: (continued)

6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment: (suite)

6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo, en particular: (continuación)

6. 2 Progress in Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen World Food Security
(continued)

6. 2 Mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (suite)

6. 2 Progresos en la aplicación del Plan de Acción para reforzar la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial
(continuación)

F. PETRELLA (Argentina): Permítame, Sr. Presidente, felicitarle en nombre de mi delegación por su elección a la presidencia de esta Comisión. Y deseo por su intermedio enviar un saludo a su noble país, así como a todo el Continente africano, al que Vd. tan dignamente representa.

Quisiera asimismo hacer extensivo este saludo a los demás miembros de la Mesa y a los funcionarios de la Secretaría que con tanta devoción desempeñan sus funciones. Y al profesor Nurul Islam, nuestro agradecimiento por la clara presentación del tema y por la cooperación que siempre ha demostrado respecto de las inquietudes y consultas que le ha formulado nuestra delegación.

Al referirnos al tema "Progresos en la Aplicación . del Plan de Acción para Reforzar la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial", nos complacemos en apoyar las propuestas para ulteriores medidas contenidas en el documento 81/20, que estamos considerando.

Cabe destacar muy especialmente la primera medida propuesta; es decir, el incremento de la producción alimentaria. Ello se podrá lograr primordialmente a través de incentivos a los productores para que se sientan suficientemente estimulados.

La adopción de un sistema que posibilite precios remuneradores parece que es un elemento esencial para el éxito de esta medida. A esto iría ligada la posibilidad de extender las áreas sembradas y la expectativa lógica de una colocación más o menos garantizada de la producción.

No deseo entrar a tratar el tema del proteccionismo en el sector agrícola, pero cabría preguntarse si existen maneras viables de hacer compatible el actual sistema de barreras vigentes en muchos países con la aspiración de que los productores, y particularmente los productores eficientes, incrementen la producción alimentaria, lo cual es la base de la seguridad que se persigue. Nos ayudaría escuchar algún comentario sobre este punto.

Acerca de la reserva mundial de alimentos, deseamos exhortar al Consejo Internacional del Trigo para que continúe con sus esfuerzos en favor de un nuevo convenio que incluya cláusulas específicas de seguridad alimentaria y estabilidad de mercado.

El tema de la reserva y la seguridad alimentaria presenta facetas muy complejas. Nos parece que en todo momento debiera mantenerse dentro de un esquema de voluntariedad-la voluntad de las partes-y de consultas ágiles, que tengan en cuenta los objetivos de seguridad alimentaria, pero sin olvidar la presente situación internacional.

Estimamos que cualquier mecanismo para ser viable debe considerar privilegiadamente los intereses de los países en vías de desarrollo que a la vez son productores y exportadores, así como también los intereses de aquellos países que potencialmente pueden llegar a convertirse en productores-exportadores.

Si dejáramos totalmente de lado esta reflexión, mantendríamos cristalizado el sistema en su estado actual, y ello significaría limitar nuestras opciones y, además, conspirar contra un sistema de seguridad a largo plazo que contenga probabilidades de estabilidad y perdurabilidad, porque estaríamos suprimiendo los alicientes para aquellos países que con su esfuerzo han alcanzado la autosuficiencia y pueden pasar a la exportación.

Mal se puede abogar, Sr. Presidente, por la seguridad alimentaria sin estimular a los productores. Y mal se puede hablar de seguridad alimentaria cuando se ahogan los esfuerzos para aumentar la producción mediante barreras que traban la comercialización. Y finalmente, mal se puede hablar de seguridad alimentaria cuando se dificulta la aparición de nuevos proveedores de alimentos, distintos de los tradicionales, que podría ayudar a mitigar el déficit de las naciones menos aventajadas.

Dentro de este contexto, resulta positiva la decisión de que se otorguen facilidades financieras por parte del Fondo Monetario Internacional a aquellos países con dificultades en sus balanzas de pago. Apreciamos, naturalmente, que es una medida paliatoria, bienvenida atendiendo la angustiosa situación existente; pero no se trata de algo directamente orientado al establecimiento de un sistema alimentario nacional.

Finalizando este aspecto, he de manifestar que respaldamos la revisión del objetivo de ayuda alimentaria de 10 millones de toneladas y la propuesta de aumentar el volumen de la RAIE a fin de satisfacer las necesidades de emergencia. Procuremos mantenernos en un clima realista, ya que, hasta el momento no se alcanzaron los objetivos fijados previamente.

Aprovechando el ambiente de diálogo franco y directo que existen en esta Comisión, deseamos expresar algunas reflexiones generales.

Desde hace años, tanto la FAO como la Conferencia Mundial sobre Alimentación y el Consejo Mundial de Alimentación han recomendado mecanismos de seguridad alimentaria. Tales mecanismos son valiosos, reflejan imaginación y merecen apoyo como cuestión de principio. No obstante, la realidad nos indica que todavía no han tenido el éxito que todos deseamos. En épocas de bonanza no se concretaron los objetivos previstos, y ahora, que nos hallamos ante una situación de crisis, parece que, además de los objetivos, se cuestionan incluso los mecanismos.

Y ello no nos sorprende. Parte de la explicación podemos hallarla en los párrafos iniciales de la allocución de nuestro Director General al Plenario hace pocos días, cuando indicaba que no existe una sociedad verdaderamente global y exhortaba a una mejora en los asuntos mundiales.

Ello nos lleva a comentar que establecer mecanismos de seguridad alimentaria viables requiere, entre otras cosas: 1) un clima internacional adecuado, 2) apoyo interno dentro de cada país, y 3) instrumentos e mecanismos aceptados.

Una repasa rápida a estos tres elementos podría indicar que, si bien existen mecanismos, éstos no han sido generalmente aceptados. Indicaría además que en algunos países no se ha encontrado el clima de apoyo necesario, y finalmente, indicaría que la atmósfera internacional presente parece escasamente propicia si se la compara con la que prevalecía en la década precedente para la puesta en práctica de ideas que fueron concebidas dentro de un contexto y circunstancias diferentes. Sería de interés que en algún foro apropiado viésemos estos tres escenarios con mayor detalle.

Lo dicho no significa-enfatizo-que las creaciones de esos años hayan perdido actualidad hoy. Pero tal vez se podría complementarlas con iniciativas menos ambiciosas que incorporen a países en vías de desarrollo productores. Tal vez así se pueda idear que un grupo de países interesados en crear una suerte de autogarantía de suficiencia entre ellos, se ayuden a superar los déficits alimentarios a la espera que los proyectos más globales que conocemos y apoyamos alcancen la aceptación que sin duda merecen.

A título solamente informativo y como prueba del interés que atribuimos a la cuestión alimentaria, deseo expresar que el canciller argentino en la XII Reunión de Países de la Cuenca del Plata-la semana pasada-formuló un llamamiento para que las naciones de la Cuenca respondan a la carencia alimentaria que sufre el mundo.

A. NIKKOLA (Finland): My delegation has read with great interest the Secretariat report on the progress in implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security. We welcome the considerable progress which has been achieved in many countries in establishing national food reserve stock policies. Unfortunately, there are still a considerable number of countries which do not yet have a national food stock policy or which have not been able to raise their food reserves to the target level. As far as Finland's own cereal stock policy is concerned, my Government has recently greatly increased the food grain stock target and as a new step also a national stock target for coarse grains has been established. The storage capacity for grains is being considerably expanded. In this connexion I can also mention that FAO has joined the IEFIR and we intend to increase our contribution substantially next year. My delegation regrets that an internationally coordinated system of national cereal reserves as proposed in the FAO Undertaking on World Food Security has not been established due to the failure of the negotiations on a new International Wheat Agreement. That means in our view that it is still more important to put into effect the provisions of FAO's Plan of Action on World Food Security. As our document states, the Plan of Action is at present the only internationally agreed framework for pursuing global policies on world food security. In our view the Plan should be strengthened and the FAO Committee on World Food Security should intensify its consultative functions in reviewing and harmonising national stock policies. The Committee should examine the matter in greater detail as against the agreed objectives of world food security.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): We have reviewed the Secretariat's private report on implementation of the FAO Plan of Action carefully and with considerable interest. It is a commendable and well-balanced report. In fact, the Secretariat staff is to be complimented in general for its work in support of the Committee on World Food Security and in this very important, complex and sensitive area. We have also listened with interest to the remarks by other speakers and we particularly associate ourselves with many of the observations made by the distinguished Delegate of Canada. We would like as well to make a few additional comments ourselves. The United States has supported the Plan of Action from its inception and we continue to support it in its present form. We attribute particular importance to the first element of the Plan, the adoption of national food grain stock policies. We are encouraged by the progress reported in paragraph 4 of the document in connexion with stock policies and hope that those countries who have not yet established explicit national stock policies will begin to move in that direction. We also want to commend the document in calling attention to the crucial role that commodity trade plays in the food security equation. We fully agree with the Secretariat's expressed concern against trade barriers affecting agricultural commodities and want to express ourselves the importance of maintaining a balanced expansion of trade as an integral part of world food security. The United States differs with the emphasis placed by the Secretariat and some speakers on the need for an internationally coordinated system of nationally held reserves and on the rapid conclusion of a new Wheat Trade Convention or other formal scheme for the international coordination of grain reserves. We reaffirm our belief that the International Wheat Council is the most appropriate forum for consideration of wheat reserve policies. In our view the national grains reserves which are responsive to market factors are preferable and we consider our reserve policies to be a reasonable response to the guidelines in FAO's Plan of Action.

Certainly, our national policies have enabled us to meet both our commercial and concessional grains requirements.

The document raises one point where further clarification would be useful. In paragraph 16 a reference is made to the Director General "elaborating a series of 'stand-by' plans. . . . in the event of a future world food crisis". We would be interested in learning more from the Secretariat of the nature and extent of those plans and under what circumstances they might be called into use. In our view, sound national stock policies would reduce the likelihood of large-scale food crises. In any event, any plan should be flexible and voluntary in order to gain broad support from a wide FAO membership with diverse views on the subject.

There is one area where we find ourselves in disagreement with the Secretariat document as it interprets a recent event. Paragraph 54 asserts that:"The African food emergency in 1980/81 has shown. . . that present aid arrangements and availabilities are not sufficient to meet exceptional food aid needs".

We would argue on the contrary that the existing arrangements, i. e. , the authority of the Director-General to convene a special consultation, proved appropriate and effective in generating additional aid to meet that emergency and other emergencies. This timely action by the Director-General complemented bilateral actions.

Regarding the references in the document to the International Emergency Food Reserve, we continue to feel that the Committee on Food Aid is the proper forum for dealing with possible changes in the terms of reference of the IEFRR, since the Committee on Food Aid recently dealt with that issue and agreed on a modus operandi for pursuing that issue, there does not appear to us to be a need for this Commission to spend considerable time deliberating on the subject.

In conclusion let me reaffirm the long-term and continuing commitment of the United States to combat hunger and malnutrition and to seek improved food security for all. This commitment is not a transient one; it is expressed in the actions we have taken bilaterally and multilaterally through international bodies like FAO and the World Food Programme, and we have taken them for more than twenty years now. There may be differences as to means or measures but I know we all share the same aspirations for all our peoples.

A. BOTHNER (Norway): First of all, I would like to congratulate and thank the Secretariat for this well prepared and problem-related document. The document shows very clearly that the world food security situation is far from satisfactory. It is highly disturbing that world carry-over stocks of cereals at the end of the 1981/82 season are expected to be below the 17 percent to 18 percent mark which is regarded as the minimum necessary for food security. It is also rather alarming that the cereal imports of low-income developing countries have risen by 50 percent in five years and that the commercial import bill of cereals of those countries has nearly trebled in that period. In practice these figures could mean that if next year there should be widespread harvest failures there will not be enough grain available to meet the import demands. It further means that those who would suffer would be the countries and peoples with small purchasing power i. e. the poorest people. In these circumstances there is a need for international cooperative action. A free world market obviously cannot solve the problems of the poorest nations. The poorest countries will suffer when there is an abnormal market condition. However, neither can the market solve the problems of the poorest peoples even if each nation has obtained safe national stocks; there is still a need for just distribution within the country. Food security must therefore include measures at both the national and international level.

Norway has supported the efforts to establish an international wheat agreement which is designed to ensure both market stability and food security and, later, the more limited role of international coordination of nationally held stocks. Both those proposals would have been substantial contributions to strengthening world food security. We are therefore disappointed that these efforts did not succeed and would like to express the hope that negotiations could be resumed.

What is the outlook for the future? The World Food Council has proposed the establishment of an international wheat reserve of 9 million tons. The initiative of the WFC is to be commended and the proposal should be further studied by everybody involved. However, it seems that the proposal itself does not differ much from the alternative approach of the International Wheat Agreement with international coordination of nationally held stocks.

In paragraph 50 of the document before us, mention is made of the international coordination of national stocks. It is not quite clear to my delegation what is meant by this or by the so-called "voluntary arrangements". We would therefore appreciate the Secretariat's clarification on that point. It does not seem probable that considerable crop shortages will occur at the same time in all countries in a region; therefore, regional food security reserves could offer some protection against food shortages at lower cost than national and also global reserves.

My delegation would like to underline the need for developing countries to strengthen their collective self-reliance by regional and sub-regional cooperation. The developing countries should also naturally, as a matter of urgency, improve their national preparedness by the establishment and implementation of food grain stock policies.

The Norwegian delegation can also support the proposal that the Committee on World Food Security should improve its ability to assess and evaluate food security assistance and the needs of developing countries, as stated in paragraph 51 of the document before us. The breakdown in efforts to reach an agreement with regard to a new wheat trade convention also calls for interim measures. The Norwegian delegation

is therefore pleased to see that the international emergency food reserve target of 500,000 tons of cereals will be reached for the first time this year. This target is, however, modest compared with the problems of food security. We would therefore like to suggest that the Secretariat should study the question of raising this target.

Talking about food aid, my delegation would also like to highlight the question of having better criteria in establishing the need for the aid, where the aid is really needed and how it can contribute to, rather than hamper, agricultural development in the longer term. In his statement to the Conference, the Director-General drew the special attention of donors to the need for support to regional and national food security programmes through the food security assistance scheme. May I conclude by saying that Norway will continue to contribute to the food security assistance scheme to at least the same extent as we are now doing.

J. THINSY (Belgique): Lors de l'intervention de la délégation belge au sujet de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, j'avais voulu aller au-delà de la simple analyse et préciser la position de la Belgique à propos des priorités à définir entre les différentes solutions proposées pour vaincre la faim, la malnutrition.

Pour nous, la priorité doit être accordée aux actions à mener dans les pays qui souffrent de la faim et la façon la plus rationnelle de mener ces actions est d'élaborer et de mettre en oeuvre des stratégies alimentaires nationales en vue d'arriver rapidement à une autosuffisance alimentaire aussi poussée que possible.

Cette priorité que nous voulons voir accorder au travail sur le terrain n'exclut cependant pas la recherche d'une meilleure sécurité alimentaire au niveau international. La Belgique a d'ailleurs souscrit aux orientations proposées dans le plan d'action de la FAO et considère que les mécanismes actuels de la politique agricole de la CEE à laquelle elle participe permettent de gérer les disponibilités et stocks de céréales conformément aux critères du plan d'action. Nous avons également participé aux travaux du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire qui a élaboré une procédure pour permettre, grâce à des consultations, une coordination des actions en cas de pénuries alimentaires aiguës et de grande ampleur. Nous avons d'ailleurs apprécié que le Comité ne se soit pas engagé dans la voie de mesures automatiques qui n'auraient pas fait l'objet d'un consensus.

C'est pourquoi, nous voyons avec une certaine inquiétude que le secrétariat de la FAO estimant que d'autres voies sont bloquées, envisage la révision et les renforcements du plan d'action.

M. le Président, je crois utile de rappeler que le plan d'action a été considéré par de nombreux participants comme un instrument intérimaire et qu'ils l'ont accepté à ce titre en attendant la conclusion d'un nouvel Accord sur les céréales. Si maintenant l'on veut renforcer le plan d'action, si l'on veut élaborer des mécanismes non plus volontaires mais contraignants, on se heurtera, c'est évident, aux mêmes problèmes que l'on a rencontrés au sein de l'Accord sur les céréales. Alors à quoi bon une duplication des efforts? Si l'on veut renforcer le plan actuel ou, et je cite la déclaration du Directeur général, si l'on veut "conclure à l'échelle mondiale un accord comportant des clauses spécifiques en matière de prix et de stocks, ainsi que des arrangements, notamment financiers, qui répondent aux besoins particuliers des pays en développement", on devrait restituer ces travaux dans le cadre de l'Accord international sur les céréales qui doit concerner tous les pays exportateurs et importateurs et devrait recevoir le soutien de tous les pays qui sont favorables à la conclusion d'accords internationaux sur les produits de base.

Enfin, vous me permettrez de rappeler que le Directeur exécutif du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation a lui aussi présenté un plan pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Nous pensons que si l'on veut progresser et en même temps éviter la dispersion des efforts entre plusieurs projets, si, comme le dit le Directeur général, il y a là la matière à négociations globales, la Communauté internationale tout entière doit redoubler d'efforts pour aboutir à un nouvel Accord sur les céréales tenant compte des intérêts de chacun, qu'ils soient pays exportateurs ou importateurs, industrialisés ou en développement.

En terminant, je voudrais rappeler que la Belgique apprécie l'évolution récente de discussions qui se sont déroulées au sein du Comité des politiques de programme du PAM concernant la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence. La Belgique participe d'ailleurs à l'effort de la Communauté économique européenne qui vient de décider de fournir, dans le cadre de son nouveau plan d'action contre la faim dans le monde, une quantité de 100 000 tonnes de céréales qui permet d'atteindre l'objectif de la réserve.

Sra. D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): Señor Presidente, indudablemente se pueden registrar algunas medidas positivas adoptadas por los Gobiernos con base en el Plan de acción de la FAO de cinco puntos para la seguridad alimentaria mundial, Plan que ha sido apoyado por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas y el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y sobre cuyas disposiciones se ocupó la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio.

Sobre el punto 1, es evidente que el objetivo esencial de las políticas de reservas de cereales debe ser la seguridad en el flujo continuo de los suministros de alimentos.

Acerca el punto 2, compartimos los cuatro elementos principales que se citan en el párrafo 12 del documento, en orden a lograr un mejor estado de preparación de los países que aun no están en condiciones de afrontar con buen éxito esas tareas.

En relación con el punto 3, deberemos registrar con preocupación el hecho de que las importaciones de alimentos de los países en desarrollo con bajos ingresos continúan aumentando a un ritmo alarmante. Registramos también favorablemente la decisión adoptada por el Fondo Monetario Internacional en mayo de este año, a fin de ofrecer asistencia financiera a los países con dificultades en sus balanzas de pago, debido al aumento del costo de sus importaciones de alimentos.

El punto 4, en su aplicación sobre disposiciones de asistencia para la seguridad alimentaria, indica el hecho positivo de la eficaz cooperación entre FAO y PMA en la preparación de proyectos para lograr la seguridad alimentaria. El párrafo 28 contiene referencias a la actitud positiva de la Comunidad Económica Europea de ayuda bilateral y multilateral a los programas de seguridad alimentaria de los países en desarrollo, para ayudarles a establecer reservas alimentarias.

Del punto 5 del Plan de acción se ocuparon las Conferencias Regionales del año pasado. Los Gobiernos han venido demostrando progresivo convencimiento de la necesidad de actuar conjuntamente. Será necesario estimular los proyectos para establecer reservas regionales o subregionales, como lo han hecho los países asiáticos.

En cuanto al acuerdo internacional sobre cereales, es lamentable que aun no exista ni siquiera la base de entendimiento. El llamado enfoque alternativo tampoco ha merecido aceptación de los grandes países productores. Mientras tanto se ha prolongado el anterior Convenio, en su forma actual completamente ineficaz, en espera de que se logre un verdadero acuerdo que incluya precios y cláusulas sobre almacenamiento y liberalización de las reservas, como obligación jurídicamente vinculante.

Sobre las propuestas para ulteriores medidas, la delegación de Colombia está de acuerdo en que sólo el aumento de la producción en los países en desarrollo podrá dar bases sólidas y estables a la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Sin embargo, desde hace 3 años esos países registran una disminución real de la producción de alimentos, lo cual nos aleja de la seguridad alimentaria y causa enormes inquietudes sociales y humanas.

La delegación de Colombia está de acuerdo también en que la Conferencia pida al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial que estudie la forma de mejorar las posibilidades de valorar y evaluar la asistencia a la seguridad alimentaria mundial en los países en desarrollo y las necesidades de esos países.

La delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente los conceptos sobre la función del comercio de productos (párrafo 56). Deberán cumplirse las promesas contraídas a muy altos niveles sobre la necesidad de rechazar las presiones proteccionistas, a fin de lograr una expansión equilibrada del comercio mundial, mediante políticas más liberales, que reduzcan las barreras comerciales de los productos agrícolas, especialmente aquellos que son exportados por los países en desarrollo.

Una vez más deberemos reiterar la opinión expresada ya por el Consejo de la FAO sobre los progresos ilimitados y lentos que se han logrado en materia de seguridad alimentaria mundial, cuya situación sigue siendo precaria y con perspectivas aún peores.

H. HAUSER (Austria) (original language German): In the first place, on behalf of the Austrian delegation, I wish to commend FAO's Secretariat for the preparation of Document C 81/20 concerning the Plan of Action on World Food Security. The paper before us, in a very comprehensive and very clear cut manner, described the efforts at all national regional and international levels to include world food security. Simultaneously, a number of proposals are contained therein with respect to further urgent actions and measures to be taken, and these are also found in the Conclusions at the end.

May I, on behalf of the Austrian delegation, make the following comment to document C 81/20.

Austria accepts the contents and conclusions of the document. The FAO Council and the Commission on World Food Security have this year repeatedly observed that in order to alleviate the world food problem, rapid increase of food production in developing countries is essential, particularly in the low-income countries and in the food-deficit countries. The target of 4 percent growth in production unfortunately was not reached, and the latest growth rates of 2 to 3 percent are far below the initial target, or be it in some developing countries considerable progress has been made.

The absolute necessity of an increase in food production in developing countries is also clearly described in the FAO document Agriculture: Toward 2000

The efforts on the part of the developing countries to step up their production in order to reach maximum self-reliance so as to be independent on large-scale imports of food, has the full support of us all. Only thus will it be possible to make the Plan of Action on World Food Security an actual fact. The food-deficit countries in their national development programmes and agricultural programmes should give top priority to agricultural programmes. In particular, modern production technologies should be enhanced. They need extension work and advisory work. They have also to think in terms of marketing, transport, and storage facilities, all of which must be increased. Here, developing countries should have the support of the international community.

Apart from the necessary increase of food production, an international coordinating system is necessary for national cereal supplies and reserves. Here, some matters are still unclear, and it is therefore necessary that the Committee on World Food Security at its next meeting should have an in-depth look at these problems, which are still with us.

Apart from the efforts of the developing countries themselves, the international community should further its efforts to contribute strongly to world food security. Austria is playing an active part in food aids to the World Food Programme and to the International Emergency Food Reserve.

With respect to the WFP, there are voluntary pledges at two year intervals. This is a judicious system along the lines of the general United Nations custom. With a view to improving the economy, and also taking into account the desired decrease in the number of international meetings, the Austrian delegation feels that pledging conferences for the WFP and IEFR meeting should be held at the same time.

In conclusion I would like to stress once more that Austria endorses the FAO's plans. We will certainly continue to make all efforts at bilateral and multi-lateral levels and support these, and everything which will lead to an improvement in the world food security situation.

Md. IRSHADUL HAQ (Bangladesh): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to intervene on this item. We congratulate the FAO Secretariat for their very objective presentation of the problems of food security the world over. We support the recommendations and proposals made in the report geared to realise international food security as a step to 'food for all'.

As a low-income food-deficit country, we are committed to the Five Point Plan of Action. We do recognize that accelerated production is the key to food security. Our concerted efforts helped us to attain an annual growth rate of 3 percent and in 1980/81 our food production jumped to a record 12.4 percent. Our SFYP, launched in July 1980, attached the highest priority to agricultural production. Within the framework of SFYP, we have embarked on a mid-term food production programme for increasing food production in five years from 13 million tons to 20 million tons by 1984/5. For these purposes we propose: (i) a doubling of the irrigated acreage from 3.6 million to 7.2 million acres; (ii) more than doubling the use of fertilizers; (iii) extending drainage and flood control to additional 1.5 million acres; (iv) increasing HYY acreage from 3 million to around 8 million acres; (v) building and strengthening of rural farmers institutions for efficient delivery and management of inputs and extension services.

We are amidst our determined efforts to realize food security and even go beyond. We have the will and the hard-working people, but we lack in the much needed investible capital and complimentary productive imports. We hope the international community will continue to support us in our relentless search for self-sufficiency in food.

Pursuant to the International Undertaking on World Food Security, we adopted and are pursuing our national food strategy policy. The basic components of the policy are: (i) efficient delivery and application of the improved package of biological-chemical technology and cultural practice for accelerated production; (ii) price supports to farmers as an incentive for production; (iii) more equitable distribution of food to reach the poorest and the hungry; (iv) building up a stock of 1.8 million tons to meet any emergency; (v) the creation of infrastructure for storage, transport, handling and quality control.

Through increasing production, we reduce the food gap from an annual average of 1.7 million tons in the 1970s to about 1.1 million tons this year. We made an all-time record domestic procurement of 1.4 million tons both to provide incentive price supports to farmers and to meet the need of the public distribution system. We have almost doubled our stock position in about a year from 0.77 million tons to 1.4 million tons. This procurement and price support measures have, however, involved huge public resources being tied up in food stored. This is likely to affect the governments ways and means position for other programmes, for example, local currency financing of project and credit operations. We suggest, FAO may like to examine this problem of strain on the government's own resources in building up food stocks. This is all the more necessary because with increase in output not only more food needs to be procured to maintain incentive prices but the amount of investment required to smooth out year to year and season to season fluctuations will increase. Maintenance of a considerable national stock to meet any emergency would require, in a country like ours, not only increasing domestic production and a consequent increase in the volume of domestic procurement but also a continued flow of external food aid to meet the eventual food emergency. We need food aid from the donor countries to meet our total import requirement of 1.1 million tons this year. We agree with FAO's recommendations that the donor countries should continue to give food aid to the developing low-income countries not only for meeting their current needs but also allow them to attain self-sufficiency in food.

As for the management and release of stocks and international coordination thereof, we support that the Plan of Action needs to be strengthened and the Committee on World Food Security should intensify its consultations until some international agreements are made or the Wheat Trade Convention with binding provisions on stocks and prices are agreed upon.

We recognize the great potential for, and support, collective self-reliance for food security. In this connection, we would mention the proposals made by our Honourable Minister for Food at the recent conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Islamic countries for an Islamic food supply security fund to be set up to provide financial support for the purchase of food grains for countries facing immediate hardship or threat of famine.

We also hope that the South Asian Forum comprising the seven sub-continental countries i. e. Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Bangladesh who in their recently concluded second high-level official meeting held in Katmandhu agreed to explore enlarging areas of cooperation may consider it mutually beneficial to cooperate on food security also.

We suggest that the FAO Council and the Committee on World Food Security may like to pay attention to these opportune areas of collective self-reliance.

The extension of the IMF's compensatory financing facilities for meeting excess costs of grain imports is a welcome step, no doubt, but the low-income food deficit countries need such assistance not only for incremental costs of grain imports, but also for meeting short-falls in export receipts due mainly to falling prices of primary produce. The overall limit of 125 percent of quota for all drawings under the integrated compensatory policy render such assistance of marginal significance to such low-income food deficit countries. FAO may take this issue up with the IMF of financing countries who need compensatory financing facilities both for meeting their incremental costs of grain imports and also for meeting their short-falls in export receipts.

R. BRUGGER (Suisse): La sécurité alimentaire, nous le savons, est indivisible. En assurant sa propre sécurité alimentaire chaque pays renforce celle des autres. Dans une modeste mesure, la Suisse, pays déficitaire en denrées alimentaires, y contribue par le maintien de réserves alimentaires et par la mise en place d'un potentiel de production agricole national permettant, en cas de besoins, d'assurer l'autoapprovisionnement vivrier du pays.

Ce dispositif de sécurité nécessite bien sûr une politique agricole apte à empêcher que la production alimentaire ne tombe en-dessous du seuil minimum requis en tout temps. Il y a donc des situations où protection de l'agriculture nationale n'est pas synonyme de protectionnisme agricole.

La sécurité alimentaire est indivisible. Des stocks mondiaux élevés de céréales n'impliquent pas une sécurité alimentaire acquise pour tous, encore faut-il que ces stocks se trouvent là où ils sont nécessaires quand besoin il y a. L'endroit privilégié pour ces réserves, nous pensons qu'il est le plus près possible du consommateur principal qui, presque partout dans le Tiers Monde, est le pays lui-même. Il faut bien sûr qu'au niveau national des stocks soient maintenus également afin de pouvoir parer à des pénuries graves pouvant naître dans les centres urbains. Mais nous considérons comme

essentiel que les politiques de commercialisation et de stockage des pays à déficit alimentaire ne découragent pas le maintien de réserves au niveau des paysans et qu'elles ne favorisent pas les importations alimentaires au détriment de la production locale. Ainsi nous pensons que les stocks au niveau rural devraient être gérés par les paysans eux-mêmes; que le stockage gouvernemental devrait se faire près des centres urbains et que l'expansion excessive de la capacité de stockage au niveau portuaire devrait être évitée.

La sécurité alimentaire est indivisible. Elle ne peut pas se réaliser par des actions ponctuelles se limitant au renforcement d'un seul élément de la chaîne alimentaire. Le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation et la FAO ont reconnu ce fait en promouvant des stratégies alimentaires intégrées et concertées. Les activités de terrain de la FAO tiennent compte de la multiplicité des facteurs entravant la sécurité alimentaire des pays en développement. Ainsi, fournit-elle, selon les besoins particuliers d'un pays donné, une assistance ponctuelle au niveau de la formation des intrants agricoles, du stockage ou des pertes alimentaires.

La Suisse participe par des contributions extra-budgétaires à plusieurs de ces programmes de terrain spéciaux de la FAO car ceux-ci soutiennent de manière concrète les efforts des pays cherchant à renforcer leur potentiel agricole. Vu les liens étroits existant entre intrants agricoles, prix, systèmes de crédit et de commercialisation, stockage et pertes alimentaires, nous nous demandons cependant si cette assistance de terrain ne devrait pas être intégrée et coordonnée davantage, conformément à l'idée de stratégie alimentaire lancée par le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation et par la FAO.

Des projets-pilotes élaborés par l'équipe du PASA et couvrant non seulement l'aspect du stockage, mais également celui de la commercialisation de la politique des prix, des pertes alimentaires et des intrants agricoles, pourraient, à notre avis, constituer un premier pas dans cette direction. Nous serions intéressés de connaître l'avis du Secrétariat sur cette idée.

Finalement et en considérant que les besoins d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire dépassent de loin les moyens disponibles à cette fin, nous voulons exprimer le souhait que les problèmes administratifs de part et d'autre qui retardent l'exécution de plusieurs projets cofinancés par nous pourront être résolus, ceci pour permettre que les fonds y attribués puissent être utilisés de fait.

H. MOHAMADI BATAIK (Sudan) (original language-Arabic): May I first pay tribute to the Secretariat for this excellent and clear analytical report on the implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security. Whilst endorsing the recommendations contained in it that world food security depends basically on the growth of food production in food deficit countries, nevertheless we wish to emphasize that the national potential for increased food production varies from one country to another and depends on the financial and technical potential to step up production. Therefore self-reliance is a very relative concept and so is individual self-reliance the objective.

Some countries have the political will and also the national resources to reach self-reliance and to overcome the obstacles with which they are still being faced, which are frequently due to the fact that they are powerless before the national or international situation which prevents them from achieving their objectives. The struggle against hunger, as already pointed out in the Brandt report, is one of the main world challenges which requires national and international measures to dovetail and mutually complement one another. Therefore if donor countries, international agencies, bodies and organizations are stimulated to make greater efforts in the area of aid and technical assistance to strengthen the efforts made by the developing countries, this would be a very useful exercise. On an ad hoc basis, however, this is not a definitive solution to such a highly complex problem.

In spite of all this, the delegation of Sudan endorses the recommendations of the Secretariat aimed at limiting protectionist measures taken by certain countries and strengthening trade among developing countries.

The delegation of Sudan cannot but agree with the idea that food aid is a sporadic limited form of action and should be cut down rather than strengthened or broadened. I do not agree with this pronouncement because if this is not the best solution to improve food and agricultural production it could help to overcome the negative spin-off of droughts, floods, forest fires and further scourges that hit many of our countries. To achieve food security and stability for each individual country is a joint human enterprise.

In conclusion the delegation of the Sudan welcomes with great satisfaction the achievements and the efforts that have been made, even though sometimes slowly, and it welcomes further proposals for creating a reliable food security system on a world scale as recommended in the report.

P. GUERIN (France): Je tiens tout d'abord à remercier le Secrétariat pour le document qui nous a été fourni et pour l'excellente présentation qu'en a fait M. N. Islam. La délégation française avait approuvé à la Conférence de 1979 le Plan en cinq points présenté par le Directeur général. Il est indéniable que depuis les progrès de sa mise en oeuvre permettent effectivement aujourd'hui d'être relativement satisfaits sur un certain nombre de points.

Ma délégation par exemple se réjouit de voir qu'un nombre croissant de pays adoptent des politiques nationales de stockage, mais adopter une politique de stockage ne doit pas conduire à créer de façon peut-être inconsidérée des charges trop lourdes, car gérer de telles réserves, les renouveler, assurer la rotation des stocks de façon à garantir la qualité, cela suppose énormément de moyens. Tout le monde le sait. Donc, il faut faire attention à ne pas créer des réserves de stocks trop importantes dont la gestion serait trop coûteuse et qui conduiraient finalement à des gaspillages.

Or, dans bien des pays, et nous pensons notamment aux pays du Sahel, une importante capacité de stockage existe déjà au niveau des villages et il nous semble qu'il serait peut-être tout aussi indiqué, sinon plus indiqué, d'en rechercher une utilisation aux fins de sécurité alimentaire collective. Je crois que c'est bien là le problème. Nous comprenons parfaitement l'attitude des gouvernements qui souhaitent détenir eux-mêmes la responsabilité de la gestion de stocks mais il faut aussi tenir compte de ce qui existe réellement sur le terrain, dans les silos des paysans ou des villages et donc, le moyen de rechercher une sécurité alimentaire collective en passant par ces stocks villageois, cette formule nous paraîtrait devoir être creusée. Je crois qu'en effet on pense souvent, peut-être trop souvent, à des solutions chères, des solutions coûteuses et c'est peut-être pour cela que l'on envisage un peu trop vite de constituer des stocks de sécurité alors qu'il y aurait tant à faire au niveau notamment de la précision des situations de pénurie et de famine.

Si j'ai rappelé cela, c'est à propos de ce qui est dit dans le document encore une fois excellent et tout à fait objectif qui a été distribué, le C 81/20 à propos du CILLS; cette étude sur la faisabilité d'un stock régional, je crois que c'est une affaire très ambitieuse qui a été préparée par plusieurs conférences et, à ma connaissance aujourd'hui, il y a un groupe de travail restreint réunissant tous les donateurs, et la FAO en fait partie, qui reconsidère un peu cette affaire justement en raison du caractère un peu vertigineux, il faut le dire, au niveau des coûts qui était apparu à la plupart des donateurs.

J'en reviens donc au problème qui me paraît important qui est celui d'améliorer la précision des situations de pénurie. Ainsi que nous l'avons fait valoir déjà à plusieurs reprises au Comité et au groupe *ad hoc* chargé d'étudier et de prévenir les situations de pénurie aiguë et de grande ampleur, il y a un effort très important pour former du personnel et mettre en place des services de surveillance et de prévisions. Un système d'alerte en fonction d'un état des stocks-et toujours dans les stocks, je parle des stocks villageois, des stocks chez les paysans-un système d'alerte bien monté permettrait de donner un délai suffisant pour résoudre les problèmes de pénurie et donc de mobiliser les moyens commerciaux ou éventuellement l'aide alimentaire.

En ce qui concerne la réserve d'urgence, la RAU, des progrès ont été faits en vue d'en rendre la reconstitution plus fiable. Ma délégation se réjouit de ce qu'un accord est intervenu au CPA par lequel la réserve fera l'objet d'annonces des contributions pour deux ans, et la France envisage de faire transiter une part plus importante de son aide alimentaire à des opérations d'urgence par cette réserve et par le PAM. Les procédures actuelles qui permettent d'affecter notre aide à une opération donnée nous semblent effectivement satisfaisantes et efficaces. Ma délégation regrette toutefois vivement que les perspectives de reprise des négociations en vue d'un nouvel accord sur les céréales soient devenues si minimes.

La délégation du Gouvernement français est toujours très attachée à la mise sur pied d'un véritable accord sur les céréales comportant des clauses économiques efficaces qui constitueraient un pas en avant significatif, en fait peut-être le seul pas en avant significatif, vers une véritable sécurité alimentaire mondiale; une telle convention devrait prendre en compte la situation particulière des pays en développement, car le maintien et le développement de la production céréalière dépendent étroitement d'un débouché rémunérateur et d'une stabilisation à un niveau convenable des cours mondiaux des céréales. De ce point de vue, aucune mesure internationale en effet ne pourra jamais remplacer tout ce qui doit être fait au niveau local. Si chaque pays, chaque région assumait sa propre autosuffisance alimentaire, il n'y aurait pas de problème de sécurité alimentaire au niveau de l'ensemble de la planète. Aucun effort ne doit être ménagé pour améliorer l'autonomie alimentaire des pays en développement et favoriser, comme le disait Mme Cresson dans son discours devant la Conférence en plénière, "le développement polycentrique de la production céréalière et vivrière".

C'est pourquoi ma délégation soutient particulièrement la première proposition du chapitre 3 du document, les paragraphes 43 à 47, et une part importante de l'augmentation de notre aide publique au développement qui a été annoncée par le Gouvernement français devra se concrétiser dans le domaine de la production vivrière.

Cela m'amène à examiner rapidement quelques-unes des autres propositions du document, et, là encore, pour féliciter une fois de plus le secrétariat pour la qualité de sa rédaction et de son objectivité à propos du système mondial de réserve. Je crois que je ne vais pas me répéter sur ce qui s'est dit à propos de l'accord sur le blé, il faut bien effectivement tenir compte de cette situation et on ne peut que remercier la FAO comme le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation de mettre les propositions sur la table pour sortir de cette situation critique. Le Gouvernement français, et dans le cadre communautaire, marque une certaine sympathie pour cette approche, mais c'est une affaire délicate et il est évident que la concrétisation de telles idées risque de se heurter aux mêmes difficultés que la négociation de la nouvelle convention sur le commerce des céréales. Néanmoins, nous nous attacherons à faire en sorte que des progrès soient faits dans ce sens.

Pour ce qui est de l'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire, là aussi je ne veux pas me répéter, mais je crois qu'il faut absolument apporter des améliorations et donner la priorité à la mise en place de dispositifs d'information sérieux sur les stocks existant dans les pays en développement; quand je dis les stocks, je veux parler bien sûr de tous les stocks, qu'ils soient publics ou privés.

Je passe rapidement sur l'aide alimentaire et la réserve internationale d'urgence, je me suis déjà exprimé sur ce point, je crois que nous ne pouvons que souhaiter, bien évidemment, l'augmentation du nombre des contributeurs à cette convention sur l'aide alimentaire. Je ne veux pas redire ce que d'autres membres de la CEE ont dit sur la participation récente et je crois assez spectaculaire de la Communauté à une amélioration de l'aide en céréales et je passerai aux moyens de parer aux pénuries aiguës et de grande ampleur. Je crois que l'aide publique au développement doit reconnaître comme priorité ce problème et il est bien de l'intention de notre gouvernement de faire valoir cette priorité dans les efforts qu'il a annoncés pour l'augmentation de son aide, aussi bien au plan financier qu'au plan critique.

Parlant du commerce, simplement parce que c'est une chose qui revient régulièrement dans le débat et il serait bizarre qu'on n'en parle pas, je note néanmoins qu'on oublie toujours d'ailleurs de parler parmi les difficultés du problème de la variation des taux de change des monnaies : il n'y a pas que la situation des prix des produits, mais il y a également la situation des taux de change et cela ne doit pas être sous-estimé.

Je m'étendrai un peu plus sur la proposition concernant l'autonomie collective qui me paraît effectivement être fondamentale. Je suis très heureux que le secrétariat ait mis l'accent comme il le fait sur ce point. Développer des potentiels d'économie collective au niveau régional et sous-régional, nous paraît être une excellente approche et je suis très heureux de voir que dans ce document on souligne les différentes possibilités, allant même jusqu'à des accords commerciaux portant sur les produits alimentaires entre pays d'une même région. Je crois que ce qui a été fait par la Communauté pour la politique agricole commune depuis vingt ans montre qu'effectivement, lorsqu'une organisation qui n'est pas simplement un accord commercial au niveau régional se monte, elle peut permettre d'arriver à développer de façon importante la production agricole dans de meilleures conditions.

Je crois que les deux conclusions auxquelles le secrétariat nous convie, c'est-à-dire la première, accélérer la croissance de la production vivrière et la deuxième, mettre en place le moyen de faire en sorte que les réserves alimentaires mondiales, malgré l'absence de coordination, soient mises en oeuvre, je crois qu'il s'agit là effectivement des deux points essentiels sur lesquels devrait se pencher la Conférence. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord sur le premier, mettre la priorité à la croissance de la production vivrière et nous ne ménagerons pas nos efforts dans ce sens. Quant au deuxième problème, tout en faisant le constat malheureux de l'inexistence et de la faible chance d'une négociation favorable sur le commerce des céréales, je crois que le renforcement de la réserve internationale d'urgence, le renforcement du rôle consultatif du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, le développement de l'autonomie collective des pays en voie de développement, nous paraissent être les meilleures voies pour résoudre le grave problème qui nous est posé.

J. DUBE (Swaziland): I would also like to join the other delegates in expressing our warmest words of appreciation for the introduction in the paper presented to us, especially by Professor Islam. We would like to express our endorsement of the words of encouragement that we see in this document C 81/20 especially to note that there is a move in developing countries that they have taken in establishing their food reserves although it seems that some of the members have not been able to do so. I would like to address this Commission on paragraph 5 as far as Swaziland is concerned. Swaziland has formulated a maize stock policy to ensure continuity of domestic supplies and an even production in the country. The policy also envisages the even distribution of maize amongst other things by cutting off the services of the middle-man as the maize would be handled by a government cooperative union. The total national target of stored maize is 72 000 metric tonnes. This is hoped to be achieved within two phases. In phase 1 storage reserves have been constructed in rural development areas. These will undertake the cleansing and the fumigating of the maize. Then national storage facilities will be constructed, all in phase 1, to the capacity of 28 000 metric tonnes. Phase 2 will involve the building of storage facilities up to the target of 72 000 metric tonnes. These we hope would last us about six months in case of any disaster. These are our goals and to reach them we need both financial and technical resources to put up these food reserves. Storage facilities in the pipeline would be used less without the prerequisite of increased food production. It is our hope that storage facilities will bring the maize marketing point nearer to the producer and so act as an incentive to produce more. This is our small goal and we would like to appeal to all members of this community to try and help us achieve our modest goal as it is.

A. P. J. M. OOMEN (Netherlands): I would like to start by congratulating the Secretariat on the excellent document C 81/20 which is before us. On the subject of world food security as such the EEC presidency will speak on behalf of the Community so that we would like to concentrate now on the FSAS. From the very beginning the Netherlands have attached great importance to the FSAS as we will continue to do so as it is one of the special action programmes in the food sector. We do believe that the special action programmes can have several advantages. Their thematic approach implies concerted attention and action that enrich and influence other regular programmes such as, for instance, the bilateral programmes. The essential quality of the special action programmes lies in the linking with other actions and in the integration with these, not in building up a separate and independent large-scale field of activities. The FSAS in particular provides the possibility of implementing a large part of a national food strategy as it integrates many different aspects of an adequate food supply such as policy formulation, storage, transport, distribution etc. We see the role of FAO in the FSAS first in assisting governments in policy formulation and in implementation; secondly in the identification of constraints; thirdly in the identification and formulation of projects including feasibility studies; fourthly in the mobilization of funds and executive capacity from bilateral and other agencies; fifthly in following and evaluating closely the execution of the projects together with the financing and executing agency. For larger investment projects we think FAO could as a rule better try to find bilateral or multilateral funding and execution. With regard to the Netherlands' participation we continue our commitment to the FSAS. Our multi-bi contributions to FSAS will as a rule be earmarked for technical assistance, for identification, formulation and evaluation of projects. Apart from this multi-bi contribution we are prepared to accept proposals for investment projects for financing and execution under our bilateral programmes, either the bilateral country-oriented programmes or the special food sector-oriented programme. We hope, however, that these projects in execution under bilateral programmes continue to receive attention from FAO as they are part of the thematic field of attention to the FSAS.

D. NOEL (Grenada): The Grenada delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat on a well-prepared document and to offer the following special measures for consideration in the development of a plan of action on world food security, particularly with regard to small, poor, island economies.

First, we would like to propose the implementation of a scheme whereby agricultural products, especially cereals, dairy products and meats, are provided to small, poor states at concessional prices payable in local currencies. Such an arrangement should be an immediate action programme for four to five years whilst the small, poor states develop their food production capabilities.

Secondly, we wish to propose the establishment of an agricultural insurance scheme to meet the cost of rehabilitating agricultural production in the event of natural disasters. We feel that such a scheme is important; and it should be timely and have a good speed of delivery, bearing in mind the long gestation period between disasters and when production comes back on the stream.

Thirdly, we propose the establishment of a fund for food production, to be used for assistance in financing the purchases of agricultural inputs which have to be imported. I refer especially to fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, equipment and storage facilities.

Finally, we hope that FAO will be provided with the necessary means to enable it to assist small, poor states in the identification, preparation and implementation of food production schemes.

These proposals were placed before the recently concluded Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Melbourne. I commend them to this forum, since they are of great importance to the food and agricultural situation in small, poor states and vital for their survival.

G. JEMBERE (Ethiopia): I should like to join previous speakers in congratulating you Mr. Chairman on your election.

The Ethiopian delegation is very pleased with the general presentation of the document C 81/20. As a result of the severe drought of 1973/74 Ethiopia was faced with a three-fold problem which involved the emergency situation created in large parts of the country due to drought and recurrence of drought, meeting the demands for increased agricultural output and the development of the capacity to respond quickly to the recurrence of drought caused emergencies in parts of the country. Although the programmes and priorities devoted to increasing agricultural production at the rate of demand are making steady progress throughout large areas of the country, Ethiopia recognizes the need to work towards the rehabilitation of drought-affected land and over-all rehabilitation of its peoples and resources in those areas as part of its over-all development process. In this respect, the food security reserve scheme is a vital part of the Ethiopian process for solving problems due to drought and drought-related conditions existing in the country today.

The work to date for the establishment of the food security reserve has involved considerably more planning in organization than actual establishment. Notwithstanding Ethiopia's appreciation to the international bodies responsible for assisting in the development of the over-all food security reserve scheme, the usual difficulties have been encountered with the actual establishment of a grain reserve. To date, a firm commitment of 12 000 metric tonnes has been placed against an initial stock of 60 000 tonnes which is to be further increased to 180 000 metric tonnes.

Considering that the discussions for interest began around the mid-1970's, very few countries have actually secured and established a food reserve required by their peoples. No doubt it can be argued that in the requirement of Ethiopia to tackle its drought and recurrence of drought problems, as well as other emergencies existing in the country, the food requirement has maintained a high level. To this argument Ethiopia can actually reply that neither its immediate emergencies nor the food security reserve takes priority. Both issues are priorities and must be addressed simultaneously with the help of international donors.

In conclusion, I would say that the early warning system must be strengthened, since it is part and parcel of the food security reserve, especially when communications and data bases are not fully organized and developed.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): I shall limit my comments on the issue of food security to a specific item which I consider vital in the whole of the efforts at establishing national food security and consequently world food security. I shall therefore comment on the aspect of storage and the proper management of stocks in storage.

I think there is wide agreement that in most developing countries, there is a lack of storage facilities or inadequacy of storage facilities, as well as poor management in food grains and storage. Although undoubtedly, I agree, the most important issue is the production of food, second comes the issue of its proper storage and this is a necessary link in the whole national and international effort to establish and maintain food reserves. The lack of storage facilities, or their inadequacy, and the poor management of the food in storage, leads to inability of most developing countries to maintain appropriate reserves when production is higher than consumption, if there is a good year or when the international prices seem low and favourable for developing countries to make their purchases. Also, poor management leads to considerable waste due to diseases, which in some cases reaches as much as 30 per cent. I think there is plenty of room for improvement in this field and plenty of scope for assistance as well on the part of developed countries and of FAO.

So far, in my view, appropriate attention has not been paid to the aspects of storage and the proper management of stores of food stocks. The PFL, which has been established by FAO, is undoubtedly doing a good job but due to the limitations of its financial resources, unavoidably, it limits its assistance to specific fields such as training, identification of problems, and the provision of suggestions and recommendations, but when we come to the actual time to implement the recommendations which have been

made by such a programme as the PFL then we find difficulties indeed. As an example I would cite Cyprus, where the post-harvest production losses prevention programme (PFL) has completed an excellent study on the survey and identification of the problems of grains in storage and has come out with a series of recommendations which involve immediate action and medium-term action as well as long-term action.

One of the most serious problems in our food storage chain, caused long term, is the actual availability of storage capacity, about which the PFL came out with appropriate suggestions, but when we come to the realization of these recommendations we are faced with difficulties in securing the appropriate financial resources, and it is there where I would urge both FAO and, in that respect, all other financing institutions, to pay greater attention to the issue of providing financial assistance, or an item of equipment, for the development of the food storage system in developing countries, because I consider this an inseparable and most important link in the whole effort to establish national food reserves and thus national food security and, at large, world food security.

M. MARANGOUDAKIS (Greece): On behalf of my delegation I wish to congratulate the Secretariat on the excellent document it has prepared.

The problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty of a large percentage of the world's population is today very acute and extremely urgent. A population growth, mainly in the least developed countries, disproportionately higher than the increase in their food production creates an obvious threat to the survival of millions of our fellow human beings. Any FAO initiative in facing that challenge meets with our full approval.

The needs for food are becoming more and more urgent, due to population increase and urbanisation. Developed countries have the possibility to increase their production but this will entail higher costs and it is doubtful if the developing countries will then be able to pay for their import needs. We are aware that developing countries have directed much effort to increasing their food production, but they meet with difficulties resulting from considerable restrictive factors, such as low investment, inadequate infrastructure, and so on. Therefore, to apply an effective world food security system, developing countries should promote not only their food production but also their economic development to satisfactory levels.

The difficulties met in the negotiations to conclude a new international wheat agreement resulted in the well-known Five Point Plan of Action on World Food Security, after the relevant initiative of the Director-General of FAO. Greece supported this Plan of Action from the very beginning and a number of measures have already been taken by my country in this regard. Today my country, as the tenth member of the European Economic Community, is applying the Common Agricultural Policy and we are certain it responds fully to the obligations of the Plan of Action. However, we believe that a more precise formulation of the reserve stocks policy can be made within the framework of a new international wheat agreement.

My country shares and fully supports the recommendations of FAO for increased assistance and I would like to mention that Greece, as the tenth member of the EEC, will contribute to all FAO's programmes at a higher rate than in the past, through the assistance programmes of the Community, in kind as well as in investments. This, of course, will not reduce my country's efforts in its direct participation to FAO's programmes and technical aid given to developing countries both at multilateral and bilateral level.

My delegation therefore considers it important to establish an effective security of adequate stocks of cereals, to improve the mechanism through which food aid is channelled and to ensure the availability of adequate funds for the effective implementation of the aid programmes. Greece considers indispensable the economic strengthening of financial assistance to agricultural production in the developing countries, but we also believe that those countries should make every effort to adopt appropriate price support policies and to implement programmes for increased food productivity.

We believe that the form of collective and inter-collective self-reliance is one of the corner-stones of the concept of this New International Economic Order. It is a goal that is likely to increase in prominence in the 1980's so as to strengthen the world food security system. There are two dimensions to the concept of economic cooperation among developing countries. The first relates to the need for extending an expanding trade, and other links among these countries; the second relates to the need for cooperation with one another in bringing about changes and improvements by their relationships with the rest of the world. Each of these aspects is gaining in importance against the back-drop of the evolving international economic situation.

Finally, in order to strengthen the individual and collective self-efficiency of developing countries, we propose that FAO should undertake a continuous and increasing effort for the coordination of the relevant aid programmes implemented by the various international organizations and to assist in the realization of the necessary investments in agriculture, at international, national and regional level. The results of these efforts will strengthen World Food Security.

H. S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): As I am speaking for the first time I would like first to congratulate the distinguished Chairman for his election, and wish him and ourselves successful and fruitful discussions.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive report and the work done as expressed in document C 81/20. The Secretariat should be also praised for their monthly bulletins of Early Warning Systems and Food Outlook.

I think that the Secretariat has given us some important recommendations which on the whole I think should be followed. I would however like to comment on some of its aspects.

The example of Israel, which is self-reliant in its food supply with more or less her food imports covered by her food exports, can be of help to other countries in planning measures towards food security. My Deputy Prime Minister speaking to the Plenary has indicated some of these measures drawn from our own experience.

May I add that in dealing with measures towards World Food Security we should bear more in mind the aspects of international commodity prices vis-a-vis ensuring a certain minimal income to the farmer, as well as international arrangements for setting up food stocks. Fluctuations in international commodity prices can induce or reduce food production and we all see what happens in the markets and supply of food products such as coffee, sugar, and cocoa. That is where internationally regulated stocks can be of use. Of course very important work had been done by UNCTAD towards international commodity agreements, with some commodities agreements on the way. I feel that commodity arrangements should facilitate within their frameworks the setting-up of national and regional stocks, based on bi- or multilateral bases and on the decisions of individual governments, which should also play a part-guided and regulated through UNCTAD, FAO or other international bodies, and backed through international financing. This should be done in such a way that each country can find an arrangement which is most suitable to its requirements, especially under present world inflation, which hampers the setting-up of privately owned stocks.

Israel has suggested the setting-up of regional stocking arrangements, and hopes that there will be more progress in this direction.

Farmers should be ensured against market and natural occurrences. Israel had in the past proposed the setting-up of an international insurance fund against natural disasters. Such a fund is successfully applied on a world basis, and it should again be backed by international financing.

I cannot but repeat and stress the importance of removing barriers in the international trade in food products. A high degree of free international flow of food products will only promote production and self-reliance in food production, and world food security.

The international atmosphere of trade poverty and inflation is not very conducive towards the creation of costly food stocks, but the precarious situation should urge this important forum and the governments to co-ordinate efforts towards World Food Security, and the FAO has an important role in this respect.

J. J. PEREIRA REIS (Portugal): Le présent document constitue le rapport du Directeur général à la vingt et unième session de la Conférence sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture -1981. Après de légères augmentations de production en 1979 et 1980, la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture est actuellement précaire. La production céréalière a été inférieure aux besoins de la consommation, durant deux années consécutives. Il est prévu que les stocks baisseront à un niveau inférieur au minimum nécessaire pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Les perspectives de la production de blé et de céréales secondaires en 1981 semblent favorables et le riz a commencé dans de bonnes conditions.

La sécurité alimentaire mondiale dépendra du résultat des récoltes annuelles; la situation économique est sombre; les perspectives de développement agricole et rural conduisent au pessimisme. En conséquence de la hausse des prix d'importation des engrais, des produits manufacturés et de l'énergie, ainsi que de la forte augmentation de la dette publique, de nombreux pays en développement non-exportateurs de pétrole éprouvent de grandes difficultés pour financer les importations indispensables, surtout de produits alimentaires.

A côté de ces difficultés immédiates, les tendances à long terme, en matière d'accroissement démographique, de production et de distribution des produits alimentaires, ainsi que les incidences de la malnutrition sont également une source de préoccupation.

C'est pour cela que c'est avec satisfaction que ma délégation prend conscience des activités entreprises par la FAO pour aider les pays pauvres à constituer un stockage de produits alimentaires et pour couvrir leurs besoins d'importations et leurs besoins d'urgence.

LE PRESIDENT: Je donne la parole, puisqu'il n'y a plus de pays membre qui la demande, à la CEE.

H. MARMILLA (Observateur pour la CEE): Comme d'autres délégations, nous considérons également que le rapport du secrétariat sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale constitue une excellente base pour la discussion de ce sujet. D'une façon générale, la Communauté confirme son accord donné lors de la sixième réunion du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale au programme de consultations et mesures possibles pour parer aux pénuries alimentaires aiguës et de grande ampleur.

Il est connu que la Communauté attache une grande importance à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Nous sommes favorables à l'amélioration des infrastructures de sécurité alimentaire dans les pays en voie de développement, à une reconstitution plus efficace de la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence et à l'objectif de 10 millions de tonnes d'aide alimentaire par la participation de nouveaux donateurs.

Nous considérons d'ailleurs que le nouveau Programme d'action de la Communauté contre la faim dans le monde, qui a été présenté à la Conférence par M. Pisani, s'inscrit entièrement dans le Plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Comme M. Pisani l'a déjà indiqué, ce Plan est loin d'être une initiative isolée. En effet, l'assistance financière et technique au développement des cultures vivrières, ainsi que les autres mesures de renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire, ont toujours constitué une des priorités de la politique de développement de la Communauté. Dans le cadre de la Convention conclue entre la CEE et les pays d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique, par exemple, plus de 800 millions de dollars ont été consacrés au développement rural dans la période 1975-1980. Près de la moitié de ce montant a été utilisée dans le cadre de projets de développement de cultures vivrières. Pour la période 1980-1985 l'aide au secteur rural s'élèverait à près de 1,2 milliard de dollars et la part réservée aux productions vivrières dépassera probablement 50 pour cent. En outre, il peut être rappelé que l'aide aux pays non associés est presque entièrement réservée aux actions de développement rural et n'a fait que croître ces dernières années se situant pour l'année 1981 à 200 millions de dollars.

Pour ce qui est de l'aide alimentaire, dans le cadre de la nouvelle Convention sur l'aide alimentaire qui est prorogée jusqu'en juin 1983, la Communauté a porté son engagement d'aide d'un volume de 1,2 à 1,6 million de tonnes de céréales dont une partie importante est acheminée par les organisations multilatérales. La Communauté a également augmenté sa contribution à la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence.

En 1980, outre sa contribution mondiale de 20 000 tonnes, elle a mis à la disposition du PAM une allocation spéciale de 35 000 tonnes en faveur des réfugiés cambodgiens. Pour 1981, la contribution de la Communauté se situe à 30 000 tonnes.

En plus, notre nouveau plan d'action contre la faim dans le monde prévoit des fournitures supplémentaires exceptionnelles qui correspondent, au total, à une quantité de 250 000 tonnes de céréales dans laquelle une quantité de 100 000 tonnes serait destinée à la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence.

* Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Nous sommes heureux de pouvoir constater que c'était la contribution de la Communauté qui a permis d'atteindre l'objectif pour le niveau de cette Réserve, à savoir 500 000 tonnes.

Cependant, en ce qui concerne les intentions de faire de la Réserve une Convention ayant force obligatoire, la Communauté continue de rester réservée. La Communauté se félicite des progrès réalisés lors des dernières réunions du Comité des politiques et d'aide alimentaire où un consensus semble se dégager pour renforcer la Réserve d'urgence par la mise en place d'un système de pledging,

Pour ce qui est du commerce du blé, la Communauté a toujours souligné dans cette enceinte, ainsi que dans d'autres enceintes internationales, la nécessité de conclure une nouvelle convention internationale sur le blé comme étant un élément clé de tout système de sécurité alimentaire international.

La Communauté estime que cette convention est le moyen le plus approprié pour répondre au besoin de mettre en place un système de stock de réserves nationales faisant l'objet d'une coordination internationale et pour créer les conditions de stabilisation du marché qui pourraient également prendre en compte le problème d'approvisionnement alimentaire de pays en développement.

D'ailleurs, la Communauté ne peut pas partager le pessimisme qui résulte du paragraphe 48 du Rapport dont nous discutons si on parle "d'un échec des négociations relatives à une nouvelle convention sur le commerce du blé".

Je voudrais rappeler à ce sujet les résolutions récentes du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation de Novi Sad et de la Conférence des Nations Unies pour les pays les moins avancés. Ces deux enceintes internationales importantes ont clairement confirmé la nécessité d'entrer, aussitôt que possible, en négociations sur une nouvelle convention sur le commerce du blé comportant des dispositions économiques viables.

En outre, il conviendra d'examiner dans le cadre du Conseil international du blé les possibilités de la mise en oeuvre des suggestions qui visent à coordonner l'action des importateurs et des exportateurs. Entre-temps, nous confirmons que la Communauté est prête à affecter l'aide alimentaire à des programmes satisfaisants de stockage proposés par les pays en développement.

Finalement, plusieurs orateurs ont attiré l'attention de la Conférence sur ce qu'ils considèrent être la dégradation des termes de l'échange agricole des pays en développement. Nous sommes pourtant plutôt rassurés en constatant, dans les paragraphes 83 et 84 du document C 81/24, que l'on peut voir que sur l'ensemble de la décennie le pouvoir d'achat des pays agricoles a été relativement fort et que les termes de l'échange des produits des pays en développement sont restés un peu au-dessus du niveau atteint au début de la décennie.

Plusieurs délégations ont dans leurs interventions présenté des réflexions sur le protectionnisme, c'est-à-dire des questions commerciales. Comme ce sujet s'inscrit dans un autre contexte de nos travaux, je me réserve d'y revenir au moment approprié.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec cette intervention, se terminent nos débats sur cette question. Avant de résumer celui-ci je vais passer la parole à M. Islam pour répondre aux questions qui ont été posées au cours de ces interventions.

N, ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economie and Social Policy Department): Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the distinguished delegates for their interesting and useful information which many of them have given to us on their national and food security policies, both on the part of developed and developing countries.

We also are grateful for the unanimous support which has been given to the follow-up of the Plan of Action on world food security. It was particularly encouraging to hear the announcement of Australia of a trust fund contribution to the food security scheme as well as a new pledge by Japan which raises the aggregate number of contributors to the food security assistance scheme to eleven. We also welcome the renewed commitment of the Netherlands to this scheme and we are very happy to note that Finland has expressed its intention to increase substantially its contribution to the International Emergency Food Reserve.

I also take this opportunity to assure the delegate from Malaysia who mentioned the desirability of FSAS coordinating its action with the World Food Programme that FAO and WFP staff already collaborate very closely on food security matters and carry out joint missions wherever possible.

Regarding the question of the delegate from Nigeria, regarding the food security, again at the regional level in West Africa, the Commission may be interested to know that there are now seven countries of West Africa including Nigeria where national food security projects are in operation and also an attached feasibility study on regional food security schemes has been carried out for the nine countries of the Sahel region. It goes without saying that FAO stands ready to assist any regional grouping which requests assistance in formulating collective schemes on food security.

Clarifications have been sought as to the way in which the Five Point Plan of Action may be strengthened. We have indicated in the document a few ways for consideration, such as intensification of consultation in the committee on food security; strengthening the role of the committee in assessing and maintaining the flow of resources for food security projects; exploration within the framework of the Plan of Action to provide greater assurance of access to supplies at times of food shortages and harmonization of national stock policies, etc.

In our view harmonization of policies is distinct from, but complimentary to, coordination of release and accumulation of stocks, but it is necessary to ensure that national stock policies and measures, which differ from country to country as they are basically founded upon national interests and considerations, are not inconsistent with each other and should not detract from the common international objectives. This, of course, requires a better understanding on the part of all members of the techniques and aims of various national stock policies which we think could possibly be obtained from better exchange of information and policy review in the Committee on World Food Security.

A question was asked as to further details on standby plans referred to in the document in paragraph 6, which is under examination by the Secretariat in case of a future world food crisis. This is really a part of our continuing effort in association with the World Food Programme, to improve our own preparedness and to ensure that the Secretariat itself is ready and fully prepared to act quickly and systematically. The areas which you are examining and where preparedness should be increased are closely related to the very areas which are included in the agenda for consultation and possible action to meet the acute and large-scale food shortages, as approved by the Committee on Food Security. This refers to such steps that you have to take to give early warning to call emergency consultations to mobilize resources and food supplies, etc., and generally to act even more promptly and effectively in collaboration with other organizations concerned, if a critical situation does indeed develop.

LE PRESIDENT : Je crois que tout le monde a trouvé satisfaction à travers l'intervention de M. Islam. Si tel est le cas, nous allons tenter de résumer nos débats. Mais auparavant, le délégué de Malte demande la parole.

I. MOSCOVITS (Malta): I would like first of all to thank Professor Islam for his very brilliant summary of the discussion. I was particularly pleased that he mentioned FAO's preparedness to help regional and perhaps sub-regional undertakings. As I mentioned in our intervention we are very much interested in the regional and sub-regional arrangements, and I would like in this respect also to recall it is perhaps a waste of capital and dispersion of investments if each country or small country would build its own warehouse. For this reason I think before such initiatives are taken FAO should explore if there are existing arrangements or warehouses which could be used for regional or sub-regional storage of proposed national reserves.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci M. le délégué de Malte. Je pense que maintenant nous pouvons poursuivre en essayant, de faire le résumé de nos débats. Les débats relatifs à ce point important qu'est la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale sont donc clos.

La discussion a été très constructive et positive et a abouti à un accord d'ensemble. Au total 49 délégués se sont exprimés plus 1 observateur. Les délégués ont apprécié dans leur ensemble la qualité du document présenté par le secrétariat et l'analyse qu'il contient qui expose de façon claire et concise les progrès réalisés jusqu'à présent dans l'application du plan d'action de la FAO pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

De l'avis général, si certains progrès ont été accomplis, beaucoup reste encore à faire. On a noté que depuis l'adoption du plan d'action il y a eu un certain nombre de faits encourageants et d'initiatives positives; on peut citer notamment le nouveau mécanisme de financement des importations alimentaires du FMI, la nouvelle convention relative à l'aide alimentaire garantissant un volume plus élevé d'aides

ainsi que l'accord sur un ensemble de recommandations qui s'est dégagé au sein du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire à propos des moyens d'aider les pays en développement à mieux faire face à des pénuries alimentaires aiguës et de grande ampleur. Malgré ce progrès, l'avis général est qu'il faut encore redoubler d'efforts aux niveaux national, régional et international.

Il a été reconnu que ce qui importe surtout, c'est d'accroître la production alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire. A cet effet, on a souligné que les pays en développement doivent accorder une priorité plus élevée et allouer davantage de ressources à la production alimentaire. Il a en outre été reconnu que la Communauté internationale aura besoin d'appuyer plus activement l'action en ce sens au moyen d'une assistance technique et financière plus conséquente en rapport avec l'ampleur de la situation.

Certains délégués ont déclaré que les pays donateurs seraient plus motivés pour donner une assistance aux pays dont les politiques prévoient des encouragements aux agriculteurs et travailleurs sans terre. On a également relevé que les bas prix actuels et la faible marge entre les prix de vente et les prix de production, ajoutés aux fluctuations des taux de change dans plusieurs pays, découragent la production alimentaire et compromettent les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire à long terme.

Il a été reconnu d'une façon générale que parallèlement aux efforts visant à accroître la production alimentaire, il faut agir pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire à court terme, par exemple créer des réserves et fournir une aide alimentaire notamment en cas de situations d'urgence. A ce propos, on a souligné qu'il est indispensable d'atteindre l'objectif de 10 millions de tonnes d'aide alimentaire et également de fournir des ressources suffisantes et prévisibles à la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence. On a également estimé qu'il faudrait s'efforcer de réduire progressivement l'aide alimentaire, de consacrer davantage de ressources à l'accroissement de la production alimentaire dans les pays déficitaires.

En ce qui concerne les réserves alimentaires, on a regretté que les efforts en vue de conclure un nouvel accord international sur le blé comportant les clauses de stockage soit toujours dans l'impasse. Plusieurs délégués ont souligné la nécessité de créer des réserves alimentaires nationales et régionales et d'assurer une autosuffisance collective en matière alimentaire. Le rôle du programme d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire à cet égard a été reconnu et l'on a souligné qu'il faudrait renforcer ses ressources.

De nombreux délégués ont informé la commission des efforts faits dans leurs pays pour établir des réserves alimentaires aux niveaux national et régional. Les délégués de plusieurs pays donateurs ont également informé la commission de leur programme d'assistance et de soutien; plusieurs délégués ont souligné la nécessité d'aboutir rapidement à un nouvel accord international sur le blé prévoyant des réserves coordonnées sur le plan international. Il a été reconnu d'une façon générale que pendant cette période intérimaire le plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale constitue le seul cadre accepté à l'échelle internationale susceptible de sauvegarder la sécurité alimentaire. La nécessité de renforcer ce plan dans toute la mesure du possible a été pleinement reconnue.

Plusieurs délégués se sont associés à la proposition de renforcer le rôle consultatif du comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale en l'absence d'un nouvel accord international sur le blé. Quelques délégués ont exprimé des doutes quant au rôle du comité dans l'harmonisation des politiques de stockage.

On a également rappelé que la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et la libéralisation des échanges mondiaux sont étroitement interdépendants.

Tels ont été les principaux points évoqués au cours des débats. Bien évidemment dans le projet de rapport qui sera soumis au Comité de rédaction, le Secrétariat développera ces questions ainsi que d'autres dans tout leur détail.

- 7. World Food and Agricultural Development Strategy, including:
- 7. Stratégie mondiale de développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment:
- 7. Estrategia mundial para el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular:
- 7. 1 UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade
- 7. 1 Stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement
- 7. 1 Estrategia internacional de desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo
- 7. 2 Regional and National Development Strategies
- 7. 2 Stratégies de développement régionales et nationales
- 7. 2 Estrategias regionales y nacionales de desarrollo

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais maintenant parler du point 7 de. l'Ordre du jour "Stratégie mondiale de développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture". Comme tous les délégués auront pu le constater dans le document C 81/11 deux documents ont été préparés pour le point 7. 1. Le document C 81/21 présente la stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement et le document C 81/24 est le troisième rapport sur l'ajustement agricole international. Comme le rapport sur l'ajustement agricole international fait un tout à lui seul et doit être examiné séparément, je propose que nous commençons par lui après quoi nous étudierons notre document consacré au point 7. 1, à savoir "La stratégie internationale du développement" en mime temps que le point 7. 2 "Stratégies nationale et régionale de développement"; cela permettra à la Commission d'étudier les stratégies régionale et nationale de développement dans les perspectives de la stratégie internationale adoptée par les Nations Unies.

S'il n'y a pas d'objections à ma proposition, je donne la parole au professeur Islam pour nous en faire la présentation.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economie and Social Policy Department): Document C 81/24 contains the Third Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment. This report monitors progress in relation to 11 policy guidelines adopted by the FAO Conference in 1975. In the course of doing so, virtually the whole field of food and agriculture from production through consumption, nutrition, trade and assistance is covered with particular reference to the last two to three years. In effect progress in the last years of the previous United Nations Development Decade, and thus the starting point for the new decade, is surveyed and analysed briefly.

The Committee on Commodity Problems examined the monitoring of the guidelines so as to assist the Conference discussion and the eleventh section of this report has been tabled as Conference room series C 81/LIM/20.

Unfortunately the early meeting of the Committee on Commodity Problems allowed only a brief advance summary of the main document to be circulated and the Committee agreed that discussion of the full report would take place at the Conference. However, the Report of the Eightieth Session of the Council which considered the full report-and the report of the Council is CL 80/Rep. 1, paragraphs 13-19 -contained a discussion of the deliberations of the Council on the Third Progress Report.

The monitoring report substantiates the widespread impression of a patchy performance of the world food and agriculture sector. Guidelines 1-3 are concerned with production. The 4 percent target still alludes countries where some 60 percent of the developing countries' populations live. While the evidence is not conclusive, it does seem that a lack of sufficient investment and the prevalence of pricing policies which result in weak production incentives are two of the major underlying causes.

Nutrition, the subject of the following guidelines, therefore inevitably remains unsatisfactory. Developing countries as a whole produce enough food, but only just enough, to give everyone an adequate diet in terms of calories, but in practice there are significant differences among countries and within countries so that for the developing world as a whole we end up with a large number of under-nourished people.

There are considerable regional differences. The African situation is of particular concern. The self-sufficiency ratios for cereals for developing countries as a whole went down from 96 percent in 1977 to an estimated 93 percent in 1980,

The FAO Secretariat has been active in what is in practice a new phase of introducing nutritional considerations into the planning and implementation of agricultural and rural development projects.

Guidelines 7-9 refer to trade and related aspects. The Commission has already discussed some of these aspects under other items. From the point of view of the guidelines progress in trade is inadequate. For developing countries the basic picture is one of fast-growing imports and slow exports. There have been several achievements, however, at the international level, such as a common fund for commodities and the extension of the International Monetary Fund's compensatory financing facilities, being two examples. But overall the years under review do not give an adequate indication of desirable basic changes in trade patterns and trends.

As regards external assistance, the levels of transfers of resources and technology referred to in guideline 10 have not been reached. The shortfall in 1979 was over 40 percent. However, there has been a small increase in the share of agriculture in total official external commitments of resources.

As is well known, the target of food aid, while approached, has not been reached. The percentage of imports of low-income countries covered by food aid has steadily declined since 1966/67.

Those are just a few of the highlights of the monitoring report. The position is summed up by the Committee on Commodity Problems as, while there have been some positive developments in the directions indicated by the policy guidelines, progress has been uneven and on balance it has been seriously inadequate.

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

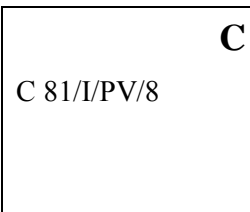
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

EIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE
OCTAVA SESION

(16 November 1981)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la octava sesión a las 14. 45 horas, bajo la
presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. World Food and Agricultural Development Strategy, including: (continued)
- 7. Stratégie mondiale de développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment
;(suite)
- 7. Estrategia mundial para el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, en
particular:(continuación)
- 7. 1 UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade (continued)
- 7. 1 Stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour
le développement (suite)
- 7. 1 Estrategia internacional de desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el
Desarrollo (continuación)

P. M. AMUKOA (Kenya): I can be very brief on this matter because I shall be raising some of the issues here at a later stage during our debate on the other agenda. My delegation wishes to express concern that the total growth in world food production has been slow. We are even more concerned that food production in developing countries stagnated from 1978-79 and instead of increasing it fell. Many factors account for this fall in production and I cannot go into them now as many have been mentioned by various speakers in what has so far been discussed in this Commission. I will however mention that investment and investment opportunities in developing countries have not been adequate. There has not been enough effort from the affluent nations and where some efforts have been made they have been frustrated by *inter alia* high prices of important inputs such as fertilizer in farm production, high prices caused by many external and not internal factors. There needs to be rapid progress in achieving international agricultural adjustment, as stated in Guidelines 1 -- 3, and here we call for an increased flow of resources to developing countries. On Guidelines 4 and 5 which we very much support, we wish also to emphasize the need for nutritional considerations in development projects and I am happy to note FAO is making penetrating efforts in this area.

It is important also to note here that within our rural communities there are foods which are nutrition-ally reliable and cheap and the major problem may be that the rural poor lack the necessary nutritional education to incorporate these foods, many of which they easily produce or could easily produce, into their diets.

On Guidelines 7,8 and 9, my delegation would like to express serious concern that many commodities which we in the developing countries export face depressed market conditions. As a result, the foreign exchange earnings from these exports are too meagre, very low, and our agricultural investment programmes are therefore seriously affected. This situation then becomes aggravated by increased food and oil import bills.

The serious decline and high volatility of prices of agricultural products, together with low export earnings which in turn erode trade surpluses in developing countries, should not be a situation allowed to continue, otherwise we cannot expect rapid growth and even development in our countries; we cannot expect progress in agricultural adjustment.

On Guideline 10, we wish to call for increased transfer of technology into research especially in the food sector. We wish also to call for increased technical and economic cooperation among developing countries.

As regards food aid, we commend efforts of donors in this area and call upon them to go beyond their contributions and give us even more. New donors should also come forward, and we thank those who have already done so. We hope that our food aid targets will be achieved in the near future, as agreed by the international community.

We wish to end by calling upon FAO to continue monitoring these guidelines and also upon both developed and developing countries to cooperate with FAO and others in ensuring more rapid progress in international agricultural adjustment.

S. SABER (Iraq) (original language-Arabie): We have read with interest the various paragraphs relating to food and agriculture and the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade, which started in January 1981, for this is the subject of our discussion. It gives us great pleasure that among the overall projects of the Strategy, emphasis is placed on developing agriculture and the rural areas. Developing countries are called upon to increase their agricultural and food production in order to achieve self-sufficiency within the framework of national plans that give priority to the improvement of natural resources and the use of modern technology, including the use of water and the development of forestry, natural pastures and fisheries. This is in addition to the provision of economic and social aid to rural areas.

Our delegation considers it considerably important that we should cooperate towards the achievement of an international food security through adequate food stocks and that we should unite all our efforts towards a new wheat agreement that guarantees the interests of all parties.

We also consider that the target figure of half a million tons of food cereals for the International Emergency Food Reserve should receive a greater share of our interest, because of its benefits and direct effects in order to alleviate consequences of natural disasters.

Speaking of rural development, our delegation calls upon the Organization to give this full attention. Iraq is continuing to concentrate its efforts on the improvement of the rural areas through better housing conditions in order to limit migration. We have started housing projects where all facilities, such as electricity, schools and health centres are provided, in addition to road networks connecting the urban and rural areas. Likewise, we are encouraging artisanal work to use whatever manpower we have in the rural areas and thus benefit from any spare time at our disposal.

The implementation of the law on agricultural reform has put an end to feudalism and exploitation no longer exists, for the farmers can now operate their own land and form part of cooperatives. This has been given all assistance, by loans or inputs and other means.

Our country has given full importance to the development of agriculture because it is closely related to the welfare of the people and their health, and we are going ahead with agricultural development in rapid steps in order to achieve self-sufficiency. We firmly believe that development assistance is necessary so that the production of food and agriculture may prosper in developing countries. The World Bank and regional banks should adopt all ways and means to increase their possibilities of financing loans connected with the production of food and agriculture.

We also believe that the recommendations of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament should be implemented, because much could be saved from armaments and given to some developing countries to help them towards honourable living.

The use of technology should also be borne in mind and we believe that advanced countries should provide developing countries with the possibility of obtaining skills and technology, particularly high skills, so that they can rely more and more on themselves in moving towards development.

We particularly support any methods to protect the environment because the factors of health and general welfare depend, in our view, on the preservation of the rural environment and natural resources.

My country has attached considerable importance to health, as exemplified by hospitals, clinics, the provision of medicine to the people, as well as mother and child care. Treatments, X-rays and medical analysis are free of charge in our hospitals. This is because of our confidence that health is necessary for development. We also firmly believe that efforts should be undertaken to develop all resources that are likely to advance agriculture and services.

We have been very active in this area and we are now implementing our Five Year Plan which started in 1981 and will continue until 1985. Other projects for dams and irrigation networks are being carried out in order to exploit more land. Agricultural cooperatives are undertaking their productive tasks and agricultural universities are preparing technical personnel for the implementation of the various projects. We hope that we can make considerable progress in the near future.

J. MCQUEEN (Canada): The third monitoring report on agricultural adjustment provides us with useful background to consider recent developments. However, we would prefer that the Secretariat in future reports should concentrate more on the longer term. We live in a changing world and need to take stock from time to time. A biennial report covers too brief a time span in our view and in our remarks we have chosen to consider developments since the guidelines were developed in 1975.

We do not take as pessimistic a view as this report presents. While the supply balance of essential foods has remained narrow and alerts have been sounded several times, world food production has certainly recovered from the crisis of the early 70s. This year, fortunately, we have good food grain crops, so the problem is not one of supply but rather the chronic one of distribution.

The world has become more than ever dependent on the main foodgrain exporters, who met this challenge in a responsible manner. The developing countries now account for a major share of world imports, and this will be reversed only when we achieve a marked improvement in agricultural production and productivity in many of the developing countries.

We in Canada have been reviewing our agricultural prospects over the next decade and beyond. We have also been reviewing our policies. We base our expectations on a tight market situation over the next decade with a narrower margin of safety and more volatile prices. We recognize our continuing responsibility to ensure food supplies for the developing countries, especially to the low-income, food-deficit countries. Our Minister of Agriculture, in presenting his proposed new strategy for the agri-food industry for the current decade, stated "Canada could increase its food production by two-thirds before the year 2000". Rising world population and rising income in many developing countries will ensure there is a strong demand for that higher level of production. For the shorter term, our target is to increase grain exports by 50 percent to 30 million tons by 1985 and to 36 million by 1990.

Canada is now in the process of developing a new Government Agency called CANAGREX, which will be able to engage in State to State trading for most Agricultural Products. This will make it easier for those countries which prefer to deal on a government-to-government basis to sell into, and purchase from, the Canadian market.

The crucial issue as emphasized in the Third Monitoring Report is the lack of progress in agricultural production in the food-deficit developing countries. Only Latin America appears to have met this 4 percent target on average over the past decade, but there have been success stories elsewhere which are not immediately evident in this report. The larger Asian countries have made good progress, and I refer to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. This is indeed encouraging. On the other hand, parts of Africa have suffered an unusual combination of war, civil unrest and drought which have worked against efforts by their governments and the international community to develop their agriculture and the economy generally.

We note that governments of developing countries appear to devote 15 to 20 percent of their development investments to the agricultural sector (as noted in Guideline 2). This is in line with the estimated 17 percent for agriculture in development assistance from outside (Guideline 10). We are encouraged by the commitment by developing countries to agricultural development as a means to improve living conditions in rural areas, to improve nutrition and to underpin general economic progress, because, as we have said before, donors respond to the priorities set by the recipient countries. We would emphasize once again that price incentives to producers are essential to encourage production. The report indicates an inadequate effort in this regard, and we would hope that a significant improvement can be noted in the next report.

Guidelines 7, 8 and 9 deal with the place of trade as a stimulant to production and to cover deficits for consumption. Here again, we must point out that the statistics presented in Guideline 7 or the ratio of agricultural imports and exports are not too meaningful in covering a wide range of countries with quite different economic levels and agricultural potential. As we noted when discussing Agenda item 6. 2, it is not particularly useful to look at agricultural trade in isolation. We are all agreed that each country's own domestic food production, is the first defence in global security. For this reason, the main emphasis in international adjustment must be the improvement of the food and agriculture situation within the developing countries. The international community is committed to this goal, and the successive Summit meetings this year have had this issue high on the agenda.

Looking towards the next decade, we see considerable need for adjustment to changing conditions. As we remarked last week the main growth in food demand will arise in the developing countries as a result of higher population, increasing urbanization and greater purchasing power which evolve from development. Part of this demand for food will be met within the country but imports will have an important role. This is particularly so in the oil exporting and newly industrialized countries. In most cases, we cannot look for a balancing of agricultural imports against agricultural exports because many developing countries are likely to rely not so much on exports of food and other commodities, but more on exports of manufactures and also services such as shipping and tourism. Liberalization of trade will of course have a marked effect on the overall picture, and I am glad to be able to say that the Canadian Minister of Finance when introducing his budget last week in the House of Commons confirmed that tariff changes are being introduced to broaden product coverage under the General Preferential Tariff to reduce rates on a range of products of interest to developing countries. Duties will be entirely eliminated on goods covered by the General Preferential Tariff which are imported from the least developed countries.

The Canadian delegation does not feel it would be advisable to revise the Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment. Rather, we would prefer that subsequent reports present a more analytic approach presenting agricultural matter within the total trade framework and that statistical data become specific to avoid the tendency for analysis to become distorted by special situations such as the currently increasing trade activity of the oil rich member states of the developing countries group.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I would like to start by complimenting the Secretariat for the excellent job they have done in Paper C 81/24, and also Professor Nural Islam for his illuminating introductory remarks to this Session.

In discussing the Third Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment, we are to a certain degree repeating the discussions which we have already had on the State of Food and Agriculture. However, there is a considerable difference in coverage. We are examining the fulfilment of eleven Policy Guidelines as formulated in 1975, up to our time. This larger time span allows us a much more clearly balanced view of the accomplishments and shortcomings in world agriculture, much better than it is possible to gain by covering the events during the Conferences.

What are the main conclusions which my delegation draws from these results?

My delegation would accept the statement made in paragraphs 115 and 116, that the evidence from the monitoring of the Guidelines almost inevitably presents a mixed picture, since International Agricultural Adjustment cannot be divorced from the generally difficult economic conditions caused by the world situation—inflation, greater unemployment, balance of payments difficulties, rising debts of economically developing countries, and rising agricultural protectionism, all of which hampered growth of agriculture in developing nations.

For these general reasons (and many others, which I cannot elaborate here) it seems that the agricultural situation in developing countries remains largely unresolved, showing many weaknesses in production, exports and nutrition. Stocks remained well below the minimum safety level, and food security is still mainly dependent on weather conditions, as it was before the world food crisis in 1973.

There are however two important considerations which ought to be mentioned more clearly than as stated in the paper before us.

The total food production as presented in Table 1.1 shows a rather impressive improvement and rate of growth of 3.2 percent yearly in the 1970's, which brings the rate of food production growth above the level obtained in the late 1960's, which caused the outbreak of the world food crisis. This faster agricultural growth in the 1970's could be seen in the low-income developing countries as well as in the middle-income countries. However, this growth was not related in the paper to population growth: if this were done, the picture is far less satisfactory.

According to the FAO index figures of food production per capita based on the 1969/71 being 100, the food production of the developing world stagnated or even declined in some regions. For example, in the 1975/76 biennium, Africa has an index of production of food per capita based on 94, and in 1979/80 it was only 88. In Latin American countries there was an increase to 105 in that same period, but in the Near East there was a decline of 4 points, representing a stagnation; and in developing market economies as a whole there was a stagnation level of 101. In that respect, it is difficult to

understand why the paper did not mention that after the Guidelines were accepted in developing marketing economies, the goal of increasing food on a per capita basis failed to materialize. In Chart 1. 1 on page. 3 of the. English text, we can. See that the 4 percent constant annual growth which was assumed in the second development decade was not reached and annually we have larger and larger un satisfied demands which accumulated during the 1970's. In that respect, we can see how it is going to be a difficult task to increase food production in the 1980's and towards the year 2000, with the annual rate of growth of 4 percent stated in Agriculture: Toward 2000.

On the same line are my comments on Table 4. 3 (page 17 of the English text of the document). Cereal supplies per person are here calculated on the basis of supplies, not on the basis of domestic production. Therefore, we have here a higher supply per person, especially in low-income food deficit countries; but this is due to a large extent to the larger import which is quoted here, and if this larger import was excluded we would find that there was a stagnation of the total domestic production on a per capita basis. That is probably the explanation for the statement in paragraph 42 (page 19 of the English text) that "the total of 435 million people estimated to have been severely undernourished in 1974-76 is more likely to have increased than diminished. . . . ". My delegation would agree with such a statement, and believes that this arises from the unfavourable condition of production in the developing countries.

Finally, an additional remark on the problem of market conditions: we would agree that Guidelines 9 and 10 concerning the problem of world food trade conditions are not fulfilled, and that we do not have the favourable terms of trade which were envisaged in the year 1975.

We would support the statement given in paragraph 81 which says that the balance of trade in agricultural goods is also becoming less favourable to the developing countries. We would accept the statement which says that we do not have the favourable treatment of agricultural goods for the developing countries and that the multilateral trade negotiations would be expected to have far-reaching consequences in the developing country for another few years as stated in paragraph 63. All those things are according to my interpretations showing us where our attention should lie in the development of agricultural production and fulfillment of the guidelines for those international agricultural adjustments for the coming year. We would like to see this document periodically reviewed in longer periods as it was suggested by the Canadian Delegation, and for that reason my delegation supports this statement.

Mrs. S. SJAHRUDDIN (Indonesia): My delegation has carefully studied the documents C 81/21 and C 81/24 and let me express our gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General and his Secretariat for the preparations of these remarkable documents. In addition allow me to congratulate Mr. Nurul Islam for his comprehensive introduction on this matter.

We have always believed that the demand for a new international economic order is indeed a part of a historical process which cannot be forced upon the responsibility of the developing country alone, nor washed away by the indifferent attitude of the industrialized countries. It is also part of a political process for although the subject of our negotiations concerns a range of vital international economic issues including the world food situation, it is also to obtain a better achievement of the goals of the international agricultural adjustments. Both developed and developing countries are essentially engaged in political negotiations aimed at a fundamental reassessment for the viability and efficiency of international structures and modalities for enhancing cooperation among States in the light of new requirements for global prosperity. The United Nations is supporting with a sense of urgency a consensus to launch global negotiations on a basis to be mutually agreed and in circumstances offering the prospect of meaningful progress, especially to the developing countries to enable them to cope with their food problems.

My delegation noted with interest the statement of the Director-General that there is still un satisfactory progress in achieving the objective of the strategy of international agricultural adjustment, particularly production performance in the Sahel region. Although we fully recognize that the attainments of this objective is not an easy task, my delegation does not share the pessimism.

It is becoming increasingly clear, that important as production is, the need to move beyond increasing food production is the new element in the problem of hunger as the world will encounter it, during the 1980s and beyond. As we approach adequacy of food supplies, the problems of distribution, storage, and above all, the requirement for us to learn how to involve the small farmers in the benefits of economic development, will be more and more important within the total pattern of under nutrition in the world. A strong appeal should therefore be addressed to all governments and international institutions to design programmes aimed at improving food infrastructure.

With regard to the technical cooperation among the developing countries my delegation supports the view to strengthen and implement TCDC as a vital component of an effective restructuring of international economic relations. My country has already taken the necessary steps in this regard.

In connection with the world food and agricultural trade, concentrated effort and constructive political will are badly needed if the problem of international trade pertinent to the developing countries has to be resolved.

Therefore, my delegation urges the reducing of non-tariff barriers and the abolishing of the barrier of the export commodities of interest to developing countries. In this connection my delegation would like to reiterate the adoption of the articles of Agreement on the Common Fund in June last year where the International Community have not only achieved a mechanism to effectively buffer the export earnings of the developing countries against excessive fluctuations of commodity prices, but an important psychological breakthrough in the North-South negotiations in the quest of the NIEO. Indonesia has ratified the Agreement on the Common Fund which was optioned for signature as from the first of October 1980. However since the Agreement can only be implemented when some 90 countries have ratified it, my delegation sincerely hopes that every country who has not yet done so, will make every effort to do so at their earliest convenience so as to expedite the process.

The success of the common Fund also depends on the support and cooperation of the contributing countries and on the successful conclusion of the related Commodity Agreement, of which only three, namely tin, rubber and sugar, out of the 18 originally proposed under the integrated programmes for commodities are eligible to join the Fund.

K. LUMBALA (Zaïre): Ma délégation tient à féliciter le secrétariat pour la qualité de la documentation mise à notre disposition et qui fait l'objet de notre débat. Cependant, en considérant le tableau 4. 2. du document C 81/24>elle estime devoir faire une brève remarque car, à croire ce tableau, la situation nutritionnelle se serait dégradée au Zaïre ces deux dernières années. J'ignore la source de données du secrétariat et souhaiterais recevoir un commentaire de sa part. Il est vrai que la partie Sud-Ouest du pays a connu une sécheresse inhabituelle au début de 1978, ce qui avait affecté en partie la production de cette région du pays. Des moyens importants ont été engagés pour faire face à la situation qui a été redressée en 1979 et en 1980, et au cours de cette année 1981 on ne connaît pas une situation de pénurie, la situation étant normale comme elle l'était dans la période 1975-1977.

Il y a quelque trois ans, les documents diffusés par la FAO donnaient des bilans alimentaires du Zaïre si éloignés de la réalité qu'un expert de la FAO de l'étude des statistiques agricoles que nous réalisons avec la FAO et le PNUD dut intervenir auprès de sa division au Siège pour stigmatiser les chiffres avancés. Ma délégation reconnaît que notre production ne couvre pas encore entièrement la demande de certains produits comme le maïs, le riz, la viande et le sucre mais le Gouvernement zaïrois consent un effort financier important pour importer ces produits afin d'assurer un approvisionnement régulier à la population. Parallèlement à cet effort d'importation l'accent est mis sur l'accroissement de la production alimentaire intérieure ; d'ailleurs, pour beaucoup de nos régions le problème n'est pas de produire mais plutôt de pouvoir évacuer, distribuer dans un pays aussi vaste que le sous-continent et où l'état des routes et l'insuffisance du transport automobile sont une grande contrainte.

Ma délégation a tenu à faire cette remarque car le Gouvernement du Zaïre a engagé en ce moment une action vigoureuse pour supprimer progressivement son déficit alimentaire d'ici à 1985 afin d'assurer son autosuffisance alimentaire.

Y. TUNCCEL (Turkey): Developing countries have faced three vital problems which can not be easily overcome; a high population growth rate, low income per caput and ineffective food distribution. The rise in the price of oil at about 80 percent has put serious obstacles in the path of development efforts. Export earnings have been allocated to oil imports, hence this has imperilled the realization of agricultural investments which have been the milestones of the development.

On the one hand, international assistance has been reduced to a lesser degree in financial terms and, on the other hand, protectionism, which is being applied by developing countries, has caused a significant fall in the export earnings of the developing countries.

In spite of these negative effects, it must be strongly stressed that development still has to be based on agriculture. What is meant by development is to increase agricultural production per unit, hence inducing a rise in the incomes of farmers. The aim of development is the progress of mankind.

Although every country is responsible for its own development to a certain extent, hunger due to underdevelopment has to be considered within the context of the world community. For this reason, development efforts in the developing countries should be supported by the developed countries; technical and financial assistance has to be extended to the developing countries.

Agricultural development is related to the use of natural resources and the promotion of foreign trade. Because these three items are results or causes of one another, they also contribute to agricultural development by complementing each other.

Although some of the obstacles such as inadequate resource allocation and limited financial assistance prevail, an increase in production should be maintained by the economic use of resources. Losses and waste in production and consumption should be reduced to a minimum.

Due importance should be given to rural development in a way to increase small farmers' incomes. Rural development should be supported by international funds and organizations and be reinforced with marketing services so as to provide outlets for production surpluses. Food and nutrition programmes should be included in rural development projects as well.

Noting the positive role of IFAD in the development efforts of our countries, this fund should be furnished with a mechanism providing the continuous renewal of its resources.

In general, new land to be brought under cultivation has reached its limits in most parts of the world today. The land which can be brought under cultivation is of lower quality and yield, hence the high cost of production. However, only 25 percent of the water released from dams is being utilized for irrigation, while 75 percent is being wasted. Today 17 percent of the land under cultivation is irrigated, but 34 percent of the total output accrues from this area.

In this case, to get more benefit from the water potential in agriculture, it is necessary to use water appropriately and due consideration should be given to the improvement and management of irrigation systems.

The economic and efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides should also receive more attention. To meet these objectives, greater international efforts should be made to provide developing countries with technical knowledge, enabling them to improve their extension services and farmers' training. Additionally, contributions to the FAO Fertilizer Supply Scheme should be increased in cash and in kind by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies as well as by the fertilizer industry.

The production and improvement of food sources should be accepted as a basis for collective action. This necessitates creation of national and regional Food Security Systems to assure an adequate food supply at all times. Besides regional cooperation, assistance should be extended to developing countries in implementing their food reserve and security programmes and in mobilizing financial aids.

Another vitally important field is to minimize food losses, particularly post-harvest losses. More emphasis should be given to research for the prevention of post-harvest losses and special extension and training programmes should be undertaken.

Agrarian reforms should be accepted as the indispensable part of agricultural development and be supported continuously. Measures are to be taken to encourage animal husbandry, without ignoring soil-plant and livestock interdependency.

Forests should have a multi-purpose use rather than being used as a source of energy. Productive forest areas expansion should also be supported.

It should be remembered that the aim of New Economic Order is for all development efforts to be supported within the frame of international cooperation, mutual assistance and economic aids.

W. S. NAIMOOL (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation wishes to express its general satisfaction with document C 81/24 containing 11 guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment, the implementation of which guidelines unfortunately has progressed only in a limited and patchy way-to use the Secretariat's expression. As is invariably the case, in issues involving the developed and the

developing, we see clearly, among other things, that inter-dependence, that mutuality of interest that should be given the serious and just emphasis in pragmatic ways that they deserve, but the recognition is not followed by that range and quality of action that the reality of inter-dependence and mutuality of interest called for. That inter-dependence, that mutuality of interest, would appear, sadly, to be interpreted by some as the perpetuation of the continuing-even increasing-dependence of the developing.

Because I have made the point in a previous intervention in this Commission, and because my delegation considers that it is of over-riding importance in the efforts of developing countries to self-sufficiency, I wish to emphasize, in my delegation's view, the importance of guideline 6, which states that:

"Developing countries with persistently weak balance of payments should favour wherever possible and appropriate the consumption of food which can be feasibly produced locally or regionally. "

While I confess I am not too sure what is meant by "which can feasibly be produced", there seems to be either redundancy or a contradiction in terms. I strongly support the idea of going local, so to speak, in a massive way and not only in respect of countries with persistently weak balance of payment but in respect of developing countries. We must take pride in and develop that which is our own, yet being aware simultaneously that that development will be greatly facilitated by inputs from the international community, such as the transfer of technology, which is item 10, and which, as we all know, continues to be a thorn in the north-south dialogue.

In a way, guideline 3 is linked to guidelines 7, 8 and 9 in that the question of incentive in guideline 3 is tied to the conditions of world markets and the incomes they dictate for the developing countries. These conditions make up the substance of guidelines 7, 8 and 9 which treat the themes of access to markets, market stability and prices remunerative to producers, to name a few. In a word, we especially need improved terms of trade, a point made most graphically by the delegate of Grenada last week when he spoke of the severe pressures encountered by small island developing countries like his own and, of course, like mine.

The subject of nutrition, guidelines 4 and 5, has been previously discussed here and my delegation would not wish to enter upon discussion of it now except to repeat that nutrition is a matter to which we in Trinidad and Tobago have for quite some time been giving our closest attention and manifesting that attention in pragmatic ways.

On food aid, guideline 11, I think this Commission has had ample exchange. My delegation rests on this item, as well as on guideline 1, food production.

With respect to guideline 2, my delegation was interested to read that nearly one half of the increase in world crop yields since the early 1960s can be attributed to increased fertilizer use. That is an impressive percentage. Perhaps I may be permitted to mention one aspect of Trinidad and Tobago's assistance programme to Caribbean countries, namely its oil and fertilizer facility designed to assist those countries faced with pressuring energy costs. Perhaps we might see more of that kind of facility.

Finally, my delegation was pleased at the prominence given on page 28 of document C 81/24 to the Common Fund for Commodities and understands the Secretariat's concern in the light of the Fund for the absence of progress in the direction of a new Wheat Trade Convention. We are confident of the maintenance of the Secretariat's keen interest in this area of International Agricultural Adjustment.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Después de que en 1975, Sr. Presidente, se aprobaron las 11 orientaciones para el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, la opinión de la delegación de Colombia sobre este tercer informe podría sintetizarse en la afirmación que se hace en el resumen del documento C 81/24: durante los dos últimos años los progresos encaminados a alcanzar los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional fueron limitados y poco uniformes.

Igualmente, el documento C 81/LIM/20 presenta fraccionariamente la opinión del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos en su última reunión, opinión apoyada por el Consejo, y según la cual esos progresos habían sido desiguales y en conjunto habían resultado gravemente insuficientes.

Antes de pasar a comentar algunas orientaciones, quisiéramos hacer una primera declaración de orden general.

Parece evidente que las orientaciones no han cumplido las funciones de lograr que la agricultura se transforme, modernice y agilice en forma tal que, al adaptarse a los cambios como era de esperar, atendieran las crecientes necesidades alimentarias y desempeñaran una función más positiva en los problemas del desarrollo.

Creemos que esta Comisión debe apoyar la opinión del CPPB en el sentido de que el medio para lograr de manera más satisfactoria los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional reside principalmente en un incremento más rápido de la producción alimentaria en los países en desarrollo.

Sobre la orientación I: la producción alimentaria de los países en desarrollo durante el próximo decenio deberá aumentar en un 4 por ciento, hemos de destacar que ese 4 por ciento es el mismo que fue fijado en la estrategia para el segundo decenio, y que ese mismo 4 por ciento es el mismo que acordamos en 1974 en la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, y es el mismo 4 por ciento que ahora nos encontramos en la estrategia internacional a desarrollar para el tercer decenio. Sobre este punto nos vamos a ocupar más adelante en esta misma Comisión.

En el Cuadro 1. 1 del documento C 81/24 aparece el aumento limitado al 2,4 entre 1978 y 1980 para la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo. Es decir, que se ha alcanzado apenas poco más del 4 por ciento previsto.

Las causas de que los países en desarrollo no hayan alcanzado ese mínimo son bien conocidas, y será necesario que los gobiernos interesados den más alta prioridad a la agricultura en sus planes nacionales, y por su parte que los países desarrollados aumenten su asistencia a los países del Tercer Mundo.

Acerca de la orientación II, desafortunadamente como lo demuestra el Cuadro 2. 1, la proporción de las inversiones totales a favor de la agricultura, en muchos países está por debajo del 15 por ciento, y la tendencia no es muy clara sobre mejores posibilidades en lo futuro. Después de haber alcanzado el 36 por ciento en 1978, la participación de la agricultura en las inversiones públicas parece que tiende a disminuir, lo cual es lamentable y no corresponde a la orientación II.

En resumen, no existe una tendencia ascendente en las inversiones agrícolas de los países en desarrollo en relación con las inversiones en otras esferas de la economía.

La orientación III tiene un amplio contenido: pone de manifiesto la necesaria interdependencia en la agricultura mundial. Y desafortunadamente los países desarrollados en muchos casos no han disminuido sino aumentado sus incentivos a los productores, y ello ha creado factores de perturbación e inestabilidad en los mercados. Sin duda, al proceder de esa forma, los Estados industrializados no han tenido en cuenta las funestas consecuencias de esas políticas suyas en contra de los intereses de los países en desarrollo.

En el párrafo 23 del documento C 81/24 se hace referencia a los considerables incentivos que se dan a los agricultores en los países desarrollados y se agrega que el nivel de ese apoyo presenta escasos signos de disminución. Y creemos que esto es necesario consignarlo en los informes.

En ese mismo párrafo 23 del documento C 81/24 se cita el caso de los incentivos al azúcar. Este documento tiene fecha julio 1981. Cinco meses después, pensamos que esa referencia debe actualizarse a la luz de los hechos que tienen lugar en el seno del GATT, en el cual se ha designado un Grupo de Trabajo que está estudiando las incidencias que tienen sobre el mercado del azúcar los nuevos elementos de la política azucarera de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Antes de conocerse el informe de ese Grupo de Trabajo nos complace reconocer la declaración que hizo la Comunidad Europea en el pasado Consejo de la FAO en el sentido de que están considerando su posible adhesión a un acuerdo internacional sobre el azúcar patrocinado por la FAO.

Sobre la orientación V, sin duda es otra orientación que tampoco demuestra progresos. En efecto, como ya dijo el distinguido colega de Yugoslavia, es muy probable que haya aumentado y no disminuido el número de personas, 435 millones o más, gravemente desnutridas que existían hasta 1976 y que seguramente sean 600 ó 700 millones. Será, pues, necesario insistir en que se requieren medidas especiales, sobre todo en favor de los grupos más vulnerables de la población y particularmente en los países más gravemente afectados por la permanente crisis alimentaria.

Sobre la orientación VI queremos apoyar los conceptos, muy sólidos y adecuados, expresados recientemente por nuestro colega de Trinidad y Tabago, uno de los oradores anteriores. Se dice en esta orientación que cuando sea posible y conveniente, los países en desarrollo deberían consumir los propios alimentos que producen. Si esto se cumpliera podrían reducirse las importaciones de alimentos hechas por los

países en desarrollo. Todos sabemos en qué condiciones los países en desarrollo han debido aumentar sus importaciones de alimentos de los países desarrollados. El índice de autosuficiencia colectiva entre países en desarrollo también es decreciente. Sólo un 35 por ciento de las importaciones provienen de los países del Tercer Mundo. El otro 75 por ciento debe importarse del mundo industrializado. Los países en desarrollo siguen dependiendo de las importaciones de cereales de los países desarrollados. Estamos muy lejos de la deseada interdependencia. Naturalmente, es evidente el hecho de que no aumenta la producción agropecuaria en los países en desarrollo. Hasta América Latina, región notablemente productora de alimentos, ha visto aumentar su dependencia de las importaciones.

Las orientaciones VII, VIII y IX están muy vinculadas entre sí. Hay graves problemas de acceso a los mercados, precios justos, expansión de exportaciones agrícolas a los países desarrollados y todos los demás factores concurrentes. Es obvio que muy poco se ha logrado en estas materias.

La reciente reunión del Comité sobre Problemas de Productos Básicos de la FAO, consideró que las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales han tenido muy limitadas repercusiones en el mayor ingreso de divisas en los países en desarrollo y en la eliminación de barreras, sobre todo arancelarias, que siguen constituyendo un obstáculo fundamental en la expansión de las exportaciones agrícolas a los Estados del Tercer Mundo. Es necesario que al considerar las orientaciones para el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional se insista en lo indispensable que resulta mejorar el acceso a los mercados de los productos agrícolas, de las exportaciones procedentes de los países en desarrollo. Como lo dice el documento, convendrá expresar que siguen existiendo márgenes para hacer un mayor esfuerzo con vistas a la liberación del acceso a los mercados de los países desarrollados para las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo.

Las orientaciones X y XI siguen estancadas; aun continuamos hablando de cifras correspondientes a 1974. No se han alcanzado las metas fijadas hace tanto años. Se han hecho progresos muy limitados en el aumento de la producción agrícola en el total de los compromisos oficiales exteriores. En términos reales, los compromisos multilaterales de la asistencia a la agricultura aumentaron muy poco en los últimos años. Sólo unos pocos países desarrollados han cumplido con la asistencia oficial al desarrollo en un 0,7 por ciento de sus productos nacionales brutos, objetivo fijado desde hace muchísimos años.

Como conclusión, señor Presidente, distinguidos colegas de esta Comisión, a la luz de las consideraciones anteriores, resulta evidente que después de 6 años de aprobados por la Conferencia de 1975 estas once orientaciones han logrado muy poco, sobre todo en el propósito previsto de fortalecer el sector agro pecuario como factor fundamental del desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que las once debatidas orientaciones deberán seguir siendo válidas, no dogmáticas y rígidas, como nos pareció entender un poco de la declaración de la distinguida representante del Canadá, sino sometidas a revisiones flexibles y adaptadas a las nuevas circunstancias que se vayan presentando, sobre todo para establecer las medidas, los cambios necesarios, los medios indispensables para el logro de esas orientaciones y cumplir así los objetivos para las que fueron establecidas. En cambio, sí estamos de acuerdo con la distinguida representante del Canadá y también con nuestro amigo de Yugoslavia sobre la conveniencia de que en informes próximos se consignen detalles claros y precisos sobre las causas que han limitado los progresos y el cumplimiento de esas orientaciones y que incluyan igualmente posibles medidas para avanzar hacia la obtención de esos objetivos, a fin de que esas orientaciones puedan seguir considerándose como válidas en las próximas conferencias.

Finalmente, pienso que el contenido de esta orientación sólo podrá convertirse en acción positiva y eficaz si se dispone de voluntad política en los países desarrollados y del esfuerzo propio, interno, serio, de los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo.

WU TIAN XI (China) (original language-Chinese): The Third Progress Report on International Agriculture Adjustment provides an important clue for our discussions of further implementation of food and agricultural component in the international development strategy. But we deplore the fact that for a long period of time only limited progress has been made in the international agricultural adjustment. The entire international economy is suffering from a recession and many countries are confronted with inflation and unemployment. All this has created some difficulties for the implementation of the international development strategy of the 1980s at the very start, particularly for the development of food and agricultural production. In order to achieve the objectives of the strategy for the development of food and agriculture it is necessary to accelerate the pace of development in the few years to come. We believe that to bring the guidelines of the international agricultural adjustment into practice in an honest way will surely help speed up the development of food and agriculture.

The eleven guidelines indicated in the international agricultural adjustment are inter-related. Among them, two are the most important. The first is to accelerate food production in the developing countries and the second is to improve the terms of trade of agricultural commodities of the developing countries. A better solution of the two problems will undoubtedly enhance development in the other fields.

Now, concerning food production, over the past three years food production in developing countries as a whole has only increased at an annual rate of 2.4 percent, which is considerably behind the 4 per cent target. There are still many countries whose net increase in cereal production over the past two decades has failed to keep pace with their population growth. Moreover, their situation in food and nutritional supply continues to deteriorate. This, once again, shows eloquently that it is imperative for the international community to implement further the various policy proposals concerning food and agriculture put forward in different international forums in recent years, to speed up the transfer of funds and technology and to make genuine efforts to enhance food production in developing countries.

Another problem that merits our attention is the slow growth registered in the export of agricultural products and processed goods by developing countries, owing to quite a number of restrictions on their entry into the international market. If compared with imports, the export volume has even dropped by a big margin. For a long period of time, prices for many agricultural products exported by developing countries have also been going down as compared with those of their imported manufactured goods. This will definitely exert a great impact on their agricultural production. In this connection we hold that the implementation of the agreed integrated commodity programme should be speeded up and that the common fund should be established as soon as possible. Although commodity trade is a complicated problem that involves many fields, this Organization should put special emphasis on it during its deliberations on agricultural adjustment, so as to facilitate further a rational solution of the problem by the international community.

A. ACUÑA (Panamá): Conforme a la condición de los debates y presentación de los temas, haremos referencia en esta oportunidad al documento C 81/24, coherente y consistente con lo que hemos venido expresando tanto en los dos últimos Consejos de la FAO como en los debates de los Comités más importantes de esta Organización.

Expresamos nuestro desaliento y preocupación general por el hecho de que los progresos sobre el reajuste agrícola internacional hayan sido y son desiguales y globalmente deficientes. Insistimos, señor Presidente, en expresar lo que ya hemos expresado en el sentido de que esta delegación está muy de acuerdo con el razonamiento de que la clave para lograr de manera más satisfactoria los objetivos del reajuste agrícola internacional reside principalmente en un incremento más rápido de la producción alimentaria en los países en desarrollo. Y sobre este particular y de acuerdo fundamentalmente con el contenido de la orientación 3, nuestro Ministro de Desarrollo Agropecuario se pronunció en la sesión Plenaria de esta Conferencia el viernes pasado. En concordancia con esta orientación, permítame expresar, señor Presidente, que Panamá se encuentra empeñada actualmente en una incentivación de la producción, tanto agropecuaria como industrial y forestal mediante el establecimiento de tasas preferenciales de interés, el establecimiento de mecanismos nacionales de producción y canalización de recursos financieros hacia el sector agropecuario. Esto, de acuerdo con las ventajas que nos da nuestro principal recurso natural, que es nuestra posición geográfica.

Estos incentivos a que hacemos referencia cubren aspectos tales como el de la exoneración de gravámenes de importaciones sobre insumos agropecuarios, así como exoneración de rentas gravables generadas por la producción agropecuaria dentro de ciertos parámetros, al igual que tarifas preferenciales en la instalación y consumo de energía eléctrica, la utilización en actividades productivas agropecuarias, sobre todo dirigidas, en todo lo que tiene que ver con la producción alimentaria, sin que se excluyan en estas medidas asuntos reglamentarios que tienen que ver con la utilización y uso adecuado de tierras.

Esta delegación ya ha expresado en anteriores deliberaciones la aceptación, en términos generales, del contenido y directrices de las once orientaciones del reajuste agrícola internacional. A la luz de los progresos alcanzados, subrayamos e insistimos sobre el insatisfactorio logro obtenido en el mercado internacional, con especial referencia al contenido de las orientaciones 7, 8 y 9. Destacamos una vez más el lento crecimiento de la ayuda a los productos tropicales, así como la competencia de las exportaciones procedentes de los países en desarrollo, a menudo ayudados por subsidios y continuas restricciones a la importación en los principales mercados de los países desarrollados.

Por otra parte y en alusión a la orientación que tiene que ver con la seguridad alimentaria, subrayamos necesariamente el hecho de que al término de los años agrícolas 1980-81 los remanentes de cereales descenderán probablemente en un 14 por ciento del consumo anual mundial, cuando la Secretaría de esta Organización lo estima en un mínimo del 17-18 por ciento.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, como se señala en el informe final de la consulta gubernamental sobre la Revisión y Actualización de las Orientaciones para el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, esta delegación realmente cree que estas directrices constituyen un marco normativo de carácter global, que en un mundo obligantemente interdependiente deben tomar en cuenta los países al decidir sus propias políticas.

K. OULAI (Côte-d'Ivoire): Je tiens d'abord à présenter les excuses de ma délégation car elle n'a pas pu participer à toutes les séances. Néanmoins le document qui est présenté me donne l'occasion d'exposer le point de vue de la Côte-d'Ivoire en ce qui concerne le problème étudié.

Comme toutes les délégations qui sont intervenues, nous pensons que l'autosuffisance alimentaire ne peut se réaliser qu'en développant les produits alimentaires dans les pays en voie de développement. En effet, l'expérience montre que ces pays ne peuvent pas compter sur le marché international pour leur alimentation. La révolution verte a permis à certains théoriciens d'affirmer qu'il était plus indiqué de produire les produits alimentaires dans les pays nantis afin que les pays en voie de développement puissent se ravitailler à bas prix. Mais le marché céréaliier et en particulier celui du riz demeure un marché instable. L'augmentation de la demande accompagnée de quelques années de sécheresse a rapidement engendré une situation de pénurie. Les pays qui subventionnaient le riz à l'exportation sont tous passés à la vérité des prix. C'est ainsi qu'en 1973 le monde a connu une crise qui a durement frappé les pays importateurs de riz et plus particulièrement les moins nantis.

En Côte-d'Ivoire, nous avons pensé qu'il était temps d'accorder une priorité absolue au développement des cultures vivrières. Des dispositions sont prises pour parvenir à une augmentation de la production. La volonté politique a été confirmée au VIIème Congrès du parti qui a donné la priorité aux cultures vivrières dans le développement ivoirien. La formation du dernier gouvernement a vu pour la première fois la création d'un Secrétariat d'Etat à l'Agriculture particulièrement chargé de la promotion des cultures vivrières. Cela montre bien que mon pays porte une attention particulière au problème alimentaire et que des efforts sont faits à l'intérieur de la Côte-d'Ivoire pour parvenir à l'augmentation des productions vivrières.

Nous pensons également que l'augmentation des productions vivrières dans nos Etats doit reposer sur l'ensemble des cultures et non pas sur les seules céréales. Celles-ci ont des avantages certains mais elles ne peuvent pas être développées de façon illimitée. Le riz pluvial qui est la forme de riziculture la plus répandue en Afrique n'a pas bénéficié de gros efforts de recherche.

En prenant le cas de la Côte-d'Ivoire, le développement des cultures vivrières portera non seulement sur les céréales mais également sur le manioc, l'igname, la banane plantain pour ne citer que ceux-là. Tous ces produits se conservent mal (25 à 50% de pertes). Nous avons mis au point une technique de production de contre-saison pour la banane plantain afin d'avoir ce produit en toute saison. Les recherches se poursuivent sur l'igname. Des efforts sont faits également pour la transformation de ces produits.

L'augmentation de la production ne peut se faire sans l'utilisation de semences de qualité. Quatre fermes semencières sont en voie d'achèvement pour les semences de céréales et légumineuses.

En ce qui concerne la production animale, nous exploitons toutes les possibilités (volaille, bovins, porcins, etc.). La Côte-d'Ivoire souhaiterait qu'une action vigoureuse soit engagée dans le cadre régional pour l'éradication de la mouche tsé-tsé. L'aide de la FAO serait très utile dans ce domaine.

En ce qui concerne les autres lignes d'orientation, nous sommes d'accord mais nous pensons que l'augmentation de la production sera limitée par les problèmes de financement des projets. En effet, les pays en voie de développement, comme d'autres orateurs l'ont souligné, auront des difficultés dans la mesure où leurs produits d'exportation sont mal payés. La Côte-d'Ivoire n'aura jamais souligné assez que cela est une injustice internationale. La technicité sera un élément important et il faudra une formation des nationaux. L'exode rural doit également retenir l'attention de tous afin que l'agriculture ne perde pas tous les bras qui doivent contribuer à l'augmentation de la production.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, quelques observations que je tenais à faire sur ce volet de notre réunion.

En félicitant le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document, je réaffirme que ma délégation est d'accord sur les orientations proposées.

A. B. CAWTHORN (United Kingdom): My delegation accepts the Progress Report as on the whole a fair record of the balance of progress made. The format of this report is familiar-as indeed unfortunately in some cases are the conclusions;and while the conclusions are for the most part justified, it has to be recognized that the objectives of many of the Guidelines do seem to conflict. We feel that it would be instructive for this to be brought out in the Report.

For instance, a number of the Guidelines effectively call for free trade, yet this is not necessarily conducive to market stability.

Another general comment is on the use of largely aggregate and, in many cases, superfluous statistics, because this often hides considerable variations. It would be illuminating in our view for such a report to pay some attention to those countries which achieve certain objectives, and to analyze how, or why. The summary on the front of the working document states that "monitoring of the Guidelines by the Director-General should report not only on the extent of progress but also as far as possible the reasons for progress or its lack". We regret that the main body of the Report fails, in our view, to live up to this recommendation, and it thereby appears to avoid all the pertinent issues.

I do not intend to comment in detail on the individual Guidelines, although we have one or two doubts on some of the conclusions drawn. These doubts have been expressed on previous occasions and by other delegates earlier in this debate.

Extract B of the revised paper C 81/LIM/20 reflects the conclusions reached in the Council, and these indicate the way forward. The United Kingdom would however lend support to the views expressed by the delegates of Canada and Yugoslavia, that more specific data and analysis would be advisable, and that this would be better coupled with less frequent reviews covering a longer time span.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): A pesar de que mi delegación considera que no podemos analizar los problemas y la situación del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional y especialmente el estado de las orientaciones aprobadas por la Conferencia General en 1975 sin referirnos a la Estrategia Internacional para el Desarrollo en el Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas, mi delegación se referirá brevemente al documento C 81/24, reservándose el derecho a intervenir más adelante sobre el documento C 81/21, que trata específicamente de la Estrategia para el Tercer Decenio.

En realidad, consideramos que efectivamente las orientaciones sobre el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional deben continuar sirviendo de pauta para el examen y formulación de las políticas nacionales e internacionales de desarrollo. Al hacer un análisis de las orientaciones, nos percatamos claramente de que no ha mejorado la situación agrícola y alimentaria. Los progresos encaminados a alcanzar el reajuste agrícola, tal como lo plantea el documento C 81/24, fueron limitados y muy poco uniformes; en especial muy desalentadores, como se expreso también en el tema 1, discutido en esta Comisión, que la producción de alimentos todavía no ha alcanzado las metas de crecimiento propuestas. Asimismo el incremento de la corriente total de recursos financieros y de otro tipo para la producción agropecuaria, especialmente para alimentar y diversificar la producción de los países en desarrollo, tampoco ha sido complementada. Y este aspecto también se ha comentado ya de manera suficiente tanto en esta Conferencia como en Consejos y Conferencias anteriores.

Sobre la orientación número 3, sí consideramos que la mayoría de los países en desarrollo, en la medida de sus posibilidades, han encaminado sus políticas a garantizar la seguridad alimentaria mundial, si bien no ha sido lograda en la mayoría de los casos.

Sobre los aspectos de nutrición, tampoco se han hecho adelantos considerables y, si seguimos analizando cada una de las 11 directrices, podemos apoyar las conclusiones a que llegó el Comité para los productos básicos en su última sesión y que aparecen explicadas muy claramente en el documento LIM 20, especialmente en el párrafo 90, donde plantea de manera concreta que la clave para lograr de forma más satisfactoria los objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional reside principalmente en un incremento más rápido de la producción alimentaria de los países en desarrollo.

Más adelante plantean las conclusiones del propio Comité que, frente a un crecimiento demasiado lento de la producción alimentaria, la nutrición sólo podría mejorarse aumentando las importaciones, lo que implicaba a su vez la utilización de recursos necesarios para el desarrollo agrícola interno.

En términos generales, señor Presidente, el cumplimiento de las orientaciones está en carácter descendente. Consideramos que urge se apliquen medidas especiales de carácter económico y social para mejorar los niveles de nutrición en los sectores más débiles de la población, especialmente esos grupos llamados más vulnerables; asimismo estabilidad de los mercados y unos precios remunerativos para los productos que consumimos, lo que es fundamental para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria.

La orientación 8 que se refiere claramente a estos aspectos, es desafortunada, pues no hemos avanzado suficientemente en ello.

Asimismo en la orientación 9, vinculada con las anteriores y como han señalado también otros oradores, consideramos necesario tomar muy en cuenta los problemas del comercio internacional, especialmente en lo referido al acceso al mercado de los productos procedentes de los países en desarrollo.

Como bien se expresa en el párrafo 115 del documento analizado, el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional no ha quedado mejor por las difíciles condiciones de la economía internacional, por la inflación, el desempleo, dificultades en las balanzas de pagos, deuda externa y el proteccionismo, entre otras.

Tal y como han expresado otras delegaciones, consideramos válidas las orientaciones sobre el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, y estimaríamos muy provechoso que en futuras reuniones la Secretaría continúe informando sobre el cumplimiento de las mismas, incluyendo las causas concretas que impidan su adecuado cumplimiento.

D. NOEL, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the Chair

D. NOEL, Vice-président de la Commission I, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia D. NOEL, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

Ms I. L. PERTTUNEN(Finland): Development is always a comprehensive process. It must involve all aspects of relevance to the improvement of the living conditions of man and is thus to be seen in the context of overall global development, bearing in mind the progress of structural change in the world economy and such adjustments that this progress may require. Of all the major problem areas relating to the UN development strategy of this decade the food and agricultural development is one of the very most pressing and should therefore be given due priority. In this connection I refer to document 21.

The problem of hunger and malnutrition can only be solved by joint effort of the international community. While Finland recognizes the need for added external aid it is however, only through the developing countries' own firm commitment to rural development, that progress in the agricultural sector of their countries' economies can be secured. We also believe that increased external aid should always be in line with and related to the overall development efforts of the recipient countries. Experience, however, demonstrates that increase in agricultural output in the developing countries and equitable rural development cannot be achieved without determined effort, which fully involves the small farmers and the landless as participants in the development process. Special attention should also be paid to development programmes relating to women, particularly in rural areas as in the field of agriculture, including credit and marketing. It is also essential that such policies are in harmony with ecological requirements. One of the priorities for developing countries is the increase of productivity through improved human infrastructure. To this end the establishment of vocational training facilities is an important first step. We also underline the importance of the network of international and regional research and the exchange of scientific information between developing and developed countries which will increase agricultural productivity.

Now I would like to say a few words about this decade's policy of my own country. In its policy for this decade my government pays special attention to the development cooperation with the low income food deficit countries. It has directed well over 30 percent of her bilateral assistance to these countries and will continue to do so.

Finland is once again emphasizing the importance of forestry in the role of rural development and rural poverty which would involve local population and secure benefits for them, the provision of wood for energy and fuel wood for rural people.

Finland considers the forest to be very important also for ecological reasons to prevent floods and soil erosion and keep the water balance at a profitable level.

Finland has recently initiated cooperation with the UN Sudan's Sahelian office, the support of which we will continue and increase. The establishment of IFAD was the newest proof of joint effort to canalize capital to the poorest food deficit countries where food problems require priority attention, and Finland intends substantially to increase her assistance to IFAD. We consider that the low income food deficit countries should be able to benefit more from rural investment aid supplied by IFAD. Therefore we hope that replenishment of IFAD will soon be finalized. My government's intention is to reach the 0.7 percent target during the latter part of the third development decade. This involves a continuing and significant increase of assistance to the agriculture and overall rural development including forests.

M. C. DIALLO (Guinée): Dans l'application de la stratégie de l'Ajustement agricole international, une fois de plus nous sommes obligés de constater que, pour chacune des onze lignes d'orientation, les progrès sont dans l'ensemble gravement insuffisants, et nous restons encore largement en deçà des objectifs fixés.

De l'avis de notre délégation, il y a une très forte corrélation entre ces différentes lignes d'orientation et la ligne d'orientation qui, selon nous, joue un rôle fondamental et celle relative au développement de la production agricole en général et de la production alimentaire en particulier.

Or, la tendance qui prévaut, si l'on se réfère à l'ensemble des rapports qui nous ont été présentés, est à la stagnation de la production agricole alimentaire, au moins dans les PVD. En effet, d'après le rapport sur la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire dont nous avons débattu précédemment, "Pour l'ensemble des PVD la production vivrière par habitant a en fait fléchi depuis 1978". Cette situation de stagnation de la production agricole à notre avis, si elle n'est pas corrigée, empêchera que les autres objectifs de l'ajustement agricole international soient atteints.

Notre délégation voudrait insister pour que dans ses recommandations la Conférence insiste sur la nécessité d'apporter une assistance accrue aux programmes des PVD tendant à développer leur propre production vivrière.

Le développement de cette production, comme nous le savons tous, exige:

- une utilisation plus intensive des terres;
- une plus grande maîtrise des eaux pour se mettre à l'abri des aléas climatiques;
- une utilisation plus considérable d'inputs agricoles essentiels tels que les engrais, l'énergie. . .

La mise en oeuvre d'un tel programme exige en plus des efforts nouveaux, un flux de ressources financières et d'assistance technique accrue pour assurer au PVD en quantité suffisante la fourniture d'inputs stratégiques et de technologies appropriées, et, à propos de ces dernières, il faut insister sur la nécessité de concevoir des programmes tendant à intensifier la recherche portant sur les techniques moins tributaires d'intrants onéreux et fondées de plus en plus sur des intrants d'origine locale et renouvelables.

Ma délégation ne perd pas de vue évidemment que pour que ce programme ait des chances de réussite, il faudrait que les PVD envisagent le redéploiement de leur capacité d'encadrement pour faire en sorte qu'une fois les technologies transférées elles ne restent pas confinées dans les services centraux des capitales et des villes.

P. GUERIN (France): Ma délégation n'avait pas prévu de prendre la parole sur ce point parce qu'elle avait déjà exprimé son assentiment sur la plupart des sujets qui sont abordés dans ce document, soit à des points précédents de l'ordre du jour où elle se propose de le faire et également parce que, lors des débats du Comité des produits et du Conseil qui ont précédé cette Conférence, il semblait que la discussion avait permis de dégager les lignes essentielles qui permettent à la Conférence de convenir de ce qui est effectivement la situation générale telle qu'elle pourrait être mesurée au travers des progrès de chacune de ces 11 orientations étant entendu qu'elles constituent un ensemble cohérent et qu'on ne peut tirer l'une par rapport à l'autre pour mettre en accusation tel ou tel pays au groupe des pays. Je n'avais pas prévu cette intervention mais je vais dire quelques mots à ce sujet à la suite du débat. Je dirai que toutes les données qui nous sont fournies, le Secrétaire le reconnaît lui-même, ne sont pas toujours complètes et je crois qu'il faudrait effectivement pour le prochain rapport de surveillance de cet ajustement que l'on puisse faire des progrès importants dans ce domaine. Je me méfie beaucoup des tableaux et des grandes courbes qui sont fondées sur des chiffres qui peuvent prêter à confusion. Est-il vraiment très sérieux de comparer les prix qui sont indiqués au tableau 3. 1 à propos des prix de soutien des pays en développement et des prix aux USA et de la CEE ? On nous dit que pour les pays en voie de développement c'est une moyenne des prix de soutien communiquée à la FAO, la couverture est similaire mais non identique selon les cultures et les années. Effectivement, les prix des USA et CEE sont connus parfaitement de tout le monde; ils apparaissent dans tous les documents administratifs, ils sont administrés; dans les pays en voie de développement, je ne sais pas. D'autre part, il faut comparer le blé et le maïs; pour les USA et la CEE ils représentent des productions très importantes qui tiennent une grande place agricole dans ces pays. Comparer les prix pour les pays en voie de développement dans la valeur de la production alors que pour certains elle a moins de valeur, je ne sais pas si cela est valable. Regardez pour le riz: je vais faire de la peine à la délégation italienne, mais le riz dans la CEE a moins d'importance que le blé et le maïs, et vous voyez effectivement que la hausse des prix d'intervention

en 1978 et 1980 a été beaucoup plus faible. On peut se demander, quand on voit les hausses concernant les pays en développement pour le blé et le maïs qui sont plus faibles pour les pays comme les USA et la CEE, quelle en est la raison. J'en conclus que le blé et le maïs sont moins importants dans les pays qui ont bien voulu communiquer leurs statistiques à la FAO et c'est la même chose pour la CEE. Je pose donc ces questions pour bien montrer que l'on peut faire dire n'importe quoi à des chiffres. Je crois que le Secrétariat en convient. A plusieurs reprises, il parle du caractère partiel des statistiques limitées faute de données complètes, je cite au hasard des paragraphes. Attention, je crois à ces statistiques, de même et aussi, attention aux conséquences qu'on tire de tels tableaux, parce que si l'on prend le tableau 3. 2 où effectivement à propos des recettes des agriculteurs provenant de la vente du blé, du sucre, du maïs et du riz, on essaye de mesurer l'importance des programmes de soutien à ces productions, on voit effectivement des chiffres différents. Ce n'est pas le niveau absolu des taux de soutien qui m'intéresse, c'est la variation durant l'année et je crois qu'il aurait été intéressant de la vérifier sur une période plus longue. Je crois l'avoir dit, la France tient pour important la stabilité. Il faut que les producteurs aient des perspectives de croissance régulières non seulement des prix mais des revenus, on l'oublie souvent, et quand un délégué disait tout à l'heure que les pays développés, au contraire de ce qui est écrit dans ces orientations, ont développé leurs engagements aux producteurs nationaux créant une instabilité sur les marchés mondiaux, je voudrais répondre que s'ils regardaient les hausses de prix et que s'ils comparaient les hausses des coûts, et regardaient le niveau des revenus, ils s'apercevraient que la réponse est différente et, d'autre part, ils pourraient savoir également, et je cite un autre paragraphe de ce document, que tant que les pays en voie de développement n'auront pas atteint leurs objectifs il leur faudra augmenter leur production alimentaire et les pays développés devront maintenir des taux de croissance supérieurs.

Si je le dis, ce n'est pas en tant que délégué français car la France est pour le développement de l'autosuffisance. des pays en voie de développement, le Ministre de l'agriculture l'a dit très clairement, je crois qu'il ne peut pas y avoir de confusion: nous sommes pour le développement autocentré. Il ne faut pas non plus dire n'importe quoi à partir de données partielles et non pas toujours cohérentes. Voilà ce que je voulais dire.

J. B. JACKMAN (New Zealand): Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment in response to the previous speaker. Paragraph 23 highlights the high support prices of some developed countries. In our opinion, the price differentials go beyond the levels which might be justifiable on grounds of national food security. The effect of this stimulus to high cost production in the developed countries is simply to reduce the opportunities to the more cost-efficient producers, most of whom are in the developing countries. So far as stability goes, we can accept that price stability is enhanced in the developed countries themselves but not so on the international market.

CHAIRMAN: A special reminder to members of the Drafting Committee for this Commission: the Drafting Committee will meet approximately 15 minutes after we break up here this evening. I will remind members which are the country representatives on this committee. They are Australia, France, India, Lesotho, Malaysia, Morocco, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Venezuela, the Yemen Arab Republic and Yugoslavia. They will meet in the German Room, building C, rooms 263-269, on the second floor.

I should also like to remind delegates that there will be a demonstration of communication techniques for rural development this afternoon in the Cuban Room, B-224 at 5. 30. It is from 5. 30 to 7. 00 this evening and will be repeated tomorrow evening. This will be a demonstration using video programmes and film strips proposed by FAO for the assistance of countries.

The meeting rose at 17. 00 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17. 00 horas.

conference

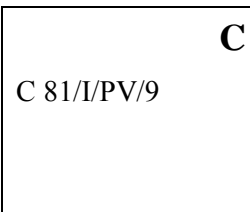
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

NINTH SESSION
NEUVIEME SEANCE
NOVENA SESION

(17 November 1981)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 9. 50 hours,
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la novena sesión a las 9. 50 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(Continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE DLALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)
- 7. World Food and Agricultural Development Strategy, including :
- 7. Stratégie mondiale de développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment :
- 7. Estrategia mundial para el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular :
- 7. 1 UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade (continued)
- 7. 1 Stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour
le développement (suite)
- 7. 1 Estrategia internacional de desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el
Desarrollo (continuación)

O. IXAMABO (Nigeria): I would like to join the last speakers in congratulating the Secretariat for what I think is a fine report. The concept of an international agricultural readjustment I think is a very good one and the eleven guidelines focus on some very important areas. But some of the areas get only passing mention and I think require much greater emphasis than they have in the report. It seems to me that to bring about any readjustment one of the basic essentials is to build the capabilities, the national capabilities of the lesser developed countries to produce agriculturally and to do this what is essential in my view is training-training in all fields, training of planners, training of managers, training of those who monitor, training of those involved in business as a whole, and It think training requires much greater emphasis than is shown here.

Another area I think that requires very strong emphasis, and much stronger emphasis than is here, is research. Research is the foundation for bringing about any change, any improvement, but it gets only passing mention in guideline 10. There there is reference to investment in agricultural research by the CGIR and its international research centres. This is good but there is no mention at all of the national research systems and the national research capabilities. I think an organisation like the FAO cannot shy out of helping to build the essentials, for improving agricultural production in developing countries, and that is in national research capabilities of the coun tries concerned.

The term "transfer of technologies" seems very fashionable these days. It means different things to different people and if the lesser developed countries are to acquire any technology at all one needs to strengthen their own science and technology capabilities. I think it is quite clear and there is ample evidence around the world that for you to acquire and be able to utilize technologies developed elsewhere or having to develop your own technologies, your own science and technology base must be strong. I would therefore wish that much greater emphasis be given to building national research capabilities.

The emphasis on crops that rolls through this report I think is good on crops and crop production as such but there is very little mention of storage and processing. If you produce and do not utilize what you produce you will lose quite a lot. I think the figure of losses due to poor storage and pests varies but it probably averages 35 or 40 per cent so if we can only preserve what we produce the position about what is available will be very different.

I am pleased about the mention of forestry by many speakers although the document does not emphasize that much. A lot of emphasis is given to fuel wood as a source of energy, forestry as a means of helping rural development, but I think too we should mention that forest trees are an important source of food for rural populations. There is work done in some parts of the world now where there is direct assessment of the food actually obtained by rural populations from these trees and I think this requires continuous support and a mention in the role of trees in increasing food production in the developing countries.

I find very little reference to livestock and fisheries. I think this deserves as much emphasis as perhaps crops as well because they are a very big local source of food.

And again when we are talking of food I do not know whether it is right for us just to think of production without referring to some factors of production. The soil is extremely important and now evidence shows that soil management is extremely important because we are losing a lot of our soils due to bad agricultural practices. I think some reference should be made to this in a document like this and a definite effort pointed out towards improving soil management practices. The role of water, and by this I mean the irrigation in agricultural production, is again extremely important, in fact one of the greatest potentials for increasing production in developing countries where there are hazards that bring health problems and so on while the potential for increasing production through irrigation I think needs some mention and emphasis.

With these comments I would like to commend this document but I do wish strongly that the points I have mentioned be taken into consideration.

S. SABER (Iraq) (original language-Arabic) : First I should like to thank the Secretariat on the preparation of this report. My delegation feels that international economic cooperation for development is of essential importance because if such cooperation were to stop or to slow down it would mean that the objectives of international strategy would certainly not be reached in time and that very often has a negative impact on the development of developing countries, especially the least developed countries. However, we are now more optimistic, after having noted the details of this strategy for the Third Developing Decade and we are confident that the implementation of this strategy will be a factor which will help in setting a new international economic order.

It is quite clear that the main responsibility for development in the developing countries is that of the countries themselves and has to rest on their own efforts, but the international community must have the true will to help them to reach their development aims. The main policy of our countries is to fight against colonization, foreign interference and economic interference, because we feel that all this is an insurmountable obstacle for the economic and social development of every country. We hope that justice and equity will be brought about in all parts of the world.

The document we are now discussing proposes an annual rate of development of national production in developing countries during the Third Development Decade of 7 per cent. In order to achieve this rate we feel that enormous efforts have to be made, nationally and internationally. We hope that in addition to the achievement of this rate of development, an improvement of the term of trade for the developing countries will be brought about, that their exports will be better remunerated and that they will have better access to markets.

We are very glad to see among the main objectives of the international strategy the better management of countries' resources in developing countries and we note with great hope the plans of the IMF for these countries. The inflation of international economies, especially in the developing countries, has obviously led to the creation of barriers to development efforts and we agree with what is stated in the report, that a reduction in the rate of inflation would have a positive effect on the international economy.

We feel that the fight against hunger and malnutrition is a difficult task which cannot be brought to a happy result in the near future and it can only be successful if there is a rate of agricultural food production growth of 4 percent. This rate would make it necessary to invest a great deal of capital and to have a highly developed technology. This is where the responsibility of the international community lies to help the countries to achieve the aims of their development programmes.

It is also very important that the countries concerned give higher priority to the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. These countries will also have to use all the inputs in order to improve their production.

We have noted with a certain distress that the International Food Aid Convention, which was to produce 7.6 million tons of aid, is well below the target figure of 10 million tons. It is therefore necessary that it should be extended for 3 years, as proposed in the document, and that the target should be increased.

As for the International Emergency Food Reserve, this should be at least 500 000 tons. Since developing countries need official development aid from the developed countries, we believe that 0.7 percent of GNP for development aid could help the developing countries to reach their objectives. It is also necessary that there should be an improvement in conditions of official aid and financial aid given by international and regional organizations in order to meet the increasing requirements of the developing countries. Also, the rate of exchange must be stable as well as flexible.

My delegation would like to stress the important role of international technical cooperation, which is of essential importance for the self-reliance of the developing countries. The developed countries should help the developing countries to have access to technological development without any difficulty. The policy of my country is to stimulate scientific research and to help in the transfer of the results of the research to the farmers, so that this research can be applied.

We have also given women an equivalent role to that of men, by providing education and training women for work in the factories and in the rural world on an equal foot, because we feel that any obstacle to the participation of women would mean that half the population was not participating in the development efforts.

We are convinced that developing countries also have to surmount the problem of the brain drain towards developed countries. This problem is of interest to the whole of the international community, because adequate measures have to be taken in order to avoid the negative impact of this brain drain from the developing countries.

We can well support what is stated in the document with regard to technical aid for training which should be provided by developed countries. We hope that the developing countries are going to adopt adequate policies in social matter and to reduce unemployment and also in order to provide the necessary care for mothers and children. Further, the necessary health centers have to be set up in order to provide a free service.

My country is undertaking continuous efforts of development and we are very glad that the essential indicators of our development plan are perfectly adequate and follow the outline of the International Strategy for the Third Development Decade.

SHIN-HAENG HUH (Korea): On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, I wish to extend my thanks to the Secretariat for the preparation of the Third Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment. Some of the guidelines in the IAA have become particularly important for the Korean agricultural sector, in recent years, with the rapidly changing circumstances, primarily due to rapid industrialization, which has been given the highest priority in economic development. Notable changes have occurred in areas of agricultural growth lagging far behind the non-agricultural sector, massive migration of the rural population towards urban areas to look for non-farm jobs, and the increase in agricultural input prices which has caused high production costs.

In addition, food production and agricultural prices have fluctuated widely from year to year, primarily due to the lag in agricultural production adjustment and to the increasing demand for commodities with a high income elasticity. I am sure that these adjustment problems are common to most of the rapidly developing countries, where the proportion of agricultural production in GNP declines. In this regard, the 11 guidelines for international agricultural adjustment are very appropriate and should therefore be strengthened.

From our own experience we believe that the guidelines can play a greater role in helping to provide a framework for agricultural development in the developing countries, which need to rationalize agricultural production to be efficient, if advanced countries transfer their technology and know-how to these countries.

The Korean agricultural sector was already in transition before the 11 guidelines were adopted in 1975. We have therefore experienced many unexpected adjustment problems, causing tremendous social costs through trial and error in the course of agricultural development. However, we have been able to overcome many difficulties by undertaking intensive research and development programmes, crop diversification, the expansion of non-farm income sources, irrigation and farm mechanization. Along with the continuous efforts in such areas, the Government of the Republic of Korea has formulated vigorous agricultural development projects in the fifth Five Year Economic and Social Development Plan which will

start in 1982. In particular, regarding guideline 3, the Korean Government has set up a new incentive scheme for rural youth through the establishment of a special fund of \$ 50 million to aid those youths who are qualified and willing to work hard on farms. In addition, our Government has continued and will continue to support major farm prices to provide appropriate price incentives necessary to stimulate the farmer to adopt improved methods, expand production and play a wider role in economic development.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the importance of the guidelines to the developing countries facing agricultural adjustment problems, urging developed countries to provide their advanced technology and financial assistance to developing countries. Finally, we offer our adjustment experience to the developing countries which follow a similar pattern of agricultural development to Korea's.

C.E. ODHNER (Sweden): Since the beginning of the deliberations in this Commission we have successively discussed the State of Food and Agriculture, World Food Security and the Strategy for the Third Development Decade as to food and agriculture. The three discussions very much centred on the same issues : the sluggish agricultural development in developing countries and the unwillingness of the rich countries to live up to their commitments as to development assistance, food reserve contributions, and so on. A number of important problems have been touched upon by different speakers: the distribution and storage of available supplies to people who need them, the disincentive to local production created by food aid, the difficulties for developing countries to induce an increase in local production through sufficiently high prices and so on.

However, these problems have not really been explored in depth and specially they have not been related to each other to show the real problem, that is the inconsistencies between different strategies. Such discussions should have provided the starting point to formulate some main outlines to programmes of action which could then be adapted to the special circumstances in each country.

This lack of problem orientation has made the discussion too general, with too much reporting on national experience, too much of expressing hopes and wishes about future efforts and possibilities, and complaints of lack of political will in both groups of countries, instead of an exploration of possible ways to reconcile the goal of short-term and long-term food security and rural development. It is significant that the Commission is nearly one day ahead of its original schedule, although the questions we have discussed do not seem to be devoid of interest.

Just to explain which kind of fundamental strategies my delegation think ought to be discussed here in order to have a more problem orientated debate, let me take two examples:

It has been correctly stated that the commitments to food security by the rich countries are very insufficient. Likewise, it has been stated that short-term food security is largely a distribution problem, but, at the same time, that long-term self-sufficiency through expanding national production is the only possible solution for developing countries. Further, there are the difficulties in creating sufficient incentives to such long-run expansion of production, when the distribution network is lacking prices cannot be raised to cover production costs because of insufficient buying power among the poor people, and there is a political resistance to higher food prices among the politically dominating urban population.

Which elements of strategies could be combined to solve these problems? How should an expanded and improved world food security system providing food to those most in need, both because of special calamities and more long-run insufficiencies - people mostly unable to pay even a low price, how should it be combined with sufficient incentives to a long-run buildup of national and local production capacity, especially amongst small farmers, and with a more comprehensive rural development? How should a price policy for food be developed which creates sufficient inducements for building a distribution network and processing facilities and for long-term increased production, without increasing prices so as to reduce demand and create political instability and thus become counter-productive?

We do not have the answers. We raised the questions to show what we think ought to have been discussed. Just let me say that raising demand by increasing employment gradually in balance with increasing productive capacity seems to be the core of such a strategy, and that food security provisions have as far as possible to be isolated from the normal market and normal buying capacity, by creating special distribution networks such as for instance the World Food Programme.

My second example of complex problems which ought to be discussed concerns the international markets and their repercussions on the national. If we succeed in approaching a higher degree of world food security within a free market system of the kind recommended by most of the exporting countries in the north group, we are running a great risk that this achievement will be destroyed by a growing cobweb effect due to the considerable swings in world production that always occur from one year-or still worse, from one couple of years-to another. Since price elasticity becomes smaller and smaller, bumper crops will reduce prices drastically and create disincentives to fulfil planned-or anyway much needed-long-term expansion. Government will meet political difficulties in keeping prices sufficiently high and building stocks to take care of the surplus, without international guidance and support. On the other hand, when world production falls short of the expanded demand, problems will be created by steeply rising prices. Those who have been able to build up stocks will earn gigantic profits, as in 1973-74.

These considerations lead me to two suggestions. The first is that the Secretariat should be asked to give more attention to complex but unavoidable problems of this kind. The second is that the documents should, where applicable, on the basis of this work by the Secretariat, be preceded by one or two pages listing the main points for discussion, thus focussing the discussion of the Commission on the really pertinent problems for the development of elements of an efficient strategy.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): We have had a useful exchange of views on progress made and not made in connexion with FAO's International Agricultural Adjustment Guidelines; but it seems to us that many who commented on this topic yesterday seemed to reflect disillusionment with the Guidelines as a means of energizing governments to take actions which they were unwilling to take. We do not want to add this melancholy note, nor do we want to quibble with the Secretariat over fine points of data or interpretation of data. Our brief comments will be directed towards the meaning and the value of the monitoring exercise which we are discussing.

The Guidelines are an inexact set of criteria by which we may gauge relationships between different groups of member countries. Periodic analyses over time may indicate improvements and the economic wellbeing of one group or another, but not necessarily what caused the improvements or why the gains were limited. There has been however general agreement that a periodic appraisal of what progress has been made could be useful. The United States shares this view. Accordingly, we believe that this Conference should note and accept the reports of the TCP and of the Council concerning international agricultural adjustment, as these reports were made available to this Commission; and, by so doing, we should also authorize the Secretariat to make another progress report to the Conference two years from now.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I have a very few questions indeed to answer; many of the points were also raised during discussions earlier this week. We are very grateful to the delegates for their very helpful and constructive suggestions and comments: these will be greatly helpful to us when writing our next Monitoring Report.

Several delegates have referred to the need to distinguish between different groups of countries while reporting on the progress and implementation of the Guidelines. We certainly agree with this, and to a certain extent we have tried to distinguish between high-income and low-income countries, but not in respect of the Guidelines. For example, we have mentioned and referred to high-income countries in paragraphs 6, 7 and 48, and low-income countries are specifically mentioned in paragraphs 6, 7, 28, 34, 48, 103 and 106. Admittedly we could do more of this distinguishing for reporting purposes, but it is of course a matter of balance as to what extent we go on distinguishing between groups of countries, and in order to keep a reasonable balance we have to exercise our judgement - and of course the judgment exercised should always be subject to criticisms, because judgements certainly differ between groups of individuals or countries, etc. But we shall do all we can to proceed along this line, and we will concentrate more on the situation of countries which are the crux of the world food problem.

Now, suggestions have been made that we should pay more attention in analysing the reasons that progress or lack of progress achieves in the fulfilment and implementation of the guidelines, this is indeed a very desirable objective. As you remember, in the discussions on the state of food and agriculture, not only at this Conference, and also earlier conferences, this is precisely the sort of suggestion, made by Conference and the distinguished delegate and we have been trying to do some analyses along these lines. As you will appreciate this is indeed a very difficult area and as you push further and further in analysing the reasons for progress and lack of it, you end up sometimes with the statement that every case is unique. So, in order to generalise, or arrive at generalisations for progress, or

lack of progress, on the basis of groups of countries, regions, or developing countries, as a whole, I would submit that this is the exercise which is extremely difficult and whatever generalisations one would make on various levels one would end up with all kinds of qualifications, the more generalities, the more vague it would be and the more explicit and concrete the reasons would be, the more specifically they will relate to individual countries. I am sure all of you in your own exercises, in your own analytical work, will have been confronted by this dilemma but we hope to perceive in this line and arrive at some kind of compromise in pursuing in greater analytical detail the reasons for progress or lack of progress. But, we have the problem relating to the length of the report. We have been asked by Conference to keep the report short and succinct. Now, these are all sometimes conflicting objectives and therefore we have to make judgements again, how do you balance these conflicting objectives? Suggestions have been made that, while providing statistical data related to the same question, we should differentiate more specifically and not give local aggregate data; quite right, some of the data when related to global aggregates does not make any sense. All right, so we must distinguish. There are various ways of distinguishing, we can distinguish by region, which we have done, in some cases we have distinguished by blocks of countries. You can distinguish by the income level of country. You can distinguish by the degree of dependence of countries on agriculture as a source of income. You can distinguish between countries' dependence on agriculture by employment. You can distinguish between countries by the degree of dependence on agricultural trade. I could mention another 20 criteria. Again, you have to have judgement and balance as to what kind of distinction you want, if you want special statistical data for one distinction, and special statistical data for another.

While I agree with the general thrust of the comments, the Secretariat fully agrees and would like to point out whatever report we do you can always come up and say "this kind of suggestion is not quite right. "

Reference has been made to Tables 3. 1 and 3. 2 of examples of comparisons of unlike or non-comparable data. Insufficient description of data or wrong inferences being drawn from them and lastly a too limited coverage of years. All this points to a certain extent to right and not right. Do you compare in this table non-comparable data. This is a table where prices are quoted for various countries, intervention countries, etc. Prices are quoted only for countries where the commodity is of significance. We could give individual country details in a separate annex but that makes the report more bulky. We thought in a report of this nature such detail was not appropriate. We also do not quite agree that the wrong inferences could easily be drawn from these tables. If we have higher support prices and one conclusion is this. We hope that the higher support prices do encourage increased production which would compete with or lead to the shutting out of supplies from low cost countries.

We have been discussing at length the question of price incentives. We do believe that higher prices provide higher incentive to produce more. If we have data on higher prices we make reasonable inferences this will encourage production. Controlled prices tend to show stability within the countries practising them and simultaneously it could increase instability in international markets.

In our chart 8. 1 we make the point that this source of instability coming from policies of developed marketing economies have not been much of a problem in the recent years. Again we have seen in the discussions that delegates do not necessarily agree on the interpretation of this table. We have tried again on the basis of data presented in this cable to arrive at a judgment as objective as possible. Of course, with this kind of socio-economic analysis we would never have perfect data. All of us know in our various works that we have to live with imperfect data, as we go every time, we get to some extent, in fact, this kind of analytical work and progress report in our view helps in drawing attention to the inadequacies of data and also stimulates efforts hopefully on our part and on the part of member countries to expand coverage on data.

Questions have been asked about the short time spans published in this report. This is quite true. There are two ways in which we could possibly handle this problem. The first is to cover a longer time period in analysis every two years when we prepare these reports. Another is to lengthen the period of the report itself, in other words, instead of reporting every 2 years, to report every 5 years. But as you know at Conference resolution in 1975 we enjoined to report every 2 years so, under this Resolution and this decision of Conference, what you can do is to cover a longer time span every time when you write a report, that is, every two years and, that certainly, we will pursue this line in the future reporting.

Questions have been raised as to the discussion of trade balance restricting the discussions, the annual agricultural trade balance under discussion under guideline 1 because exports other than agricultural exports are of growing importance to a number of developing countries. We have interpreted guideline 9 as having the basic aim of ensuring a substantial and steady increase in the agricultural equitable earnings of developing countries. We have therefore projected the coverage of these products in our analyses in this report. Space permitting there should be no difficulty in extending the discussion so as to take account of the varying degrees of importance of agricultural export and imports in the structure of total merchandise trade in different groups of countries. We have undertaken such detailed analyses along these lines in the documentation for committee and commodity problems and also in our annual FAO commodity review and outlook, distinguishing for example between oil importing and oil exporting developing countries. We certainly agree it would be useful to extend such analyses distinguishing between agricultural and non-agricultural exports, especially bearing in mind that agricultural exports account for fifty per cent or more of the foreign trade earnings of some seventy developing countries, most of which are in the lower income group in these countries, which are heavily dependent on agricultural exports. The trade balance in agricultural exports and imports indicate resources available for importing non-agricultural imports, manufactured goods, capital equipment, to that extent the surplus trade balance and agricultural export and import is critical for them for their development efforts. Of course, as we do these analyses distinguishing between agricultural and non-agricultural exports, we will also find many of the countries that suffer from deficit in agricultural trade balances also suffer from deficit in non-agricultural trade balances. So, the problem can be seen of course in a wider perspective, thus it is not necessarily true that a country suffering from a deficit in agricultural trade balance would have a surplus in non-agricultural trade balance, so worrying about an agricultural deficit is not any problem.

The distinguished delegate for Nigeria has referred to a need for greater emphasis on national agricultural research and we certainly agree with this, and linking up national agricultural research with international agricultural research. We also agree with the greater emphasis he suggests should be given to inadequate storing and processing. We certainly will keep in mind, while preparing the next report, all the comments and suggestions made on the report of the Committee on Commodity Problems as well as in the Council report.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le professeur Islam. Y a-t-il encore des questions qui n'ont pas trouvé de réponse? . . . Je ne pense pas puisque personne ne lève la pancarte.

Pour nous résumer, je dirais que le débat consacré au troisième rapport intérimaire sur l'ajustement agricole international vient de prendre fin. Vingt-cinq délégués y ont participé. Il a été généralement admis que les progrès réalisés vers les objectifs de l'ajustement agricole international ont été limités et inégaux. La production alimentaire dans les pays en développement, spécialement en Afrique, croît avec une lenteur préoccupante. Les investissements dans la production alimentaire sont insuffisants dans les pays en développement et doivent être accrus. Les prix élevés des moyens de production et la lenteur des transferts de fonds et de technologie ont été reconnus comme principaux facteurs responsables de la faible croissance de la production alimentaire dans les pays en développement.

Il faut donner des stimulants suffisants aux agriculteurs, utiliser les aliments locaux et associer les petits agriculteurs, les paysans sans terre et les femmes aux efforts visant à accroître la production alimentaire. L'incidence forte et croissante de la sous-alimentation a aussi été soulignée; selon quelques délégués elle s'explique en partie par le manque d'éducation nutritionnelle spécialement en milieu rural. On a fait observer que la sous-alimentation était souvent imputable à la répartition inégale des ressources alimentaires disponibles. La dépendance croissante des pays en développement à faible revenu à l'égard des importations alimentaires est un facteur préoccupant. Plusieurs délégués ont souligné les problèmes qui naissent des barrières tarifaires et non tarifaires auxquelles se heurtent les exportations des produits agricoles et en particulier des produits transformés.

Les prix de beaucoup de produits exportés par les pays en développement sont en train de baisser, alors que les aliments et les carburants qu'ils importent renchérissent, d'où une détérioration de leur balance du commerce agricole. Selon quelques délégués, la balance du commerce agricole devait être examinée dans le contexte des tendances générales du commerce global. Le rôle important de la coopération technique et économique entre les pays en développement comme élément capital des relations économiques internationales a été souligné.

L'accord sur le fonds commun a été accueilli avec satisfaction et il faut espérer que tous les pays le ratifient le plus tôt possible de façon qu'il puisse devenir opérationnel prochainement.

Plusieurs délégués ont souligné la nécessité de nouveaux rapports analytiques dans l'avenir pour qu'on puisse mieux identifier les facteurs responsables de la lenteur des progrès réalisés vers les objectifs fixés dans les lignes d'orientation. L'accent a été mis sur la nécessité d'améliorer les données de base qui permettraient de procéder à une analyse. On a aussi suggéré qu'à l'avenir les rapports intérieurs examinent l'évolution de la situation sur une plus longue période et dans un cadre plus large. C'est ainsi que certains délégués ont estimé que dans les analyses futures il faudrait aussi essayer d'examiner l'évolution de la situation en ce qui concerne d'autres produits alimentaires de base.

Tels sont les points saillants du débat. Le Secrétariat les examinera plus en détail en même temps que d'autres questions dans le projet de rapport qui sera soumis à la Commission.

Nous allons poursuivre l'examen du point suivant et étudier les autres documents consacrés à ce point 7 de l'Ordre du jour, à savoir le document C 81/21 sur la stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie pour le développement et le document C 81/22 sur les stratégies de développement régionales et nationales.

7. 2 Regional and National Development Strategies (continued)

7. 2 Stratégies de développement régionales et nationales (suite)

7. 2 Estrategias regionales y nacionales de desarrollo (continuación)

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director General, Economic and Social Policy Department): As you recall, the last Session of the Conference requested the Director General to transmit to the United Nations the report of its discussions on preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 1980 and the new International Development Strategy. You furthermore asked that, in doing so, the Director-General should convey your conviction that this new development strategy must reflect fully the key role of food and agriculture in improving the quality of life of almost 2 billion people directly dependent on agriculture in developing countries and in raising the rate of economic growth of these countries. The Director General conveyed to the Preparatory Committee for the new International Development Strategy the report of the last Conference and its discussions concerning the future strategy. Again, at your request, he also submitted the Provisional Report on "Agriculture Towards 2000".

I believe that the document C 81/21, UN International Development Strategy For the Third Development Decade, indeed shows that the strategy gives the degree of prominence to food and agriculture which you sought.

Paragraph 28 of the new IDS text, which begins by saying that hunger and malnutrition must be eliminated as soon as possible and certainly by the end of this century, is a very succinct statement of the fundamentals of the strategy as regard food and agriculture.

These fundamentals are elaborated subsequently. Improvements needed in international trade are referred to in paragraphs 52-67. They add up to a call for a more open and expanding trade system in which more favourable treatment is to be given to developing countries, many of whom are heavily dependent on agricultural exports.

The main food and agriculture section is given in paragraphs 81-95. I need not summarize them. The earlier A percent target for agricultural growth in developing countries is reiterated. The whole statement is imbued with the conviction that both developing and developed countries share responsibility for the attainment of this target. Developing countries, "firmly supported by the international community", must improve their agricultural performance. The paragraphs indicate what is meant by such firm support.

Other parts of the IDS also have an important bearing on food and agriculture. These are particularly the objectives given in Section D regarding financial resources for development; in Section K regarding the least developed and related categories of countries; and in Section L on the environment.

The last section of the paper, paragraphs 169-180 discusses a review and appraisal of the implementation of the new strategy.

The likelihood of the start of the global negotiations makes it opportune for this Conference to take stock of what has happened so far, following the formulation of the IDS, and which areas of action need urgent attention. I may point out in this connexion that the Director-General has, on his own initiative and responsibility, prepared a note on the Elements of a Global Food Programme. It highlights the main issues and specific policies and programmes of action, encompassing four principal inter-related areas: increased food production, alleviating the poverty of small farmers and landless labourers, expanding agricultural trade and promoting world food security.

This programme draws upon the conclusions and recommendations of the FAO Conference, Council and other bodies. I emphasize, however, that this document, which has been circulated for information only, is not for discussion or decision of the Conference. It does not call for any debate.

Now I refer to document C 81/22 on Regional and National Development Strategies which briefly examines a series of issues which are likely to assume increasing importance in the coming decades as countries try to achieve their development objectives.

In the broadest sense, major development issues are often common to most developing regions, that is the means to accelerate production, to distribute benefits equitably, to encourage wider participation, and so on.

However, the relative importance of objectives as well as policy measures needed to achieve the objectives differs between regions and also at different stages of development.

Moreover, this document has to be seen in the context of other papers before this Conference, i. e. , Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development, follow-up to WCARRD and National Agricultural Research in Developing Countries. The document itself is not intended to be a comprehensive one and all countries will not find it a full reflection of their own problems and priorities. It deals with selected issues region by region in identifying issues and in suggesting measures for dealing with them. It is a brief paper in which only selected country situations can be referred to. It does, however, emphasize that most problems must be tackled at the country level. The frequent references to regions usually refer to conditions which are shared by a number of countries rather than implying a formal regional approach to the solution of these problems except, of course, in the last section which deals with economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

The objective in putting this document before you is to stimulate discussion and invite identification of those issues for which increased attention should be paid. It is hoped that in the course of your deliberations you will examine whether the issues which we have identified are the major ones or the most critical; if not, what should be added to this list of selected issues? Most importantly, have we appraised the issues critically? Are the kinds of actions recommended most suitable? Are there additional or alternative approaches which should be examined?

In introducing this paper, therefore, I shall do no more than draw your attention to the issues with which it deals.

Obviously, the acceleration of food production is the number one problem in developing countries and it is most critical in Africa, Asia and the Far East.

How to improve traditional food crops is at the heart of the problem in both of these instances. But the pattern of consumption is changing. Is there scope for replacing part of the increasing imports by African countries of wheat and rice? Special attention needs to be paid to the increased production of maize under different ecological conditions in Africa. Considerable research efforts need to be adopted for the diversity of low cost ecological conditions. With customary systems of land tenure evolving rapidly governments will be well advised to develop policies regarding long-term patterns of land use.

Rice is the staple food in the majority of Asian countries. What are the policy issues and options here? The paper suggests that at least one such option is to give more attention to rice produced under rainfed, deep water and upland conditions and not only under irrigation. However, since in quantitative terms the bulk of future production increases must continue to come from irrigated agriculture, and since new irrigation projects are likely to be more extensive than in the past, the allocation of resources to irrigation investments has to be commensurately increased.

Staple food crops must continue to be our main focus. Nevertheless even with slow economic progress demand grows much more rapidly for products such as livestock and fisheries. Needed action in livestock production seems very different among regions. At the same time world fisheries are undergoing one of their most fundamental changes with the new regime of exclusive economic zones. The realization of opportunities under the new regime requires a multiple approach incorporating improved management of unconventional species, waste reduction etc. The paper discusses two major inputs -fertilizer and water. We can hardly over-emphasize the key importance of fertilizer. The elements of strategy for fertilizers range from additional capacity for production in developing countries, supported by substantial assistance in low-income countries to arrangements for coping with price fluctuations, stimulating growth in consumption coupled with extension and training for its efficient use and conservation.

Finally, when looking at food production, natural resources must be better looked after. The severe soil erosion problems of Africa south of the Sahara must be handled by ceasing the over-grazing and deforestation of these lands together with new plantings. Separate mention must be made of the fuelwood crisis which leads both to environmental degradation and to poorer nutrition of people already on the margin of subsistence. The last section of the paper discusses two sets of issues which are prominent in all regions. One is the special problems of small farms and landless labourers and the second, economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. We are all agreed on their importance. In Africa, where land is not yet a severe constraint in most countries, traditional agriculture is changing. What future forms should it take? A long-term perspective of land-use forms seems essential. Various approaches are possible. In Asia how to face the problems of increasing landlessness? In Latin America the issue presents itself in the shape of a serious and growing imbalance between larger-scale modern farms and small-scale peasant farming. Farming needs to be made more attractive to the young in most countries and nowhere is this more needed than in the Near East and North Africa.

The last section of the paper discusses economic and technical cooperation amongst developing countries. This is a growth area. In the future increased demands for food and agricultural commodities and production requisites will come from developing countries. How best can they meet each others needs through trade and other forms of economic and other forms of technical cooperation? The paper distinguishes between three aspects of this cooperation: firstly, the development of technology, Secondly, cooperation on joint production and intra regional trade and thirdly, regional food security.

As I said at the beginning of my introduction the paper is intended primarily to provoke responses rather than to provide definitive answers. We have attempted to raise issues and suggest lines of enquiry. We look forward to benefitting from your experiences and insights in dealing with the issues which you consider important and relevant.

LE PRESIDENT : Je crois que les délégués ont entendu votre appel et qu'ils vont vous faire part de leur expérience. Donc le débat est ouvert.

Said A. MADALLALI (Tanzania) : My delegation wishes to support the goals and objectives embodied in document C 81/81 and also the selected issues embodied in document C 81/22 as a vivid example of the immense work the Secretariat has done in trying to highlight what are the problems and issues to be looked into the next developing decade. The United Nations Development Strategy for the Third Developing Decade is a very important item we have to consider. It is on the part of the international community to establish a new international economic order aiming at the acceleration of development of the developing countries. More equitable distribution of economic opportunities among nations cannot be disputed by any of us as in an inter-dependent world this would be a source of economic strength. Just to emphasize this point I wish to refer to the appeal made by His Holiness Pope John Paul II to this session on Friday last. I quote "Great importance must be attached to present political planning for world-wide development where by it is desired to encourage developing countries to become self-reliant and to define and put into effect their own national strategy for development with a model adapted to actual conditions, capacities and the unique culture of each country. But this should not provide a convenient excuse for more prosperous countries to evade their responsibilities as though they could leave the burden of development to the needy countries alone. On the contrary these latter countries must be guaranteed adequate external support of a kind which respects their dignity and autonomy of initiative". The dignity and autonomy of initiative in the overall planning and economic development of developing countries is a crucial landmark to the failure or effectiveness of development aid and the improvements in the international financial system terms to enhance the flow of financial resources to the needy countries. In this regard my delegation wishes to commend the Member countries from the developed world who have already reached and/or surpassed the agreed international target of 0.7 percent of their gross national product-channelling it for developing assistance.

On specific issues of food and agriculture the document before us reaffirms what we have been discussing in this Commission on matters of increased food production, eradication of hunger and malnutrition, the importance of development aid and the commitment of Member countries to the FAO Five Point Plan of Action on world food security. Among many issues included in this strategy, one aspect my delegation would like to comment on is the nutritional policies which national governments must have whether they are getting self-sufficient in cereal grains or not. The nutritional needs of children and women are

of paramount importance for developing healthy nations. Thus in the development strategy of food production the deliberate policy of ensuring provision of an integrated approach to the essential components or ingredients that go towards the provision of nutritional requirements of the people cannot be over-emphasized. In this regard I wish to refer to the selected issue as pointed out in the document on livestock production. In the African context the document rightly points out the problem of trypanosomiasis. Trypanosomiasis is a limiting factor to both livestock development and agricultural production as well as a problem in human health. This requires the attention of FAO. As we know we set up a Commission on the control of African trypanosomiasis. My delegation wishes to see how the progress of this Commission is doing and what we can expect from it as it is a major limiting factor to development.

Similarly in this document as it is not a comprehensive review a problem which arises in many East African countries is the efforts and research in the control of East African fever, a disease transmitted by ticks. This again is a limiting factor to livestock production and we invite the community to look at the research aspect and control of this infection. Mention has been made of trypano-tolerant livestock. This is typical of a breed in West Africa. Research has shown that it is trypano-tolerant but the mention here is of its applicability in other areas of Africa. In East Africa my delegation thinks it is of limited importance in livestock production. Talking of nutrition, we therefore support the recommendations in document C 81/21, paragraph 93 that the donor countries should ensure a high nutritional value of food aid to recipient countries.

On energy, my delegation would like to say that the role of new and renewable sources of energy should be fully investigated in the development decade. The energy-deficient developing countries which have greater potential for the development of hydro power should be assisted and supported by the United Nations system to implement programmes of this nature in order to solve their energy and power needs and possibly to be able to export energy to neighbouring countries on a regional basis. Tanzania has such resources, which only await investment in order to be able to produce hydro electricity for both national and regional requirements.

The selected issue contained in document C 81/22 on irrigation reveals that irrigation is important in Africa and we support the approach that both large scale and small scale irrigation schemes for village farmers are complementary and the idea of implementing projects on hydro power irrigation could be enhanced.

It is heartening to note that the document outlines steps to improve the physical infrastructure in developing countries. It is the view of my delegation that a proper and efficient communications system is a prerequisite for developing all other sectors of the economy, including agriculture and livestock production. We therefore support the statement in paragraph 132 of document C 81/21 and we hope that the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988, will be closely followed and monitored.

In conclusion, the Tanzanian delegation feels that the international community faces the Third Development Decade with full awareness of what should be the responsibility of the developing countries and the developed areas of this globe. In this regard we now have useful records to guide us, from different conferences, with their recommendations, such as the World Food Programme Plan of Action, the TCDC, the Lagos Plan of Action for the Development of Africa, the Nairobi Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, the Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Melbourne and the North-South Summit in Cancun, Mexico. From the foregoing it can be inferred that the will, the intention, to help equitable development is obvious. What remains is action towards implementation of the ideals.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I would like to convey the heartfelt thanks of my delegation to Prof. Islam for his very interesting and excellent introduction. None the less we have to indicate our deep regret that document C 81/21 is submitted for information only and not for discussion or any action. We agree that, since the document is the fruit of a discussion in the United Nations, perhaps it does not need a debate here. None the less it would be good if the Conference did take note of several of the directives for the Third Development Decade which the United Nations agreed for itself and for the whole international community and also, of course, for the international agencies belonging to the United Nations family. I know that this raises a problem: the relationship between the United Nations General Assembly and FAO. For that very reason I think it would be good if at least some of the main points of this excellent document, for the submission of which we thank the Secretariat very much, were to find a place in the report of this Conference.

It is my experience over many years that very often in technical meetings decisions taken by the United Nations are not known even to the Secretariats of those technical conferences, and some of the directives of the United Nations are taken in a very restricted sense. I would like to single out two problems which are of particular interest to my country.

The first is the TCDC and ECDC. We attach very great importance to this problem and this action, because if there is an effort to improve the general economic situation of the whole world and to establish a new economic order I think that the views of the developing countries, especially those belonging to the European region, should be taken into account, which could contribute a great deal in favour of other regions and countries. As I mentioned during the last Conference, we are very happy that FAO convened a first meeting of the TCDC, but after this meeting the European developing countries were not mentioned and they took part rather as merely observers. In this connection, the directives of the UN General Assembly for the Third Development Decade are very straightforward, that all developing countries, regardless of the region they belong to, should be consulted and should take part in the action.

The second problem I would like to mention is that of a group of countries which need particular attention. Here, too, we have had some very sad experiences. The resolution of the UN General Assembly was taken several years ago on developing island countries and land-locked countries, to which to some extent in assistance should be assimilated the MSE countries, were in several technical meetings of FAO either not known or completely ignored. For this reason, I should like very much that this important and very valuable document, and the merit of the FAO Secretariat in putting it among the working papers of this Conference, should be taken note of, not only for information but also for the directives of future FAO actions.

LE PRESIDENT : Je voudrais rappeler que le document C 81/21 est un document qui est soumis à notre Commission pour être discuté aussi bien que le document C 81/22. Donc, il ne nous est pas transmis ici uniquement pour information mais également pour discussion. Je veux parler des documents sur la Stratégie internationale de développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement. Je rappelle que c'est un document à discuter et non pour information.

M. SANKARANARAYANAN (India) : My delegation, at the outset, would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity given to us to speak on what we consider to be a most memorable presentation by Dr. Islam. The documents prepared by the FAO Secretariat, C 81/21 and 22, in the opinion of my delegation constitute the elements of a world food and agriculture strategy which has been put forward combining, if I may say so, the qualities of systematization and comprehensiveness for the first time. The new international development strategy in this action on food and agriculture, as I said earlier, provides the essential element of a world food and agriculture strategy. For the making of this strategy it is not necessary, but it might be useful, to say once again that FAO itself has made significant contribution not only through studies submitted to the United Nations General Assembly but also in its participation in the deliberations of the General Assembly. Therefore, in the opinion of my delegation, if it were asked to indicate which are the most important subjects for discussion in this FAO Conference we would unhesitatingly say that the two subjects 7. 1 and 7. 2 are the most important. We are therefore gratified, Mr. Chairman, with clarification that the documents are open for discussion by the Commission.

Actually, any elements of the international development strategy relating to food and agriculture have been elaborated, explained, extended in detail in various forums of the FAO before-in its Committees on World Food Security, Commodity Problems and food aid, as well as in the Council. In this context we are gratified to have read this note on what constitutes the strategy for a global food programme. This is extremely timely so far as its presentation is concerned. The only slight point of reservation which my delegation would like to make on this occasion is that when we talked in 1974 we laid down as a common global world objective to have this done within a period of ten years-that is, by 1983-84. Now we find in this document that hunger and malnutrition must be eliminated as soon as possible, and certainly by the end of the century. This is a long-term perspective and one is reminded of the words of John Maynard Keynes, that in the long run we are all dead. We should therefore keep in view this long-term objective, trying to see that hunger and malnutrition are eliminated from the face of this earth much earlier than 2 000 A. D. , and as elements of action towards that particular kind of objective I think these documents will prove to be useful starters.

Though I would be repeating certain things which have been said in other fora, it is necessary at this time to mention a few of them again.

The document has highlighted that developing countries have been particularly hard hit by continuing economic crises, and that hundreds of millions of people are still enduring hunger, sickness, under employment, unemployment and so on. It has also referred to the structural disequilibrium in the international situation-low growth rates, high inflation, unemployment, monetary instability, disincentive pressures, and so on. The vital importance of these matters to developing countries has been stressed. All these are good ; still, one finds that if one comes down to concrete issues, there are quite a few things regarding which much action has still to be taken.

One of the estimates relating to world cereal stocks, that these stocks have to be maintained at 17 to 18 percent of annual world consumption, is a target which we have been finding difficult to reach. It is essential, as mentioned in this document, that efforts be made to see that we have these international grain agreements. One might remember that when we met in Geneva some years ago there were clearly some hopes in this regard. Unfortunately, now, those hopes have certainly been-I would not say "reduced to ashes", but certainly those hopes are not very much alive.

My delegation would like to mention here that it would be appropriate for us to once again look at this kind of situation, and try to improve it.

As far as India is concerned, my delegation would like to say that, while agreeing with all the points made in these two documents, the priorities reflected in these documents are the same priorities which informed the planning for the International Development Strategy initiated in 1980, which was also the year when India was launched on this Sixth Five Year Plan. We have, as you are aware, been able to increase our food production from a level of 5.5 million tons in 1950 to more than 130 million tons by 1980. We are allocating the highest priority to the development of agriculture, irrigation, and rural development. Another matter that may be of some interest to note is that in this Sixth Five Year Plan in my country, out of a total estimate of 975 billion Rupees, about 91 percent of the resources are being mobilised from within the country and 9 percent is external aid. At the same time we realize that this external aid is a crucial catalyst to economic development, and this is a point that has been emphasised in various fora by various people. So this aspect of external resources for economic development and relief for development which this document has highlighted is something which should be emphasised.

The strategy has spoken of the target for food aid programmes and of targets for the IEF. We find on the basis of our experience that these are targets which have not been achieved. My delegation would like to say that we will do our every little bit to see that these targets are reached. In this connexion, my delegation would like to say that our experiences in the areas of increasing agricultural production, of increasing food production, and the management of food production, or of food distribution system (which is also semi-continental)-all this experience is available to all the other developing countries for such assistance as they require.

There is one last point which my delegation would like to mention. We are all aware that we are on the verge of global negotiations for a New International Economic Order. My delegation trusts and hopes that if and when these global negotiations are taken up FAO will have a very active role to play in them within the framework of global negotiations, both of the United Nations and as part of such negotiations and properly linked with them. It is the fundamental hope and desire of my delegation that the FAO is fully utilized. After all, one must recapitulate the fact that FAO is the United Nations specialist agency for food and agriculture, equipped with a large body of experts and supported by various specialist committees. Therefore, on this occasion my delegation would like to stress that when these negotiations start the full services of FAO should be made use of.

In conclusion, I do not think I can really do any better than quote Lester Pearson when he spoke on the occasion of the First Conference of FAO. These words, when we are discussing a subject like the International Development Strategy, in the opinion of my delegation, are extremely relevant. On the occasion of the First Conference Lester Pearson observed : "The first of the new, permanent United Nations agencies is now launched. There are few precedents for it to follow it is something new in international history. There have been functional international agencies with more circumscribed objectives and tasks, but FAO is the first which sets out with so bold an aim as that of helping nations to achieve freedom from want. Never before have the nations got together for such a purpose".

It is the hope of my delegation that when the International Development Strategy comes into being, this will not be a prophecy of futility.

J. R. OWINSKI (Poland): The document on International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade, which is the basis of our discussion, was approved by the UN General Assembly in December last. Therefore, the remarks concerning that document are delayed. Nevertheless, I would like to make a few observations.

In the document agriculture and food were given a proper place both in the part "Goals and Objectives" and in "Policy Measures". The precise goals and the means needed for their accomplishment are a generalization of the existing FAO programmes including Agriculture: Towards 2000, and a continuation of programmes passed by the World Food Conference and World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. All these programmes induce to a certain general reflexion that has been mentioned already in the speech of my Minister, Mr. Wojtecki at the Plenary session. The source of this reflexion is that global objectives formulated in those programmes are, practically, identified with the needs.

Undoubtedly, the identification of needs with goals is useful in the initial phases of works on the programme. However, this approach contains a serious danger. It does not take into account that resources, which might be designated for agricultural development, are limited. As it appeared in the past decades, various long-term global programmes dealing with agriculture and food have not been implemented owing to the shortage of means. There may be quoted, as an example, the programme of World Food Conference, which assumed the elimination of the most striking signs of hunger and malnutrition by 1985. As early as when the programme had been passed, it was known to be unrealistic. Other comprehensive programmes dealing with agriculture and food also remained, in general, to be wishful thinking. It followed very clearly from the discussion upon international agricultural adjustment. It is to be feared that the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade might become such a programme.

The verification of long-term global programmes has been affected so far in various forms outside the programmes. This form of verification will be continued, since a long-term global programme is, necessarily, of so general a character that it calls for further detailed plans. However, while a long-term global programme is being formulated, it should be confronted not only with needs but with the existing possibilities as well. It is of particular significance for the next coming years, in which, according to forecasts, a slowdown of the rate of world economic growth will take place. This means that the difficulties in financing food economy will accumulate. Therefore, the gap between the programme assumptions and the real effects may be still greater in the eighties than it had been in the past. A change in this tendency might occur only if, as is mentioned in paragraph 114 of the document, disarmament agreements would materialize. Then, the means spent for armaments before could be allocated to economic development, agriculture included. Poland ardently advocates the idea of disarmament, which, however, still remains wishful thinking.

S. POHORYLES (Israel): With your kind permission I should like to make a few brief comments to the subject of Regional and national strategies. The most important feature of contemporary agricultural development is their long-range impact.

Agricultural strategy must, in the Third Development Decade, take into account the fact that in ten to fifteen years agriculture will be totally different from what it is today-and the main problem is the need to find such economic, social and administrative means that will enable agricultural policy to shape the new form. This means comprehensive integrated development.

Therefore, maybe it will be useful and more efficient to include as a consideration of the programme of actions the generally accepted criteria of development promotion like:

1. The long term average real rate of agricultural growth as its quantitative expression.
2. The degree of economic heteronization of the rural areas.
3. The technological level of agriculture and the internal relation between productivity based on land and water and productivity based on neutral changes of technology.
4. The degree of self-sufficiency and the international status of agriculture.
5. The multiplier effect of agricultural development over the national economy.
6. The flexibility of agricultural adjustment to changing patterns of cyclical development on the international market and the inflation problem.

There is no doubt that the entire subject is very controversial; it implies an expression of a comprehensive rural strategy; it is placed in a centre of a development dilemma; stimulation of self-sufficiency, promotion of export or an optimal sybthesis of both approaches.

It seems to me that the Conference has to consider this problem. Another very important and, in our opinion autonomous imperative complex, is the problem of arid and semi-arid developments-a tremendous international issue. One of the typical features of arid and semi-arid zones is the lack of geographical proximity between agriculture's two natural factors of production-land and water.

Institutional governmental intervention is therefore required in order to achieve the factor mix effect -vital for agricultural production.

Simultaneously, we have to do with a consequent process of internal realignment of the arid "factor mix" of the agricultural input basket, the share of land and water in the input composition declines-the share of neutral technology increases (new varieties, mechanization, adaptation of adequate technology) and will be more and more the dominant factor.

The new technologies for the third decade are:

1. Genetic selection of crops.
2. Water and fertilizer management.
3. Crops pest control strategies.
4. Development of controlled environment of greenhouse agriculture.
5. Multiple and intensive cropping.
6. Bioregulators.
7. New crops-nonconventional crops-tissue culture, aquaculture, desert crops.
8. Bioprocessing.
9. Anti-transpirants.
10. Development of plants to withstand drought.
11. Twinning-multiplying births in beef cattle.

It seems to us that the problem of arid development-because of this scale and intensity-should be an important autonomous component of the Conference Resolutions. I think also that a policy of successful overcoming of arid ecological constraints can serve as an interesting antimalthusianic example.

I would like to make two final remarks.

First, the transition from the development of agriculture per se to an integrated development of rural economy is an inevitable process. If transition is carried out in a planned orderly fashion it may save society a great many resources and much effort. A stychic process is liable not only to be very expensive, but also to trigger off crisis throughout the rural sector.

Second, for reasons already mentioned, it is important for the international community not to find itself in a situation where the correction of the reality is being performed ex post, the way which is being done in the case of ecology, urban planning, quality of environment and urban transportation.

It is important for the rural society to succeed ex ante in adjusting to the new reality, and so to prevent the suffering involved in correction ex post-after the fact.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make some brief remarks. My first remark refers to document 81/21. Of course, I do know that to discuss the UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade is uphill work. Indeed, the General Assembly passed 11 Resolutions at 31 Sessions. Therefore, I confine myself to short direct and indirect remarks.

First of all, I would like to say that I am not in full agreement with Professor Islam. May I say in brackets that Professor Islam's introduction was one of the best, if not the best, we have listened to at this Conference session. Professor Islam says that the document reflects fully, the important role of food and agriculture in the life of developing countries. I wish I could agree, but I have to say, at the same time, that I could do with some more side references in the text itself on food and agriculture. We have here fifteen sub-chapters ranging from A to O and I think, for instance, science, technology, environment and trade and so on need some more references to them. Of course, I am biased in favour of agriculture and food, so are all my colleagues here in the room.

What I wanted to say, that I think inter-dependency of the document itself could be enhanced with some more reference to it.

The second point we would like to make is the following: FAO's involvement in the Third Development Decade. I am speaking about FAO's great adventure towards the year 2000. Many delegates here in the room have had the opportunity two years ago to listen to the first version of the agricultural year 2000 and I recall the great interest that the paper has arisen, and I have to tell you I am sorry for not having the opportunity to make a detailed note of its decision, and we would have been happy had the A. T. 2000 been provided instead of being considered by Conference at the 21st Session as well.

I have been lucky enough to learn about some new features of the updated edition of the A. T. 2000 and it is my opinion that it has a great contribution to FAO, to the Third Development Decade; the A. T. 2000 was made more than two years ago and it is not a summary and with all the good will and good wishes, though it is an economically demanding and challenging, and alternative world guideline of modus vivendi and modus operandi, I can only say that we would have been happy if we could have had the opportunity to make comment on that.

My last remark refers to document 81/21 on development strategy. We think it is really an excellent document and I have only one comment to make, we do like the priority the paper attaches to small farmers' role in development, and to new ways to improve traditional agriculture in Africa and other regions as well. I have to disagree with one paragraph, that is paragraph 106, whatever cooperative or similar arrangements should be encouraged wherever they fit in with cultural patterns. You may well know that my country has some experience with cooperative posts in Hungary and African developing countries, and I have to say that cooperation should be encouraged not only where we think fit in cultural patterns, but actually cooperatives should be well-managed and well-run and also play a catalytic role in improving the growth in new environments. So I know what the second reject means and I have wanted to make these small amendments to drive my point completely home.

J. SCHERER (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): The document we are presented by the Secretariat C 81/22 can be seen as embodying the new international development strategies which are included in document 21 before Conference.

The report in document i. e. 22 gives a good survey of the status of the special problems of agricultural development in the various regions of the developing world. My delegation is of the opinion that the concepts which are based on this, concerning the priority approaches for future development measures, are directed in the right direction and we would like to give them our support in principle.

I would like to make the following comments with regard to the development strategies in document 22:

Firstly, the increase of food production in the food deficit countries should be especially stressed as a central element of regional or national agricultural development strategies. Further measures concerning food security, in particular food aid or regional reserve systems (see paragraph 144 seq. of the document) should only be subsidiary emergency measures and given support to the extent that the impairment of national efforts for the improvement of self-sufficiency in food is not to be feared.

Secondly, the achievement of the growth targets of agricultural production which is necessary for an improvement of the food situation in the countries concerned presupposes in the first line that the agricultural sector or rural development will be given the necessary priority in national development plans and that the adequate general agricultural policy conditions will be created. This involves, in particular, national agricultural price policies which will provide the necessary production incentive for the producers and will prevent undesirable developments of consumer behaviour. I refer in particular to paragraphs 21 and 22 of the document.

The application of national development strategies furthermore requires the establishment of efficient and continuously operational technical administration with outposts in the rural areas. The recommendations in the document on this subject-and I refer to paragraphs 23 and 24-that is to say, the improvement of the institutional conditions and human resources, is fully supported by my delegation.

Thirdly, closely connected with this, there is the need to achieve better utilization of available natural resources by suitable national land use planning, and to avoid the destruction of natural production resources by ecologically unadjusted forms of utilization. Paragraph 79 refers to this application, The application of regional strategies concerning the alternative of increasing the utilization intensity, as against the expansion of arable land also requires an improvement of national planning capacities. The need for clearly defined support in this field should be further emphasized.

Fourthly, as stressed in document C 81/22, to increase food production it is necessary to further increase the use of high-yielding varieties of the most important food crops and of fertilizers and also to expand all irrigated areas. More importance should be given to the food crops of traditional importance. The question of giving a greater share of the possibilities and results to the large number of small farmers needs further attention.

Improved efforts in the field of research for the improvement of indigenous food crops such as sorghum, millet and cassava and the promotion of self-help facilities extension as well as special credit aid to improve the efficiency of small farmers, are important complementary measures of an adequate agricultural price policy (see para. 22).

Fifthly, it seems doubtful to what extent the proposed growth rates for the application of fertilizers in developing countries can still be considered to be realistic, taking into account the rapidly increasing shortage of energy. Paragraph 60 mentions this problem. In this connection my delegation believes that it is of particular importance for greater attention to be given than in the past to alternative possibilities for the maintenance or improvement of soil fertility. This includes combined agricultural, livestock and forestry production methods, agricultural mixed crops, the utilization of bio-waste for fertilization and the replacement of animal waste (such as manure) as fuel by plant sources of energy from afforestation.

Sixthly, in connection with the energy shortage and the possibilities existing in agriculture of producing energy from vegetable oils and alcohol, my delegation believes that it is necessary in principle for the production of food to be given the highest priority, in particular in those countries where there is a critical food situation.

N. E. MUMBA (Zambia): My congratulations go to Professor Islam and his supporting staff for the clarity of the documents. However, I will dwell on paragraph 6 of document C 81/22. I wish to identify that which must be done in order to achieve the elimination of hunger in most developing countries.

The first thing which must be done is to increase food production among small-scale farmers. If in fact most of the small-scale farmers produced surplus food, it would be reasonable to assume that they would at least have access to food and the question of malnutrition among them would be a thing of the past. I believe that the appropriate technology for small-scale farmers is very important. If the small-scale farmers are going to play a significant role in food production, then ways must be found to improve their methods of food production. This means that more attention must be paid to extension and the training of extension workers. Proper extension is very important for the success of the small-scale farmers since they lack knowledge.

Agricultural research is one aspect which must receive support. By this I do not mean the importation of workers to come and do research. I mean the strengthening of national research institutes so that they can take care of the relevant problems in a meaningful way.

Cooperation among developing countries is another aspect which must receive increased attention. I believe that the developing countries have a wealth of information amongst them. They must share this information amongst themselves if they hope to achieve the positive results which they want.

I would like to appeal to the developed countries to put their money into programmes for consolidating food production and food security in the developing countries. After all, these are the countries that need the food now.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation est bien d'accord pour remercier M. Islam et ses collaborateurs pour l'excellente présentation du document. Je vais concentrer ma déclaration sur les points que nous pensons de grand intérêt.

Nous estimons que toutes les recommandations faites dans ce document ainsi que dans d'autres qui ont été faites par la FAO sont très utiles, mais nous savons tous aussi que l'augmentation de la production, et par conséquent l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire dans les pays moins avancés, surtout les pays africains, est avant tout de la responsabilité de ces pays et de leurs gouvernements. Nous sommes conscients que nous avons nous-mêmes à résoudre nos problèmes. Dans ce contexte, nous disons que le remède le plus utile si nous voulons construire une pyramide viable, est de commencer à attaquer le problème par la base et non par le sommet. Il faut aussi que les pays développés prennent leurs responsabilités, c'est-à-dire que, parler d'une coopération internationale juste et équitable consiste surtout à appuyer les pays en voie de développement dans l'application de leurs plans (je dis bien de leurs propres plans) de développement conçus dans le cadre des problèmes réels de la population.

Nous avons beaucoup de recettes pour le développement, mais ce qu'il nous faut, ce ne sont pas des recettes mais des moyens pour appliquer ces recettes, des moyens de production pour l'expansion rurale, le développement agricole, la formation des cadres sur le terrain, l'appui aux petits producteurs, etc.

Nous accordons aussi une attention particulière au transfert de la technologie, ainsi qu'aux moyens matériels de production, à la formation des cadres, ainsi qu'à la coopération entre les pays en voie de développement: coopératives régionales et interrégionales, ce qui est le moyen le plus efficace pour résoudre nos problèmes qui nous sont tous communs. Nous croyons aussi que la FAO peut jouer un rôle très important.

En ce qui concerne le document C 81/21, nous nous permettons d'attirer l'attention de la Commission sur deux points qui pour nous sont pertinents: Parlant du développement rural, l'agriculture, l'élimination de la faim, la malnutrition, la réforme agraire doivent être le moyen indispensable pour stimuler la production agricole. C'est pourquoi l'une des grandes batailles que notre pays est en train de livrer consiste à résoudre à court, moyen et long terme les problèmes posés par la réforme agraire. Il convient de tenir compte aussi de la situation concrète qui existe dans chaque pays. Dans ce contexte la FAO doit aussi jouer un rôle très important.

Nous voulons aussi appuyer le contenu de la page 41 du document concernant les problèmes des pays insulaires. Nous pensons que pour éviter la vulnérabilité et l'instabilité économique de ces pays, il faut leur apporter une aide concrète de la part des pays donateurs pour les soutenir dans la création des infrastructures indispensables, sans oublier la pêche dont il convient de parler un peu plus dans ce document car les ressources halieutiques sont très importantes à nos yeux.

P. KANGA (Angola): En intervenant sur ce point, ma délégation ne prétend pas présenter une analyse exhaustive du thème dont nous sommes saisis. Ainsi, ma délégation considère que ce document est très clair et suffisant. Nous tenons à souligner l'importance que la République populaire de l'Angola attache au secteur agricole comme base d'étude économique. A cet égard, nous saluons les efforts accomplis par la FAO pour la recherche de solutions dans l'analyse de la situation alimentaire et agricole mondiale qui nous préoccupe tous. Nous devons prendre comme objectif principal la satisfaction progressive des besoins de plus en plus grands des populations en général. Cette satisfaction des besoins produira à la fois une qualité progressive de vie, étant donné que l'amélioration de la nourriture, de la santé, de l'enseignement, de l'habitation, de l'utilisation des temps libres et d'autres secteurs essentiels à la vie des êtres humains sont des facteurs déterminants.

Nous pensons que la ligne stratégique déterminée par les principes énoncés est pour nous l'une des plus importantes, ainsi que l'organisation des petits producteurs en association plus vaste car ils doivent être les principaux bénéficiaires de l'effort de développement de la campagne.

Comme nous l'avons affirmé, l'organisation des petits pays aux formes de techniques les plus avancées n'est pas facile et ne peut donner une réponse immédiate à court terme. Ainsi, dans une phase initiale, on doit aider directement le petit producteur. Ma délégation aimerait bien mettre en évidence qu'elle considère l'organisation des pays en associations et coopératives comme la seule stratégie permettant de garantir un appui efficace à toutes les formes d'appropriation foncière basée sur la petite propriété. Relativement à tout ce que l'on dit sur la mobilisation des ressources, nous aimerions bien rappeler une fois encore les grandes difficultés que rencontrent un grand nombre de pays pour couvrir avec leurs recettes leurs dépenses courantes.

Ces pays, qui sont au début de leur phase de développement, doivent canaliser leurs recettes au-delà même du domaine social, surtout à l'éducation et à la santé.

Il est vrai que c'est aux pays en développement qu'incombe au premier plan la responsabilité de leur développement. Mais rien ne sera changé si la communauté internationale ne prend pas la responsabilité de garantir aux pays en développement une grande partie des ressources dont ils ont besoin pour une formation effective des moyens de production leur permettant un développement plus élargi de celle-ci.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais attirer l'attention de cette Commission sur les paragraphes 12 et 13. Les stratégies que nous prétendons appliquer dans le système économique international ne pourront s'accomplir sans mener de pair la lutte contre l'impérialisme, le colonialisme, la discrimination raciale, l'apartheid à l'expansionisme et à toutes les formes d'agression et d'occupation étrangère. Tous ces maux constituent un obstacle majeur au progrès économique et en particulier au développement économique. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous demandons la condamnation expresse des pratiques que nous venons d'énoncer. A titre d'exemple, je citerai le régime inhumain de l'Afrique du Sud dont les agissements visent à l'assujettissement de peuples africains, notamment à l'anéantissement des efforts des pays de l'Afrique australe pour son développement agricole en menant des agressions dévastatrices et meurtrières sur leur territoire.

G. IJIGU (Ethiopia): Our intervention will be limited to a brief interpretation of documents C 81/21 and C 81/22- United Nations International Development strategy for the Third Development Decade, and Regional and National Development Strategies, respectively. We will especially stress the need for a reversal of the age-old problem that many a developing country, including my own, has been subjected to and is still suffering from, that is developing countries are expected and urged to achieve increased production through accelerated development without the corollary equity that should be forthcoming from the developed world. Our emphatic recommendation as my Minister already stated in the Plenary last week will concern itself with training, infrastructure and the investment whereby even elementary goals and objectives may be realized.

With this preface I will now turn to documents C 81/21 and C 81/22. My delegation heartily pays tribute to the Secretariat for these very well thought out presentations. Throughout our careful scrutiny of these documents we have noticed the admirable measure of devotion that must have gone into preparing such excellent pieces of work.

Turning to the text of C 81/21 my delegation welcomes the analysis given in the preamble. We appreciate in particular paragraphs 12 and 13 in that they accurately pinpoint the root causes of present-day instability which cater to perennial lags with regard to development of any kind other than the quest for defence.

The analysis encompassed by Part 3, Sections A-0 has our endorsement as far as its innocent broad pointers are concerned. Part 4 also claims our support in principle. Part 2 however forms the basis of our interpretation of the whole document. Paragraphs 20 and 21 speak of the need for developing countries to attain an annual GDP growth rate of 7 percent which would make possible a 4. 5 percent net growth rate assuming an annual population increase of 2. 5 percent. Paragraph 22 recommends that exports and import of goods and services of developing countries should expand at an annual growth rate of 7. 5 percent and 8 percent respectively while Paragraph 23 urges that the acceleration of production will required that gross investment reaches the level of about 28 percent of gross domestic product by 1990. Further on Paragraph 29 tells us that a 9 percent average annual growth rate of manufacturing expansion should be attained by the developing countries as a whole so that they may eventually account for a 25 percent share of world manufacturing output. All these growth targets would have been miraculously good were it not for the lack of equity in present day international economic relations. Consider for instance what happens when a developing nation including my own goes to the market place to buy a tractor or a lorry-commodities which are essential for mechanized agricultural activities. Let us say my country has to pay 10 tons of coffee for either of the two inputs this year. Next year the same commodity will cost much more than 10 tons of coffee. Conversely the price our coffee can fetch in reality either stagnates or progressively declines. In other words whereas developing countries are forced to incur progressively increasing costs for their imports from developed countries, prices paid for the exports of developing countries to developed countries are managing to stay depressed. Here lies the lack of equity that we are talking about. In this context the delegation of Socialist Ethiopia would appreciate being enlightened by the Secretariat as to the advantages of developing countries expanding exports at an annual rate of 7. 5 percent while expanding imports at 8 percent as recommended by Paragraph 22. The growth differential of 0. 5 percent per annum in favour of imports over exports by developing countries is the

factor which we need to understand clearly and precisely. Document C 81/22 also stands to our satisfaction in general. Yet we call for the same reversal of unfair economic relations between developed and developing countries if the pointers expounded in the document with regard to regional and national development strategies are to come to fruition.

Our particular emphasis falls on Part 3, Paragraphs 96 to 108. Socialist Ethiopia has totally behind her the sensitive question of land redistribution. Consequently we no longer talk about landless labourers, we talk of cooperatives that have mushroomed over the whole country for the last almost six years. The inputs that the document recommends, including fertilizers, are much in demand but for the prohibitive costs involved in their procurement. So if given a fair chance and if international equity were to be attained, there is no reason why the envisaged increases in production of food and other agricultural items should not be achieved, at least approximately, within this development decade by an overwhelming majority of developing countries. At any rate, my country has embarked in earnest upon rural development, fully convinced that there lies the key to any security of future supplies of food.

Finally, I would like to restate here two short passages from the statement my Minister made in the Plenary, which are relevant to the present review. The first one reads, in part:

". . . Our strategy for rural development, therefore, consists of land reform, mass participation and mutual cooperation with all countries, developed or otherwise".

The second is one of four proposals to the Conference:

"We strongly urge the Conference to adopt a resolution which would enable WCARRD follow-up work to include adequate measures for the realization of a trained manpower base and/or the creation of at least some critical infrastructures especially in low-income, food-deficit countries so that tangible results may be obtained in such countries quicker. "

The meeting rose at 12. 35 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 35.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 35 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 81/I/PV/10

Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION

(17 November 1981)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 15. 00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Comission I, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 15 heuresr sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la décima sesión a las 15. 00 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. World Food and Agricultural Development Strategy, including :
- 7. Stratégie mondiale de développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment:
- 7. Estrategia mundial para el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular :
- 7. 1 UNInternational Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade (continued)
- 7. 1 Stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement(suite)
- 7. 1 Estrategia internacional de desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (continuación)
- 7. 2 Regional and National Development Strategies (continued)
- 7. 2 Stratégies-de développement régionales et nationales (suited)
- 7. 2 Estrategias regionales y nacionales de desarrollo (continuación)

P. M. AMUKOA (Kenya):The developing countries have employed various strategies to achieve their objectives, among which is the building of coalitions among and between themselves. Such coalitions have covered commodities, regions, or most of the Third World. These strategies have demonstrated that the developing countries are not quite as helpless as generally imagined. However, these coalitions have been insufficiently reliable and effective in answering all of the priority needs of many developing countries. Moreover, while these coalitions have been useful in concerting intra Third World policies, in dramatizing disadvantages and in directing generalized demands in the north, they have been ineffectual in securing the implementation of innovations even when such innovations have been painfully wrenched from the north as, for example, the General System of Preferences. This is where the United Nations comes in with its International Development Strategy.

The United Nations Development Strategy is necessary in order for the world to develop in an integrated manner and without harmful distortions that can be avoided. It is necessary because many of the assumptions, policies and institutions that have characterized international relations in the past are not only inadequate for the demands of today and those of the foreseeable future, they have also been discredited, being based on national industry or group interests. There had even been a natural inclination by certain privileged groups to perpetuate this unjustified position.

The effectiveness of governments even, or perhaps particularly, those of developed countries in implementing certain actions depends to a large extent on the effect of such actions on certain powerful groups within their borders. The doctrine of laissez-faire somewhat confirms this.

The UN Development Strategy is a tool for countries, developed and developing, which consolidate their sovereignty and control over use of their resources. Countries have a duty to their governments to allocate resources equitably within their borders and, in tandem with others, to ensure equality throughout the world so that existing and new wealth is of benefit to all.

The 1980's have started by being economically messy and disorderly and cannot be expected to improve without the concerted efforts of the international community. People will become more complex as man interferes in matters he does not fully understand. It will be necessary for the international community to understand fully the underlying problems besetting the developing countries. The implications of mutual interdependence must be looked at squarely and appreciated. There is a popular misconception that the sort of programmes that are discussed in these chambers benefit only the developing countries and at a net loss to all developed countries. My delegation submits that such a contention would be erroneous, even dishonest. The position is that while developing countries benefit from these programmes-and in fact that is the intention-the implementation of such programmes, by necessity, does a lot of net good to many developed countries. In fact the net benefit in certain cases is greater for developed than for developing countries, which are the official beneficiaries.

In view of the task before us, arguments within these walls for a massive reduction in expenditure in the FAO budget, in our view, would be irrelevant.

It is sad to note that none of the targets set for any of the UN Development Decades have ever been reached. Even now, judging by the statements one hears, the prospects for the Third Development Decade can only be described as bleak. This is no good. What we need is not a reduction in resources but a massive increase.

It is indeed in this spirit that my delegation fully supports and endorses the goals and objectives of the UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade and calls upon member nations to implement the policy measures on international trade, industrialization, food and agriculture, financial resources for development, International Monetary and financial assistance, technical cooperation, science and technology for development, energy and transport, economic and technical cooperation between developing countries, special category countries, environment, human settlements, disaster relief and social development.

We in Kenya, and indeed in East Africa, feel that strategies are relevant because with limited resources and time, against the background of an increasing population, it is essential for us to achieve the maximum benefit from our endeavours.

On the question of increasing food production, we need to select the crop and animal species we wish to produce and the appropriate production methods. We need to develop the infrastructural base, an adequate research programme, livestock management systems for the best utilization of lands and animal species, a clear inputs policy related to the chosen production method, including irrigation, a fisheries programme complementary to agricultural production, an overall production system that will conserve national resources and also allow for the planting of trees for fuel wood and substitute fuel. Our own commission for Soil conservation and Afforestation was formed to do this.

We are familiar with the special problems of small-scale farmers who are the majority in Kenya. The growing farm pattern, small-scale and large-scale, is a relic of recent history. In our experience, however, smallholding agriculture can be relied upon to produce some food for people because the producers themselves are the consumers. A smallholding raises the income of the smallholder because no worker on a large-scale farm or a plantation could hope to reach the potential earning level of a smallholder with an average holding. A major drawback to the small-holding situation is the predominance of hand labour and the resulting modest incomes which make small-holder farming not an exciting prospect for the youth of today. However, the cooperative movement offers a chance for improved productivity through input supply and management and marketing facilities.

It is clear from the foregoing that for us the choice is clear. Rural development involves the development of people either individually or through the institutions, and in spite of the difficulties surrounding the management of smallholder production, our experience with tea, coffee, sugar, maize, cotton, dairy produce, and even hogs, to mention a few obvious cases, shows quite clearly that suitable institutional arrangements can be set up to take care of smallholder problems. There is also a strong and urgent need to invest heavily in research to develop indigenous technology geared deliberately towards a solution of our special problems. Unfortunately, and for many years, it has been the conventional wisdom that we can always adopt practices developed elsewhere. What has happened is that we have been trying to bend problems to suit irrelevant solutions.

Now a specific reference to livestock development in Africa. We would like to emphasize the tick control problem. This has already been mentioned by the delegate of Tanzania. It is a great problem in East Africa and we ask FAO to help us in our efforts to solve it. The livestock industry in Africa is threatened by diseases. Specific reference should be made to the eradication of rinder pest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. In this connexion also we would like to thank FAO for its initiative in organizing, in collaboration with the OAU and the OIE, the recently concluded consultative meeting on the eradication of these two diseases. This meeting was in Nairobi. This is also a programme in which a major FAO effort is required.

Lastly, in a region of countries covering small geographical areas with a hard and tyrannical environment, the need for collaboration in food security and trade is obvious.

A. PAPASSARANTOPOULOS (Greece): The Greek delegation fully appreciates the active contribution of the FAO Secretariat to the preparation of the United Nations International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade. It also recognizes the urgent necessity of having such an integral strategy to guide governments in their continuing effort towards establishing a new international economic order based on justice and equity. We are persuaded that the achievement of the goals and objectives set out could lead the international community to a sustained global economic development and to a significant improvement in the living conditions of all.

We consider the necessary average annual rate of growth of gross domestic product for the developing countries of 7 percent to be high and therefore difficult to achieve, especially by the low-income developing countries. This is the reason that special effort must be made by all countries during the

decade which has already started to achieve this target. The international trade issues must be solved, to secure efficiently a rapid expansion and diversification of the developing countries exports. The need for higher investments, as well as for greater capital goods imports makes urgent the full mobilization of the domestic financial resources in real terms. The international monetary system must be improved to facilitate developing countries to face successfully their balance of payment difficulties. The rate of inflation should be substantially reduced to induce an accelerated development of the developing countries.

As far as agricultural production in developing countries is concerned our delegation considers, too, that it is quite difficult to achieve the average annual rate of at least 4 percent unless all developing countries choose the goals and objectives of the strategy and adopt the appropriate policy measures more suitable to each country. To this end FAO programmes and activities in general could provide a decisive assistance and could help developing countries to overcome their great bottlenecks impeding the expansion of food production and agricultural development in general.

In all developing countries it is necessary to plan the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, and their agricultural development in general. FAO actions to this end must be strengthened to give more help to the countries concerned. Investment in agriculture must also increase at a rate much higher than 8 or 9 percent. In our opinion land reform itself could be proved the cornerstone measure towards reaching an adequate level of self-reliance in basic foodstuffs for many developing countries. The efforts made by developing countries to increase food production have already started to give good results. Nevertheless we are far away from covering our needs. To this end efforts must be strengthened for exhausting the possibilities of food production in each country. The situation in lesser developed countries remains critical. These countries must be assisted more to obtain the necessary basic inputs needed for increasing food production to secure the adequate cheap investment resources for building their infrastructure and to organize a suitable and effective extension, skilling and information service.

The effort towards collective self-reliance of developing countries is an encouraging element of great importance for a more effective approach to the problem at regional level. The common efforts to increase food production for securing mutual food aid, to coordinate the national food reserves and to create collective food security stocks could ensure a more effective and economic solution to the food security problem at regional level.

Our delegation is going to strengthen its efforts within the FAO framework to support developing countries to increase their food production and eliminate hunger.

Sra. E. MUÑOZ (Cuba): Señor Presidente, muchas veces en diferentes reuniones hemos comentado que la nueva estrategia internacional del desarrollo tiene como meta fundamental fomentar el desarrollo económico de los países en desarrollo, con objeto de reducir las grandes diferencias actualmente existentes entre los países desarrollados y los países en desarrollo y lograr la pronta eliminación de la pobreza y la dependencia, para contribuir así a solucionar los problemas económicos internacionales y lograr también un desarrollo mundial sostenido.

En el propio preámbulo del documento C 81/21, que analizamos, se plantea que la estrategia internacional del desarrollo es una vasta empresa que abarca a toda la comunidad internacional, destinada a fomentar la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo.

La estrategia internacional para el tercer decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo ha sido concebida como parte de los esfuerzos permanentes de la comunidad internacional para acelerar el desarrollo de los países en desarrollo y establecer un nuevo orden económico internacional. En realidad, la estrategia internacional para el tercer decenio es una continuidad de las metas y objetivos que no se alcanzaron en el segundo decenio, siendo iguales las metas fundamentales. Ese fracaso no se debió a la actitud de los países en desarrollo.

Durante el largo proceso sobre la nueva estrategia internacional para el desarrollo y en la preparación y negociación global, los países subdesarrollados desempeñaron un papel muy positivo. No hubo tema de discusión en el que el grupo de los 77 no efectuara los mayores esfuerzos para lograr los acuerdos razonables. No hubo negativa frente a la cual no expusieran nuevas fórmulas. No hubo oposición, sin ceder en su ritmo. Podemos asegurar que la actitud constructiva mantenida por los países subdesarrollados en la etapa de discusiones previas a la XI Asamblea General extraordinaria y el interés que prestan esos países en la actualidad al cumplimiento de la estrategia aprobada, es muestra palmaria de la profundidad y seriedad con que abordan estos importantes problemas.

En realidad, no puede ser de otra manera, señor Presidente. Están en juego nuestro propio desarrollo e incluso nuestra propia supervivencia. Nuestros países no han promovido este diálogo ni la aprobación de la tercera estrategia con el objetivo de lograr pequeñas ventajas de carácter coyuntural, ni para escuchar promesas de progreso por quienes pretenden erigirse en supuestos salvadores del mundo, y miden nuestro avance con la posibilidad de ofrecer materias primas seguras y baratas.

Señor Presidente, en la sesión celebrada el 5 de diciembre de 1980 la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas aprobó el texto que hoy tenemos en el documento C 81/21, que contiene la estrategia internacional para el desarrollo en el tercer decenio.

Nos permitimos llamar la atención de los colegas presentes en esta Comisión acerca de la segunda parte referente a las metas y objetivos y muy especialmente a los párrafos 19 al 28, donde se plantean importantes metas, algunas de carácter histórico, relacionadas con los aspectos más importantes que son objeto de análisis en esta Organización y que se refieren a la lucha tenaz contra el hambre, la desnutrición y la pobreza.

Como señala el resumen del documento C 81/21, las secciones sobre Alimentación y Agricultura (párrafos 85 al 91) son de especial interés para la FAO. Sin embargo, nuestra delegación está convencida de que el carácter integral del desarrollo a que aspiramos impone también la consideración integral y centralizada de los problemas relacionados con las materias primas, la energía, el comercio, el desarrollo y los asuntos financieros y monetarios.

La tarea fundamental radica en, teniendo en cuenta todos esos aspectos, materializar la cooperación en programas concretos que satisfagan las más variadas necesidades e intereses. Sin embargo, la delegación de Cuba quisiera hacer énfasis en el párrafo 81 donde se plantea que "el desarrollo rural y agropecuario y la eliminación del hambre y la malnutrición figuran entre los objetivos fundamentales del tercer decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo.

De ahí que consideremos de suma importancia también el contenido del párrafo 82 referente a la toma de medidas adecuadas sobre una base prioritaria para aplicar las conclusiones y recomendaciones enunciadas en la Declaración de Principios y el Programa de Acción aprobados por la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

No quisiera pasar por alto la importancia del párrafo 39 que se refiere a la relación entre el desarme y el desarrollo, y al cual ya han aludido otros delegados.

Estimamos que los recursos liberados como resultado de la aplicación de medidas de desarme debieran destinarse al desarrollo económico, pero desafortunadamente algunos países ricos persisten en incrementar sus presupuestos de armamentos y disminuir su contribución a organizaciones como la FAO, cuya acción está destinada a la eliminación del hambre en el mundo y al desarrollo en general.

Es muy importante, Sr. Presidente, que la FAO siga teniendo en consideración en sus reuniones principales como son el Consejo y la Conferencia el tema de la estrategia para el tercer decenio y esperamos que en futuras reuniones, especialmente las más próximas que se realizarán en 1984, la Secretaría nos brinde no solamente el texto de la estrategia, sino también sus opiniones en cuanto a logros o fracasos en la aplicación de la misma, así como las causas de los logros o fracasos.

En cuanto al examen del tema C 81/22, nos permitimos señalar, en primer lugar, nuestro acuerdo con el enfoque general del mismo, ya que refleja en forma breve una relación de problemas básicos regionales a abordar o mantener en el Tercer Decenio, como parte de la Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo.

Nuestra delegación sólo va a referirse a algunos aspectos concretos. Los párrafos 4 y 5 de la introducción deben mencionar de forma más explícita los modelos institucionales que se sugieren, y las variantes desarrolladas más adelante en los párrafos 119 al 121, especialmente el 121, que alude a la redistribución de las tierras en beneficio de los agricultores pobres y de los trabajadores sin tierras. Estos propósitos concuerdan con las medidas adoptadas en la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria en 1979 y con las medidas complementarias que han sido objeto de posteriores análisis.

Al abordar el problema de la agricultura campesina en América Latina, y también en las restantes regiones apoyamos las propuestas recogidas en el documento respecto a cambios en la explotación y distribución de las tierras, pasando de formas individuales a formas colectivas.

Reiteramos nuestro apoyo a la opción recogida en el párrafo 121, sin desviar el interés que puede tener el apoyo de las políticas nacionales al actual sector campesino pobre y medio, y descartando totalmente la opción de soluciones que como se mencionan constituyen "la vía más fácil" y que supone continuar los modelos de cultivo del pasado.

En cuanto al fomento de la ganadería en América Latina-párrafos 50 y 51 -, queremos señalar que en el desarrollo de la ganadería vacuna, nuestro país ha realizado grandes esfuerzos para lograr genéticamente animales adaptados a las condiciones tropicales y propiciar a la vez la línea de producción lechera como vía de obtención de proteína animal. Con la raza obtenida ya tenemos resultados de productividad animal muy satisfactorios.

En cuanto al desarrollo de la producción porcina, creemos necesario recoger en el documento el problema que se plantea a los países en desarrollo con respecto a la alimentación, ya que requiere crear una infraestructura capaz de aprovechar los residuos alimenticios, incluido su transporte. Todo ello como solución más viable aun a la que representa la alimentación con otras materias, generalmente importadas o que gravitan sobre el consumo humano, de por sí limitadas.

Sobre la política global de fertilizantes, apoyamos los aspectos propuestos y quisiéramos resaltar el párrafo 67-a), que se refiere al fomento de la construcción de fábricas en los países en desarrollo, así como a la necesidad de continuar desarrollando la creación de Empresas multinacionales, como en el caso de MULTIPERT, en América Latina, empresa que ha dado favorables resultados en la comercialización de fertilizantes.

Apoyamos también los aspectos enunciados respecto a la erosión de los suelos y medidas para evitarla, y también nos sumamos a las medidas para reducir la salinidad de las aguas.

Esta problemática puede llevar en determinadas regiones o zonas a sugerir la eliminación total de la explotación de las aguas freáticas y a la creación de fuentes superficiales, lo cual conlleva a inversiones iniciales costosas y a la necesidad de crear sistemas colectivos de utilización del riego.

Señor Presidente, nuestra delegación está de acuerdo con los planteamientos que se recogen en el párrafo 92 y que se refieren a la pérdida de recursos genéticos como uno de los problemas más importantes que atañen a la agricultura moderna. Sin embargo, sugerimos la necesidad de que se propongan por parte de la Secretaría medidas concretas para afrontar este problema.

A nuestro entender, la creación de un Banco de Germoplasma, propuesto por México y apoyado por otras delegaciones en la Comisión II, podría ser de gran ayuda, entre otras medidas.

En cuanto al desarrollo de la tecnología, nuestra delegación apoya los planteamientos hechos por la Secretaría especialmente en los párrafos 138 y 139, sobre la creación de sedes interregionales de investigación que se ocupen de problemas concretos y se evite la creación de nuevos centros inter nacionales para el mismo fin.

Apoyamos asimismo todos los esfuerzos realizados a través de la Cooperación técnica entre Países en Desarrollo, ya sea en el plano regional como en el interregional.

Por lo que respecta a la seguridad alimenticia, nuestra delegación ha dado mucha importancia al estudio de este tema, tanto en las conferencias y consejos de la FAO como en el propio Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Respecto a los avances en este aspecto en la región latinoamericana, el SELA recomendó a sus 26 países miembros el establecimiento de un sistema de seguridad alimentaria que a partir de 1982 emprendiera acciones concretas que garanticen el suministro de alimentos básicos en la región.

El Sistema acordó crear un Comité de Acción sobre Seguridad Alimenticia que se encargue de instrumentar mecanismos que tiendan a garantizar el suministro, adecuado y suficiente, de alimentos a los países del continente, debiendo evitar la duplicidad de objetivos con otros Comités ya existentes, pero vinculándose con otros organismos internacionales que traten el problema de los alimentos, como la FAO, a fin de lograr una mejor actuación en esta importante tarea.

Para finalizar, Sr. Presidente, nuestra delegación quisiera expresar su preocupación sobre la participación de América Latina en la distribución de asignaciones externas para Proyectos de Campo de la FAO ya que, en el bienio 80-81 disminuyó de un 15 a un 11 por ciento comparado con el bienio 78-79.

Ello, Sr. Presidente, no significa en lo absoluto, negar nuestro reconocimiento a la prioridad asignada a los países de Asia y Africa, con los cuales ratificamos nuestra plena solidaridad.

Ms R. TIRONA (Philippines): On behalf of the Philippine delegation I wish to commend you, Mr. Chairman, on your efficient handling of the meetings of the Commission, which has contributed to meaningful deliberations in those meetings. Under your leadership my delegation is confident that the Commission will be able to accomplish its task well. I also wish to congratulate the Secretariat on its hard work in providing the documents for this meeting. These documents have provided useful background to the work of the Commission.

Before I make a few specific comments on agenda item 7, please allow me to offer some general observations which my delegation believes are pertinent to the item under discussion.

First, the Philippine delegation supports the need for national efforts as the key to the implementation of regional and international plans and development programmes. Secondly, the Philippines recognizes the practicability of regional action and the strengthening of relations among developing Countries themselves. Thirdly, donor countries as well as international organizations should be prepared to contribute to national, regional and international development goals, given the reality of an inter-dependent world. This three-pronged approach is vital to infusing flesh and blood, so to speak, into the existing framework of international cooperation for development.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Secretariat has suggested that document C 81/21 is only for the information of this body, it is perhaps not out of order for my delegation to comment on the relevant paragraphs of the United Nations General Assembly resolution and perhaps to enjoin my colleagues to agree on the early implementation of the recommendations contained in these paragraphs within the FAO framework.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais vous arrêter pour vous rappeler ce que j'ai dit ce matin. Le document qui nous est soumis, C 81/21, n'est pas soumis à notre Commission pour information. Il est soumis à notre Commission pour discussion. Donc, il vous appartient de faire tous les commentaires nécessaires à ce sujet.

Ms R. TIRONA (Philippines): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may proceed, consistent with paragraph 28 of the resolution, the mention of the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in paragraph 81 should precede the mention of agricultural and rural development. It is the considered view of my delegation that the elimination of hunger and malnutrition is an essential objective of world food security and that agricultural and rural development are but instruments to achieve the foregoing goals.

The Philippines would also wish to see the effective implementation of paragraph 83 of the resolution, which states that donor countries and international financial institutions shall take all possible steps to increase the flow of financial resources to the developing countries.

On paragraph 86, the Philippines hope that, pending the conclusion of an international grain agreement, the Five-Point Plan of Action on Food Security of the United Nations should be carried out by FAO countries as a matter of national and international concern and not necessarily on a voluntary basis.

The Philippines, further, supports the target for an increase of at least 4 percent per year in food production in developing countries. Towards that goal, and for the purpose of sustaining the initial progress made in this direction by some developing countries, highest priority should continue to be assigned in national food security programmes to food production. It is also important that development assistance from developed countries and international institutions be increased to support these efforts.

As an integral part of the international Development Decade the Philippines has consistently demonstrated its preparedness, as well as its ability, to participate in the establishment of food security schemes at the regional level, including joint efforts and mutual assistance during food emergencies, such as in ASEAN.

The collective self-reliance of developing countries is central to the issue of food security and merits the full support of international organizations and developed countries. The Philippines recognises the important contribution that ECDC and TCDC are making in this regard.

The Philippines welcomes the decision taken by the International Monetary Fund in May 1981 to extend assistance to member countries encountering balance of payments difficulties as a result of the rise

of the cost in imports. However, it would be necessary for the resources allocated and the terms of access to raise resources to be more compatible with the needs of the importing countries.

The Philippines supports the UN International Development Strategy, particularly the urgent consideration which is required to revise the 10 million ton food aid target, as well as to increase the size of the International Emergency Food Reserve.

In concurring with the view that food as a basic human need should not be exploited as a political weapon, the Philippines takes note of the agreement reached at the International Meeting on Development in Cancún, that food trade should be liberalized. The Philippines agrees that a balanced expansion of agricultural trade should be made an important component of food security and that trade barriers against agricultural commodities, especially those of export interest to developing countries, should be reduced if not totally eliminated.

The Philippines looks forward to the early enforcement of the Common Fund agreement as a mechanism of stabilizing commodity prices.

We also attach great significance to integrating rural development, including the establishment and strengthening of existing agro-industrial complexes, modernization of agriculture, and mobilization of women in all stages of production processes in order to ensure increased production of food and other agricultural products, as well as the employment of the rural population.

Some delegations have already mentioned the linkage between disarmament and development, and the Philippines would like to support their views. In this regard we would like to suggest that monitoring of military budgets be undertaken, with a view to redeployment of military resources for development purposes.

It is the hope of my delegation that the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade will represent a more concrete and positive improvement in terms of implementation, compared with the previous strategy.

T. SAID (Maroc) (langue originale arabe): La délégation du Royaume du Maroc voudrait exprimer ses remerciements au Secrétariat de la Conférence pour ce document très important et très intéressant qu'il nous a présenté, afin d'examiner le point 7 de l'ordre du jour. Notre délégation voudrait également exprimer son approbation quant aux analyses qui nous ont été présentées dans le point 4 particulièrement, relatif à la coopération économique et technique entre pays en voie de développement. Nous estimons également que la mise en application et le renforcement constituent l'un des volets importants qui permettent aux pays en développement de dépasser les autres difficultés que connaît le développement du secteur agricole et alimentaire. Parmi les instruments et les moyens importants pour y parvenir, la libéralisation du commerce et des échanges entre ces pays, en particulier si nous pouvons dépasser les obstacles qui entravent la facilité, est la libéralisation de ces échanges en particulier lorsque l'on prend en considération les problèmes des transports dans les pays en voie de développement et la nécessité de trouver le système pour garantir les marchandises échangées et autres. De même, nous estimons que parmi les moyens qui nous permettent de parvenir à cet objectif, il existe le développement et le transfert des techniques entre ces pays car la technologie acquise dans ces pays est plus conforme à leur réalité et on devrait lui accorder la priorité contrairement à la technologie importée des pays industrialisés qui, dans la plupart des cas, n'est pas adaptée à notre situation. Néanmoins, bien que nous soyons d'accord quant à la nécessité de renforcer la coopération entre pays en développement, nous estimons que le moyen essentiel pour parvenir à ce développement est l'effort national déployé par chacun de nos pays, à condition que cet effort soit bien organisé et à condition que les objectifs et les moyens soient délimités.

Permettez-moi à cet égard de faire certaines remarques brèves quant aux efforts déployés par notre pays dans le cadre de cet effort national et dans le cadre des deux points cités par le document, le point II l'augmentation de la production alimentaire et les problèmes relatifs aux petits exploitants.

En ce qui concerne l'augmentation de la production alimentaire, notre pays s'est fixé comme objectif de parvenir dans un délai raisonnable à la réalisation de l'autosuffisance : des produits alimentaires de base, à savoir le blé, les viandes, les huiles, le sucre et les produits laitiers. Conformément à cet objectif, nous avons suivi une voie bien précise: nous avons élaboré des programmes intégrés complémentaires des programmes régionaux qui intéressent chaque secteur à part, Je ne vais pas ici vous donner le détail de ces programmes étant donné leur importance et compte tenu du temps limité qui m'est imparti. Cependant, j'aimerais apporter quelques éclaircissements brefs en ce qui concerne les secteurs importants.

Pour ce qui est des céréales, notre programme vise à oeuvrer sur deux plans: primo, étendre les superficies plantées de blé ou d'orge pour répondre à la nécessité de produire des céréales. Nous essayons d'augmenter ces superficies dans les zones irriguées afin de parvenir à un rendement élevé de la production. Ceci est à nos yeux une révolution importante dans notre politique agricole car les paysans ont eu pour coutume de planter des céréales dans des zones non irriguées uniquement.

La deuxième partie de ce programme consiste à intensifier la production et à augmenter l'utilisation des intrants en mettant en application des programmes de développement intégrés. Nous avons été obligés de mettre en application ces programmes de développement intégrés pour faire face à deux obstacles considérés comme les obstacles les plus importants pour nous. En premier lieu, le régime foncier car dans le cadre de ces programmes nous essayons d'améliorer le régime foncier et de lutter contre le morcellement des terres en créant des collectivités pouvant les exploiter de façon rationnelle. En deuxième lieu, nous essayons de fournir les intrants économiques, sociaux, techniques, nécessaires dans les régions rurales pour que les exploitants agricoles demeurent sur leurs terres. Voilà en ce qui concerne les programmes de céréales.

Si l'on passe à un autre point d'importance stratégique, à savoir le sucre, nous oeuvrons dans le cadre d'un programme intégré qui commence par la production de la betterave à sucre, de la canne à sucre et passe aussi par la mécanisation de cette production et enfin par la commercialisation. Dans le cadre de ce programme, nous avons essayé de couvrir une part importante de nos besoins en sucre en l'espace de dix-huit ans. Jusqu'à présent nous sommes parvenus à couvrir 6 pour cent de nos besoins comparés à 4 pour cent en 1960, l'année où nous avons commencé à produire du sucre au niveau national.

En ce qui concerne le développement de la production animale, notre programme national repose sur quatre éléments essentiels: l'amélioration des pâturages naturels, le développement des fourrages, en particulier dans les zones irriguées, la santé animale ou la zootechnie de l'élevage et l'organisation des éleveurs dans le cadre des coopératives, en garantissant des prix rémunérateurs à ces producteurs. Voilà de façon générale les caractéristiques adoptées par notre gouvernement afin de parvenir à une augmentation de la production alimentaire.

Il reste encore un point auquel je voudrais me référer, relatif aux efforts déployés pour s'occuper des petites exploitations; nous essayons de faire face à ces difficultés par le truchement de nombreux programmes qui visent à fournir les instruments techniques à ces petites exploitations, car leur moyens matériels ne leur permettent pas d'acquérir ces machines que nous mettons à leur disposition. Nous essayons également d'étendre le crédit agricole et de le renforcer dans le cadre d'un crédit à moyen et à long terme pour les petits exploitants, en donnant la priorité aux paysans qui travaillent dans le cadre de coopératives de production ou de consommation.

Nous essayons de même d'étendre le réseau des services, relatifs aux engrais et aux semences améliorées, et par la réforme agraire nous essayons d'étendre les superficies couvertes en répartissant les terres aux petits exploitants.

Voilà les grandes lignes du programme que nous mettons en application au Maroc afin d'atteindre cet objectif.

Il me reste encore un dernier point que beaucoup de délégations ont déjà abordé: nous estimons qu'on ne peut parler du développement agricole ou de développement du secteur alimentaire en le séparant des autres secteurs. C'est pour cela que j'ai voulu mettre l'accent sur le concept intégré et global de toutes nos opérations, que ce soit dans le domaine de la production agricole ou alimentaire, ou dans les autres domaines car le développement du secteur agricole ne pourrait être réalisé qu'en garantissant le développement harmonisé des autres secteurs qui fournissent les intrants de ce secteur agricole ou ceux qui sont utilisés dans la production.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I would like to make a few brief comments and remarks regarding the document C 81/22 prepared by the Secretariat, a paper called The Regional and National Development Strategies which gives an excellent view of the key elements of the world food and agricultural strategy in the most comprehensive and systematic way. I would say that such a document we have got for the first time in the history of FAO and the agricultural economy.

This is the result of the significant contributions which were made by the participation and the deliberation of the United Nations General Assembly to the formulation of the new international development strategy. For that reason the food and agricultural section of the international development strategy reflects the results of those efforts and is much more extensive than it was in the second development decade strategy. It includes all the concerns and worries of member nations in

the field of food and agriculture which have been adopted in FAO for years. We are particularly gratified to have read the note distributed for our information only, by the Director-General on the elements of global food programmes. It is an extremely good document and indeed brings together the major elements of the programme to make a frontal attack on hunger and poverty. It will certainly be greatly helpful to the member nations in formulating their own approaches when the negotiations are under way.

It will receive the most serious attention from our specialists at home. We would like also to mention that the paper on regional and national development strategy also forecasts very important issues which will be useful when at the national and regional level, these major issues can be implemented by individual nations or through regional cooperation arrangements. In view of what we have seen, all these documents and the contributions of FAO in the formulation of food and agricultural development strategy we hope, as and when the global negotiations are underway, FAO will have a role to play. Hopefully as and when the procedures are decided, the technical discussions and the issues on food and agriculture, will be held at FAO-the United Nations specialized agency for food and agriculture- with its large body of specialists and experts of various areas, as well as its various committees and councils where the member countries are present with their experts.

Having said that, I should add a few remarks concerning the agricultural development strategy for developing countries. This is a discussion, as all papers have shown; which is going to be the main battlefield in the 80s. The goal is a very ambitious one. We ought to say that to reach the seven per cent rate of growth of GNP in the decade before us is a heavy task for the international community and especially for those countries. We did not have a good start at the beginning. According to the recent UNDP report the real growth national product growth in the third world countries excluding the traditional oil exporters is estimated to have barely exceeded four per cent in 1980 compared with the early average of about five per cent in the period 1976 to 1979. Even this four per cent average is somehow misleading. According to GATT only three of them, Brazil, India and Mexico account for a total of forty per cent of the group's total of entry of GNP. In 1980 each of them enjoyed for differing reasons a relatively fast economic expansion. In all other third world countries GNP growth was nearly halved to some three per cent only. This implies only a marginal rise in per capita terms. In 1981 this situation is quite likely going to be worse. In 1982 we cannot see any hopeful sign, so if there is going to be an improvement, only in 1983 we might have one. In that respect the world is losing the initial impetus so badly needed for the developing economies of the developing world.

My delegation firmly believes that if the conditions of this agricultural growth are met the developing countries might obtain a desirable level of agricultural growth in the decade ahead. In that respect I am especially accentuating paragraph 83 of the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade. I would like to quote this paragraph 83 as the distinguished delegate of the Philippines did. It says:

"In support of measures in developing countries to increase substantially investments in agriculture, donor countries and international financial institutions will take all possible steps to increase the flow of financial resources to the developing countries. "

We were discussing yesterday fulfillment of these recommendations. We have seen (in the document 81/24 page 35 of the English edition), that at the moment the donor countries are giving only slightly above fifty percent of the aim which was a decision of the Conference on Food and Agriculture in 1974 in Rome, which was agreed upon later in the North South dialogue in Paris, and which was a recommendation of the World Food Council brought in Manila Resolution in 1977,

The second sentence of paragraph 83 says: "The resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development should be replenished on a continuing basis at a level sufficient to attain its objectives as and when recommended by its Governing Council, taking into consideration the increasing needs of enveloping countries for external resources, with consultations relating to the first replenishment to be concluded, on a priority basis, before the end of 1980. "

Now, we are at the end of 1981 and still no replenishments is in sight. You see we are in a world which is full of contradictions. In this world, we were able to find 500 billion dollars for armaments but we could not find one billion dollars for an International Fund for Agricultural Development. We could not find an additional 5 billion dollars for the development of agriculture in developing countries and everybody is claiming that food in developing countries is the most important task for all of us. Why is there such a discrepancy between the words and deeds? It seems that the selfish interests are sometimes weighed before the well-being of the mankind, should we allow that in Commission I, or in other international communities, or bodies.

It is difficult for one delegation to answer on that with yes or no. My delegation is considering to submit to this Commission an appeal by which we would ask all the Donor countries and all those who are replenishing the fund for international agricultural development, to do that before the end of 1981. Is this appeal going to be thrown into the paper bag of unfulfilled promises? It depends upon us being the delegates at those international meetings, let's hope that this appeal would not follow the history of many others.

In discussing the international development strategy, I would like to mention that we could probably mention that there are the areas where probably greater prominence would have been given to agriculture such as sections on energy, technology, science and technology, trade and transfers of resources and by that we might demonstrate how inter-related the various sectors of the world economy are and how they are mutually reinforcing, and how the agricultural sector holds the key to development in the poor countries. Secondly, since the formulation of the international development strategy, as well as concurrently with it, there have been specialised conferences at international level, which, while often dealing with the overall social economic problems have also elaborated specific aspects of food and agriculture. To illustrate such conferences as the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and a Conference on New and Renewable Resources of Energy, not to mention earlier conferences such as the World Agricultural Reform Conference. Food and agriculture has received all those conferences' close attention, and various recommendations can be made relating to the policy measures and objectives and goals and therefore all elements of food and agricultural strategy.

We might say that all those should be incorporated in our agricultural strategy. But there is no need for further discussion and deliberations on goals or objectives, on policy measures or programmes of action. What is needed is their implementation to translate the consensus on what is considered desirable into practical decisions to do what needs to be done.

We must now concentrate on the implementation of specific aspects which have already been agreed upon. We must not spend time on further strategic formulation. What we need is national and international action. This is the logic of global negotiations on which the world is pinning so much hope. And we do sincerely hope that FAO will concentrate all its efforts on these negotiations and make them effective.

J. -N. MENARD (France): Je voudrais remercier M. N. Islam pour l'introduction qu'il nous a faite de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Ce point que nous discutons nous ramène encore au coeur du problème fondamental auquel sont confrontés notre Organisation et ses Etats Membres. L'objectif essentiel de la Stratégie internationale pour la troisième Décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement n'est-il pas en effet, en ce qui concerne l'agriculture et le développement rural, de parvenir à une sécurité alimentaire effective pour l'ensemble de l'humanité ?

Le texte adopté à New York sous le titre "Alimentation et agriculture" pose d'emblée le principe de recherche de l'autosuffisance alimentaire nationale ou régionale et le principe d'autonomie collective alimentaire pour les pays en développement.

Nous pensons qu'il n'y aura pas de sécurité alimentaire tant que la croissance de la production des céréales et des produits vivriers ne sera maîtrisée que dans les pays développés et qu'elle ne croîtra dans les pays démunis qu'à un rythme inférieur à celui de la population. Pour corriger cette situation, tous les efforts doivent être entrepris pour restaurer une certaine autosuffisance alimentaire au niveau de chaque pays ou de chaque Région grâce à des stratégies appropriées. Il est généralement reconnu que ces stratégies doivent être fondées sur la revitalisation et le développement des économies paysannes et ma délégation déplore que les gouvernements n'aient pas tous encore réalisé que la clé de la sécurité alimentaire était entre les mains de leurs propres paysans. Les ministres de l'agriculture, eux, le savent tous, mais tous ne parviennent pas à se faire entendre suffisamment.

Les économies paysannes du Tiers Monde sont menacées. Cela aussi nous le savons. Menacées, elles le sont également par la mise en oeuvre de certaines des mesures qu'avec la meilleure des bonnes volontés la communauté internationale met en oeuvre. Ceci est d'autant plus paradoxal que ces mesures ont précisément pour but une meilleure sécurité alimentaire. En effet, dans combien de cas l'aide alimentaire mise sur des marchés fragiles a eu pour principal résultat de décourager les productions locales et, en transformant les modèles de consommation, d'ouvrir la voie aux importations en provenance des pays développés excédentaires.

La concurrence entre céréales alimentaires locales de pays en développement ou produits vivriers et, d'autre part, céréales importées, est un véritable combat du pot de terre et du pot de fer en l'absence d'une véritable politique des prix.

En effet, qu'on offre des prix rémunérateurs aux paysans et qu'ils trouvent un réel intérêt à accroître leur production, et des progrès seront faits. La condition d'une autosuffisance alimentaire peut être aussi, dans certains cas, de maîtriser les importations de céréales. C'est un prix qui est à payer comme on accepte de payer une prime d'assurances. La sécurité alimentaire ne passe pas nécessairement en effet par une libération systématique des échanges au sens où on l'entend traditionnellement dans les instances internationales traitant des problèmes de commerce.

Les menaces contre les économies paysannes peuvent venir aussi de politiques inconsidérées de stockage; conçu d'une certaine manière un dispositif de stockage peut favoriser le choix d'un système d'approvisionnement à partir d'importations. Un tel système est souvent beaucoup plus facile à mettre en place qu'une organisation efficace de la collecte des récoltes. La seule rotation des stocks, indispensable à leur bonne gestion, peut dangereusement peser à la baisse sur les prix locaux.

Enfin, encore un autre exemple, c'est trop souvent sur l'autel du développement des échanges agricoles qu'ont été sacrifiées bien des régions à économie paysanne où des cultures d'exportation ont chassé les productions vivrières. Pourtant on ne cesse de répéter que le développement des échanges est nécessaire à la sécurité alimentaire. Dois-je ajouter que ce propos, pessimiste peut-être, ne tend nullement à condamner ni l'aide alimentaire ni des politiques de stockage ni le développement du commerce des produits agricoles. Je crois cependant utile de souligner qu'il y a parfois des contradictions entre certains des objectifs que s'assigne la communauté internationale. Il serait dommage que, faute d'une cohérence suffisante, certains bénéfices des efforts entrepris par les pays en développement avec l'aide extérieure internationale soient annulés par des mesures à caractère général et universel inadaptées à la diversité des situations réelles. A cet égard, certaines précautions peuvent être prises. Par exemple, en dehors d'états d'urgence l'aide alimentaire ne devrait pas être distribuée rapidement mais utilisée dans le cadre de projets de développement vendus à un prix suffisamment élevé pour ne pas concurrencer les productions autochtones, surtout si cette aide alimentaire est composée de céréales ne pouvant être produites sur place qu'à des prix élevés. Dans le cas de la vente, le fonds de contrepartie devrait être utilisé systématiquement en faveur du développement des productions locales.

En matière de stockage, bien évidemment indispensable à la sécurité alimentaire, il convient de placer les silos le plus près possible de la production et si possible charger les agriculteurs eux-mêmes de la détention de stocks de sécurité, éventuellement par voie d'accords adéquats entre organismes publics concernés et agriculteurs.

En matière de commerce international, la communauté internationale se doit de mettre en place un développement organisé des échanges et des accords prenant en compte les intérêts de chacun et limitant les fluctuations de prix préjudiciables à la fois aux producteurs et aux consommateurs. Je ne veux pas vous imposer la répétition de nos positions sur ces questions dont certaines ont déjà été exprimées dans d'autres points de l'ordre du jour. Je voudrais pourtant insister sur une question qui me paraît fondamentale : la cohérence des mesures d'appui internationales à la sécurité alimentaire et au développement de l'agriculture. Comme l'aide au développement est à rechercher au niveau du chaque pays et de chaque région, les mesures prises par la communauté internationale et auxquelles notre Organisation travaille peuvent en effet être nuisibles à moins d'en adapter l'application à la situation économique de chaque pays et de chaque région. C'est pourquoi mon pays est très attaché au concept des stratégies alimentaires. Ces stratégies sont normalement nationales mais dans bien des cas l'amélioration de l'autosuffisance alimentaire doit être recherchée grâce à la complémentarité des économies des pays d'une région. Ces stratégies doivent en effet indiquer dans quelle mesure le pays ou la région intéressés font appel à l'aide alimentaire ou aux importations.

Mais elles doivent aussi définir les mesures qui permettent d'offrir un revenu convenable aux agriculteurs. Nous pensons en effet qu'une politique favorisant un accroissement du revenu des agriculteurs, et notamment des petits agriculteurs qui constituent la grande masse des producteurs, fournit non seulement le meilleur stimulant à la production mais favorise aussi l'émergence d'une demande intérieure, facteur essentiel du développement économique.

Ces stratégies devront contribuer à donner le rôle qui leur revient aux masses paysannes pour la production alimentaire.

Le Secrétariat pour sa part a préparé un document très intéressant qui passe en revue un certain nombre de domaines à prendre en compte dans les stratégies nationales et régionales. La qualité de ce document démontre combien l'expérience et les actions de la FAO peuvent être extrêmement utiles aux pays en développement dans l'accompagnement de leurs efforts tendant à mettre en oeuvre leurs propres stratégies de développement.

Ma délégation souscrit naturellement à ce qui est écrit, à propos de la nécessité d'augmenter la production alimentaire dans les pays en développement. Nous souhaitons souligner l'importance parti culière du paragraphe 22 du document. Il est vrai que souvent les politiques des prix alimentaires ont favorisé l'exode rural et découragent les producteurs vivriers, ce dont je parlais tout à l'heure. Au risque de me répéter, je souhaite rappeler que prix rémunérateurs et marchés organisés favorisant un débouché fiable sont les conditions essentielles du développement des productions agricoles. Le document présenté par le Secrétariat devrait peut-être insister davantage sur un point comme l'importance d'une politique de promotion du revenu des populations rurales défavorisées.

L'irrigation et la maîtrise de l'eau sont un facteur essentiel de développement des productions. Il nous semble qu'une priorité doit être donnée à la réhabilitation des réseaux d'irrigation. Beaucoup d'erreurs ont été commises lors de la construction de réseaux pas toujours bien adaptés et certains équipements se sont détériorés. Leur réalisation convenable pourrait permettre des gains de productivité très importants. Ce point avait été particulièrement souligné lors d'une conférence des ministres de l'agriculture de l'Agence de coopération culturelle et technique qui avait eu lieu en France.

Le document cite aussi la lutte contre la trypanosomiasse africaine. C'est le rôle de la FAO, nous le pensons, d'organiser la lutte contre de tels fléaux, surtout lorsque cette lutte doit être organisée à l'échelle de plusieurs Etats, voire d'un continent. Il nous paraît aussi parfaitement justifié de mettre l'accent sur l'importance de la prise en compte des problèmes de conservation du milieu naturel et des questions énergétiques. Les actions en faveur de la production de bois de feu peuvent contribuer à la fois à résoudre ces deux problèmes tout en introduisant une activité économique en zone rurale.

Enfin, je voudrais rappeler l'importance de la formation et notamment de la formation de cadres à niveau intermédiaire pour la diffusion de techniques améliorées utilisables dans le développement.

J'ajoute, et ce sera ma conclusion, qu'aucune technique ne saurait être efficace si elle ne faisait l'objet d'études approfondies par les véritables acteurs du développement agricole et rural que sont les agriculteurs.

P. OLMOS MORALES (Uruguay): En primer término, mi delegación desea expresar su complacencia a la Secretaría por los trabajos presentados para la consideración de este tema, y en especial el documento C 81/22, y al mismo tiempo manifestar nuestra felicitación al profesor N. Islam por la presentación que nos ha hecho del tema en la mañana de hoy.

Esta delegación, Señor Presidente, desea formular algunos comentarios relativos a la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo del Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas.

Para nosotros, República Oriental del Uruguay, juega un papel de enorme trascendencia el comercio internacional, en relación con nuestro desarrollo, y en particular con nuestro desarrollo agropecuario; y las exportaciones, como dinámica y palanca para nuestro desarrollo nacional son muy importantes. Y en este aspecto Uruguay ha tomado nota con sumo interés de los distintos acuerdos de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas efectuada en diciembre del año pasado.

No obstante, desea esta delegación poner énfasis en los aspectos incluidos en los párrafos 52 al 71 respecto del comercio internacional.

Pese a los esfuerzos realizados en diversos foros internacionales y a las negociaciones efectuadas a nivel internacional o regional, notamos que hasta el día de hoy-y eso también fue señalado por el Sr. Director en su presentación a la Conferencia-poco hemos avanzado en la concreción de la mayoría de los principios establecidos en este documento.

Voy a detenerme en la consideración del párrafo 60, en el cual se establece que los países desarrollados deberían hacer todo lo posible para mejorar el acceso a sus mercados en forma estable de las exportaciones de productos agrícolas. Y más adelante establece que los países desarrollados harán todo lo que puedan por ajustar los sectores de sus economías agrícola y manufacturera que requieren protección contra las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo, facilitando de ese modo el acceso a los mercados de productos alimenticios y agrícolas.

Todos esos aspectos, Sr. Presidente, hasta ahora no han pasado más que de buenos propósitos. El comercio internacional de productos alimenticios y materias primas agrícolas está siendo paso a paso, sistemática mente extorsionado, no solamente en lo que afecta a las barreras arancelarias dificultando el acceso a los mercados de los países desarrollados, sino por la competencia que estos mismos países plantean a

otros países como el nuestro que tienen una situación de autosuficiencia alimenticia y agrícola y que no requieren para su crecimiento la posibilidad de colocar exportaciones agrícolas. Esto es muy difícil por la conducta seguida por los países desarrollados que priman sus exportaciones, agravando las condiciones de colocación de mercancías, no ya sólo en nuestros propios mercados, sino en mercados de terceros países.

La situación que se ha planteado a algunos países-en este caso concreto el Uruguay-en los últimos años en relación con la exportación de productos cárnicos, lácteos y azúcar, constituye evidentemente una negación de los principios planteados en este párrafo 60.

No querríamos pasar por alto esta situación porque consideramos que constituye una circunstancia en la cual estamos absolutamente todos comprometidos.

En lo referente al documento C 81/22, mi delegación desea expresar algunas observaciones, que son simplemente aspectos de matiz, de puntos de vista, pero que no desmerecen en absoluto la bondad del trabajo que, como ya hemos expresado, constituye una excelente presentación.

Los párrafos 50 y 51 hacen relación al desarrollo de la ganadería en América Latina. Se señala especialmente el problema sanitario, del cual todos somos conscientes en la región, y a través de diversos mecanismos multilaterales y bilaterales se ha ido planteando distintas opciones.

Debe destacarse también la misión primordial que ha tenido la asistencia técnica del Estado y su apoyo en favor de una intensa campaña sanitaria.

Ahora bien, lo que más nos preocupa, y lo vuelvo a destacar, es resaltar lo que aquí se expresa en cuanto a las posibilidades y a la necesidad de nuevos mercados en relación con los productos de origen animal.

En este aspecto la Región, si bien todavía va a encontrar dificultades en su abastecimiento en los próximos años y sus necesidades no van a ser totalmente cubiertas por su propia producción, sus posibilidades tal vez sean más altas en el conjunto del universo en cuanto a la potencialidad de producción de proteínas de origen animal.

En este aspecto nos interesa volver a recalcar la trascendencia en cuanto a la situación de mercados y en cuanto a la situación del comercio internacional en estos capítulos que evidentemente influyen en crecimiento y en el desarrollo de la producción pecuaria de los países de América Latina.

Otro de los aspectos más importantes a señalar es el que se refiere al comercio intrarregional. Nuestro país es consciente de las amplias posibilidades que pueden plantearse entre los países en desarrollo, y particularmente los de la región Latinoamericana, en cuanto a sus posibilidades de desarrollo en el comercio intrarregional. La diversidad de producciones y de climas, permite naturalmente una gran complementariedad y lógicamente la conveniencia de establecer relaciones económicas dentro de la región en materia de productos agrícolas y alimenticios.

En este particular hemos tomado con mucho interés los esfuerzos realizados, en relación con el Sistema Económico Latinoamericano en cuanto tienen que ver con la creación de un Comité de Acción de Seguridad Alimentaria Regional. En este aspecto, las posibilidades que los distintos medios puedan plantearnos contribuirá a enfrentarnos en la región con el problema de la seguridad alimentaria.

Esta acción deberá ser complementada por los acuerdos que a nivel bilateral puedan desarrollarse en cuanto a complementariedad de producción, en cuanto a almacenaje, en cuanto a transferencia de tecnología, etcétera, que permita alcanzar las mejores posibilidades de competitividad de los países en sus recursos agrícolas y alimenticios.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación apoya los mecanismos y negociaciones globales que dentro del ámbito de los organismos especializados del Sistema de Naciones Unidas deben canalizar los aspectos del comercio internacional, y en particular del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas.

En ese particular estamos dispuestos, no solamente a emprender las acciones que a nivel nacional posibiliten un incremento y un crecimiento de la actividad agrícola, sino también a colaborar en el plano internacional en pro de todo cuanto posibilite complementar nuestras producciones, y particularmente luchar contra el hambre, que es una de las principales plagas de la humanidad, de nuestro tiempo. Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente.

Y. TUNCEL (Turkey): I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Secretariat for the extremely well-prepared reports which we are now discussing. I would like to make a few comments in brief. In general it is the developing countries who are the worst affected with the decline of agricultural production. That is why world wheat import has risen to 42 million tons in 1980 which is a 17 percent increase over the previous year. The need of imported wheat for the developing countries is 98 million tons. Rather than the decline of production the main reason for hunger is the regional and national inefficiency in food distribution. Primarily the responsibility of development rests upon the developing countries themselves. To a great extent it depends on the efforts made, amount and allocation of national resources and devotion to the realization of development. It is not possible to say that the developed countries will not be affected by hunger and the poverty problems which have already threatened our world. It cannot be expected that they will be excluded from this common problem. It will certainly have intense repercussions on the economies of the developed countries too. Therefore solution of the starvation problem needs to be dealt with universally and depends on supplying assistance and finance to developing countries. These are the issues on which international organizations and developed countries should concentrate and do their utmost for the development of low and middle income countries.

One of the social groups most affected with hunger is the small farmers. Since their incomes are influenced positively by the rise in production, rural development programmes need to be entirely supplemented with marketing programmes for the outlet of surpluses, and food and nutrition programmes should be considered in the overall programmes.

It is necessary to take measures for the economic use of inputs and energy. Particular concern should be given to strengthening international funds for fertilizer supply. Both extension and training services should be actively employed in the economic use of irrigation, water and fertilizer. Through extension and training services, better use of mechanization and of new production techniques can be made more effective.

Another area which deserves more intensive and collective efforts is ensuring self-reliance in national and regional food supply. This requires establishing an emergency food reserve and security system with a regional early warning system together. Investments in storage, transportation and marketing should be supported by international organizations. Needless to say a regional market news and intelligence system would play an important role in the food security system.

It is worth mentioning here with appreciation that the Islamic countries summit meeting held in 1981 in Taif has given due consideration to food security and has approved the establishment of a specific Islamic Food Supplies Security Fund.

Meanwhile the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development has decided to undertake a study on the preparation of a food security programme for Arab countries.

With reference to the issue of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, may I inform the Commission that member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference agreed at the recently held Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development to promote and initiate actions and programmes of cooperation in food and agriculture which would lead to the achievement of collective self-sufficiency in food in the Islamic countries.

The Ministerial Conference called for study and policy action in the following priority areas of cooperation among Islamic countries: creation and financing of regional food reserve stocks in the Islamic world; coordination of national production policies and objectives; establishment of joint agro-based and agro-related industries; improvement of food security infrastructures, such as storage, distribution, etc.; development and improved management of land and water resources, including control of drought, flood, desertification, deforestation, water-logging and salinity; coordination and collaboration in research and the transfer of technology-for instance, the establishment of a regional research and training centre for agro-hydrology; increase of intra-trade in food and agricultural commodities and inputs and the establishment of a market intelligence system; joint projects and programmes for the reduction of post-harvest losses and early warning system; undertaking of food entitlement programmes; and cooperation in forestry.

Finally, I would like to add that investments concerning common crops of the region, activities such as river basin reclamation and stimulating the increase of production should be supported financially and technically by the international agencies.

J. B. WARREN (United Kingdom): I refer to document C 81/22, and first I should like to make some

general points, then some specific ones. Since many of our points have already been made by other speakers, I shall be brief.

The paper sets out satisfactorily the major issues of concern in regional and national development strategies. The United Kingdom supports in general the analysis given to the major issues selected but, while recognizing that the document is highly selective, we would stress the importance of cooperation with national authorities, in particular in relation to land reform. And we must ensure that the consideration of issues at the regional level is in harmony with national development strategies.

We would like to endorse a point made by the delegate of Hungary and stress the need for us to see at an early date the revised version of the FAO study, Agriculture: Towards 2000, since it is referred to constantly in this and other papers but is available to us only in the preliminary form presented to the 1979 Conference.

Referring to more specific points, and to section II of the paper, we support the emphasis and attention given to increasing food production, and especially of traditional food crops. We note in this section a number of proposals for increasing production in Africa, for example of wheat and rice, but would draw attention to the absolute necessity for a careful assessment in each case of the resource potential, and particularly for its capacity for sustained production.

In the same section, referring this time to Asia and the Far East, rice yields from irrigated areas have risen in line with population growth and will need to continue to rise to meet demand. While 2 tons of paddy per hectare is the current level of production, clearly double cropping is now occurring more frequently and a more optimistic view can be taken of achieving a higher target. Rehabilitation and improvement to existing irrigation schemes will go far in increasing overall production from irrigated rice to double and even treble cropping. Rain-fed lowland rice production provides a high proportion of the total yield in Asia and the Far East. Even with increases of irrigated areas, and consequent higher production, substantial dependence on rain-fed rice will remain. Little has been done to improve yields of rain-fed rice and a major effort in this direction is supported for both improved high-yielding varieties and for improved cultural practices.

In any consideration of food production we must stress once more the great importance of ensuring an acceptable rate of return to the farmers, which involves pricing, marketing and the coordination of all inputs, especially transport to markets.

Finally, we must stress also the importance of land reform and of the setting up of social systems which will encourage the growth in productivity, especially among small farmers.

We note that following the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development many countries have embarked on this difficult task of social reform and we would be glad to be kept in touch with progress.

A. RACHMAN (Indonesia): My delegation has studied with interest and satisfaction documents C 81/21 and C 81/22 and compliments the Secretariat on their preparation. I would like to congratulate Prof. Islam on his clear and concise introduction of the documents.

International activities and inter-dependence among nations have become more and more important in the solution of food and agricultural development. We are all, individually and collectively, committed, having a moral responsibility towards food and agricultural problems, since they concern the basic needs of mankind. We believe that this philosophy is the very basis for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in particular, and global cooperation in general. While the main coverage of economic and technical cooperation has to be designed by the developing countries themselves, my delegation believes that the relationship on ECDC between regional groupings of countries should be studied and judged according to its merits.

Let me cite here an example from the ASEAN region. The strengthening of food stocks at national, regional and sub-regional levels is urgently needed in order to overcome food problems and achieve the objective of world food security. In this context, in cooperation with the other four ASEAN countries, the Government of Indonesia has some time ago jointly established the ASEAN Food Security Scheme within which 50 000 tons of ASEAN emergency rice reserve is being undertaken. This programme is being expanded in terms of volume and coverage. In addition, the five ASEAN countries have also set up a cooperative scheme to alleviate the effect of natural and man-made disasters, under the agreement of the ASEAN Declaration for Mutual Assistance on Natural Disasters.

The above example serves to demonstrate that the seeds of ECDC will grow stronger between regionally related countries, as has been proved by several other regional cooperations. This aspect deserves to be studied in more depth and recommended for implementation.

Throughout the 1970s, agricultural production in the developing countries increased at an average annual rate of about 3 percent. FAO has estimated that, given more adequate levels of investment, it is feasible to increase production to an average rate of 4 percent throughout the 1980s. It should naturally take account also of the need for strengthening the necessary infrastructures in the developing countries. Hope for a better food outlook can only materialize if the flow of resources into agriculture in developing countries can be assured. A strong appeal should therefore be addressed to all governments and international aid organizations to ensure that such flow of resources could meet the minimum target level set by the World Food Council.

A common method for deciding among alternative investment opportunities is to calculate the expected net returns to each. This requires that feasibility studies be carried out to assess the gains that are technically possible and the yield levels that are economically advantageous.

As we move now to test out several new production technologies, for example, utilization of rain-fed lowlands for rice production and/or deep-water rice cultivation, the role of feasibility studies and research becomes a bottleneck in most countries possessing a substantial potential for such agricultural practices; therefore efforts to implement studies, pilot and research projects of the above nature should be intensified.

Women are producers as well as consumers of food. In many developing countries they are estimated to produce around 70 percent of subsistence foods, but in most countries women do not have title to the land even when they are the acting heads of households. They cannot get access to credit or supplies. Extension services, rural development programmes and research are usually designed by men for men. They tend to concentrate on men's crops and men's activities. For instance, mechanization has affected men's heavy duties, such as water pumping or land preparation, but has left women's burdens as heavy as ever. Thus women's workloads remain the same. Women's productivity lags behind men's and with it their share of the family income.

My delegation wishes to see the role of women in agriculture at the grass root level taken up as one of the most important issues in agricultural development, for inclusion in document C 81/22.

Finally, in relation to fisheries resources, management and development, with special reference to the 200 mile exclusive economic zone, coastal developing nations are assuming responsibility for development and management of fishery resources within the 200 mile limit, in the light of the optimum sustainable yield concept. One of the main problems identified at present is to set up an acceptable and technically effective standard to determine the rules of the game for fishery resource exploitation in the exclusive economic zone, which would be conducive to the efforts of the fishing industry of distant fleet-owning nations and the conservation efforts of coastal countries. Success in these efforts means that structural change does not necessarily imply a lower rate of production.

M. DE LOS SANTOS (Mexico): Señor Presidente: hemos revisado con atención el excelente documento C 81/82 que la Secretaría ha preparado para nuestra discusión acerca de las estrategias que tanto a nivel regional como a nivel nacional es posible desarrollar para el mejor desenvolvimiento de las agriculturas de nuestros países. Debido a la evolución reciente de la situación alimentaria mundial, nuestra delegación estima que en las estrategias para el desarrollo tiene una importancia fundamental el objetivo de lograr la seguridad alimentaria. Se debe buscar aumentar la producción y mejorar la distribución de alimentos básicos, y para ello es necesario hacer un diagnóstico global acerca de las fuerzas que han venido deteriorando o limitando el desarrollo del sector agrícola y un examen de todas las medidas de política que son necesarias para revertir las tendencias y poner al alcance de la población los alimentos necesarios.

En el ámbito nacional, nuestra experiencia es en el sentido de que los aumentos de producción no se pueden conseguir si no se garantizan precios atractivos a los agricultores. En lo que hace a la productividad, nuestro Gobierno ha venido subsidiando los insumos agrícolas y en especial los fertilizantes con objeto de facilitar el aumento de los rendimientos.

Tenemos el agrado de informar, señor Presidente, que nuestra estrategia de desarrollo del sector agrícola que se describe en el párrafo 125 del Documento "El sistema alimentario mexicano" está dando ya resultados. Hemos logrado reducir drásticamente nuestras importaciones de alimentos y en particular de cereales. Estamos enfrentando problemas para el almacenamiento de algunos productos, lo que puede dar una idea del éxito que hemos conseguido en las últimas cosechas.

Nuestra política pretende revertir la tendencia de descapitalización de la agricultura que se estaba acrecentando gravemente en las zonas de temporal de nuestro país, y resolver también el problema de nutrición de la población más pobre. Debe subrayarse que estos son objetivos que se complementan porque deseamos incorporar a la producción al campesino de menor nivel de ingresos y dotarlos, mediante el mecanismo de producción-ingreso, de los recursos necesarios para que adquieran los productos alimentarios que requieren.

En el ámbito internacional nuestra preocupación es mejorar nuestras relaciones de cooperación con los países de América Latina. Hemos conseguido acrecentarlas con los países vecinos de América central y el Caribe. Algunos de los logros más importantes están referidos en el párrafo 141 del Documento y destaca entre ellos la actividad desarrollada por la empresa de fertilizantes MULTIFER. Recientemente, además, se crearon las bases de una expresa cooperación regional que comprenda a todos los países latinoamericanos, como ya ha referido otras delegaciones, al concluirse una serie de acuerdos en la primera reunión de expertos gubernamentales de alto nivel para las áreas de la agricultura y la alimentación, que por decisión del Consejo Latinoamericano se reunió en la ciudad de México en agosto pasado, tal y como se comenta en el párrafo 146 del Documento.

En dicha reunión se instó al Consejo Latinoamericano a gestionar entre los Organismos Internacionales la canalización de mayores recursos financieros, en términos y condiciones flexibles, y el consiguiente apoyo técnico para el desarrollo de los proyectos multinacionales derivados de la reunión.

El próximo año iniciará sus actividades el Comité de acción encargado de la operación del sistema de seguridad alimentaria regional, una vez que concluyan las labores preparatorias de un grupo de trabajo que ha sido constituido para formular los proyectos de actividad, una propuesta de acta constitutiva y las bases presupuesto y financiamiento.

Por ello, señor Presidente, esperamos contar pronto con un Órgano regional que facilite todas las acciones en pro de la seguridad alimentaria en América Latina. Deseamos reiterar la proposición de que la FAO preste su mayor apoyo a los proyectos multinacionales que surjan de acuerdos regionales entre los países subdesarrollados, tal como acabamos de describir, para América Latina, y que esta prioridad quede claramente establecida en los programas de actividad de la Organización.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia piensa que en la parte de nuestros informes sobre este tema deberemos destacar la activa y eficaz participación de la Secretaría de la FAO y la elaboración de la Sección sobre Alimentación y Agricultura que aparece en la estrategia internacional del desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio.

Además de esa Sección, que tiene relación directa con los campos especializados de nuestra Organización, nos interesan también otros aspectos generales de esa estrategia, como muy bien lo dijo la distinguida colega de Cuba, porque todos hemos convenido en apoyar la política del Director General al considerar los problemas de la agricultura y de la alimentación dentro de un contexto global que se rija por la interdependencia necesaria de todos los factores que integran la economía.

Debemos destacar el hecho de que las metas y los objetivos de la estrategia internacional para el segundo decenio han quedado en gran medida sin cumplir. Ese fracaso del segundo decenio ha comprometido a todos los gobiernos, los cuales han tenido que forzarse por cumplir los objetivos fundamentales de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y reafirmar solemnemente su determinación de establecer un nuevo orden económico internacional. Casi mil millones de seres humanos padecen de hambre, están enfermos, carecen de hogares, se hayan desempleados. Hay que dignificar la condición humana en todo el universo.

Aceptamos la responsabilidad que recae directamente sobre los países en desarrollo, pero reclamamos la cooperación de toda la comunidad internacional. Claro que conocemos esa responsabilidad, que somos conscientes de nuestros propios deberes, que estamos concediendo cada vez más alta prioridad a la agricultura de nuestros planes nacionales de desarrollo, que estamos haciendo en cada ocasión mejor uso de la asistencia que recibimos; pero eso no es suficiente, porque la brecha es demasiado grande.

En medio de esa expectativa, en ciertos momentos nos alientan las recientes series de cumbres y declaraciones en Ottawa y Cancún, y luego, como una ducha fría, asistimos en la Plenaria, al primer debate general en el que pudimos oír la declaración franca del excelentísimo Ministro de Agricultura de Francia en nombre de la Comunidad Económica Europea, quien dijo categóricamente que la cumbre de Cancún había sido un fracaso. Y tenemos que creer en esa expresión de fracaso atribuida a Cancún porque se hizo en nombre de una comunidad respetable de países, los representantes de cuyos Gobiernos, a muy alto nivel, participan en esa reunión, particularmente el señor Presidente de Francia, señor Mitterrand, cuya política progresista, como dijo el Ministro de Agricultura de Colombia en la Plenaria, nos llena de entusiasmo y de esperanza, porque se ha empezado a reconocer la interdependencia del mundo desarrollado y en desarrollo como base insustituible de esta subsistencia común.

Hemos pensado siempre, señor Presidente, que en Comisiones como éstas la monotonía de oír un discurso tras otro no nos hace mucho bien. Por eso, en ocasiones anteriores hemos propiciado el diálogo como estimulando a la controversia democrática. De ahí que ayer nos complaciera oír la intervención de una delegación, delegación que está situada justamente detrás de la nuestra en esta sala, en la fila siguiente, de esta sala, en la fila tercera detrás de nuestra delegación. Esa delegación se refirió reiteradamente a un delegado, sin nombrarle, a un delegado, y dijo varias veces: un delegado que estubo pesimista, un delegado hizo recaer toda la culpa a los países subdesarrollados, un delegado mani festó desconfianza, etc. Nosotros hoy no volveremos a incurrir en nuestro pesimismo y, en vez de decir somos pesimistas, debemos decir: nos encontramos desconcertados.

Si encuadrásemos los hechos de esa serie de declaraciones incumplidas dentro del marco de la FAO, especialmente en relación con el nivel del presupuesto, tendríamos que estar de acuerdo con la intervención del colega y amigo de Yugoslavia cuando expresó su desconfianza en estrategias como ésta.

Creemos sinceramente que ésta debe ser la última estrategia en que debemos confiar. Si no se van a cumplir los objetivos de esta estrategia, en adelante no será necesario que se elaboren nuevas estrategias internacionales, sino más bien que los países desarrollados elaboren nuevas estrategias propias de esos países desarrollados, para su asistencia bilateral. Así sería más fácil para los países en desarrollo acomodarse a los países receptores. De todas maneras, la delegación de Colombia opina que convendría señalar, según las estrategias, los cambios necesarios en las modalidades de producción, el consumo y el comercio mundiales, particularmente en cuanto se refiere a los países en desarrollo, para lograr una distribución más equitativa de las oportunidades económicas entre las naciones.

Habrà que erradicar el hambre y la desnutrición tan pronto sea posible y por cierto para fines de este siglo. Esa frase tan afirmativa que aparece al inicio del párrafo 28 de la estrategia podría tal vez volvernos optimista, si no hubiésemos padecido las tristes y recientes desilusiones del pasado.

En efecto, para lograr ese propósito tan claramente expresado, se repite una vez más el 4 por ciento, cifra con la cual estamos ya tan familiarizados. Se agrega que "hay que corregir los desequilibrios que actualmente existen en la producción mundial, . . . las exportaciones de alimentos y productos agrícolas de los países en desarrollo deberían aumentar considerablemente, con un mejor acceso a los mercados mundiales". No quiero repetir las diferencias de este aspecto del comercio, porque ya nuestro colega del Uruguay lo hizo de manera verdaderamente brillante. El hecho es que el comercio de productos agrícolas sigue afectando negativamente a los países en desarrollo. No se han cumplido las promesas de reducir o eliminar las actuales restricciones a las importaciones procedentes de nuestros países.

Sobre el párrafo 83 ya también el distinguido colega de Yugoslavia hizo una intervención que merece nuestra atención. Se pide en esta estrategia que, en cuanto al fondo del FIDA, su reposición se produzca con carácter prioritario, antes de fines de 1980. Estamos ya a fines de 1981 y todos sabemos cuál es la situación en que se encuentra. El FIDA había estado silencioso en esta Conferencia, tal como ya dijimos en la Comisión II. Ahora, en la tarde de hoy, uno de los representantes del FIDA ha hecho su declaración ante la Plenaria, y la situación es la que ya conocíamos a través de nuestras informaciones de otros colegas: se obtendrían solamente mil millones de dólares, la misma cifra con que el FIDA inició sus actividades hace 4 años. Mil millones de dólares, después de 4 años, con la inflación y el aumento de los costos, sólo representa en términos reales al máximo el 50 por ciento de los recursos con que el FIDA iniciara sus labores. Y, si seguimos de esa manera, dentro de unos años el FIDA va a desaparecer por inanición. Esto confirma nuestra desilusión y nuestro escepticismo sobre los objetivos de la estrategia para el tercer decenio, porque el FIDA es el único organismo internacional de crédito dedicado exclusivamente a la agricultura, y habíamos confiado en que sus reposiciones serían frecuentes y satisfactorias.

"A principios del decenio se adoptarán medidas urgentes para establecer una seguridad alimentaria mundial eficaz", dice el párrafo 86, y ¿cuál es la situación al final del primer año del decenio? La producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo no aumenta; ha disminuido. Y es evidente que sólo el aumento de la producción en los países del tercer mundo puede asegurar una situación alimentaria verdaderamente eficaz.

Todavía seguimos añorando los 10 millones de toneladas, para ayuda alimentaria, fijados por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación en 1974. Ahora hemos pasado a 17 y 18,5 millones de toneladas de cereales como indicador para las necesidades en 1985. ¿Por qué no se dice 20 ó 30? Son cifras que van y vienen, mientras que todos conocemos la situación de impass que se ha creado en el Consejo Internacional del Trigo, donde tampoco la fórmula alternativa será viable y nunca se podrá lograr un nuevo acuerdo sobre el comercio del trigo que contenga cláusulas específicas sobre precios, almacenamiento y liberalización de reservas.

Podríamos, si tuviéramos tiempo, señor Presidente, seguir refiriéndonos a los objetivos del Programa Mundial de Alimentos a la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia. Todo indica decrecimiento en los recursos disponibles para la agricultura y confirma todo ello que sistemáticamente se vienen incumpliendo los compromisos internacionales adquiridos. Pero la delegación de Colombia piensa que con los elementos de esta declaración ya ha ofrecido su contribución a la FAO, para que nuestra Organización vaya estudiando y aportando sus opiniones y experiencias a la primera evaluación de que esta estrategia se hará en Naciones Unidas en 1984.

Pensamos que en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación la FAO puede contribuir eficazmente para ir señalando las medidas adecuadas, según se vayan cumpliendo o incumpliendo los objetivos de la estrategia. El estado mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación, bajo permanente revisión de los órganos rectores de la FAO, así como la situación y perspectivas de los productos básicos, podrían ser, entre otras, bases útiles para la acción permanente de la FAO en favor de los objetivos agrícolas y alimentarios contenidos en la estrategia.

R. E. STENSHOLT (Australia): Many thanks once again to Professor Islam for his introduction of the two documents before us.

If we look first of all at the document concerning national and regional strategies, we see it is an extremely useful document in identifying the range of sectors and issues which should be given attention in any effort to increase food and agriculture production in developing countries. As we see it, it recognises that, the fundamental solution to the food security problem rests with accelerating both the production and the distribution of basic food items. We agree with paragraph 5 that most problems must be tackled at the country level and by a comprehensive rather than a piecemeal approach. There is no substitute for sound policies to ensure agricultural production. National policies on pricing, land reform, taxation, institution building and training etc. are at least as important in influencing production, and consumption, as the total flow of investment resources, both internal and external, devoted to agriculture. We believe it is also useful to think of agriculture and rural development as the result of growth in the productivity of a nation's physical and human resources, its technological potential and the capacity of its Institutions.

As noted in section III, the improvement in human lives is the main objective of agrarian reform and rural development programmes. To achieve this end, social innovations must complement technological changes. It is particularly important that the large number of small and marginal farmers, many of whom are women, be seen as a national resource from the standpoint of capital formation and increased production if the benefits of growth are not to bypass the majority of the population. We agree therefore on the crucial need to draw up special programmes for small farmers.

Considering the issues in relation to particular regions is a useful approach in the paper. Common problems shared by neighbouring countries can often be better handled and solved by a share of techniques and experience on a mutual basis. We believe in this context that the agricultural problems of small island countries, particularly those geographically isolated need more attention.

With regard to food production we believe that it is useful to also give some focus to farm management techniques and to pay some regard to complementary activities, such as small tree crops, bee keeping, the growing of vegetables, which would provide valuable food or cash supplements to families, in addition to the main work of their agricultural enterprise.

We also agree that the importance attached to agricultural research to develop new types of technology and studies of techniques to meet problems in developing countries. Only recently our own Prime Minister has moved to set up a new Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research which is designed to tackle such problems. In the context of research and the application of its results we have noticed the numerous suggestions which have been put forward by delegates, such as the effects of ticks on cattle where our experience might be of some value.

We are well aware, that the fulfilment of regional and national strategies requires concerted efforts by all, and in this regard, we recognise the complementary and catalytic role that, external assistance can play. Indeed, we are guided in this regard by the emphasis placed in the International Development Strategy on the importance of agricultural and rural development, and the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. For example, we support the charges of a four per cent annual average growth in agricultural production. We agree that donor countries and international organisations have an important role to play in assisting national efforts and that greater priority should be given to agriculture within overall assistance programmes.

We also support the contention that food aid can play a valuable role; indeed an important role, in providing food security in low income food deficit developing countries. We acknowledge that we, as a major exporter of food, have a particular responsibility in this regard. We support the various food aid targets such as The New World Food Programme \$1. 2 billion target and the 10 million ton food aid target and, of course, we realise that to achieve such targets there is a need for new donors from all sources to come forward.

We are particularly pleased that the International Emergency Food Reserve target of 500,000 tons looks like being met this year and for our part we have recently increased our usual contribution to the IEFRR by fifty per cent to 45,000 tonnes as well as providing special contributions this year of around 80,000 tonnes of cereals for refugee relief mainly in response to the ICARA Conference earlier this year.

We have also given our support to the long-term measures in the IDS aimed at increasing food production. We will continue to give high priority to an applied food strategy approach under our aid programme with technical assistance to the agricultural sector and projects ranging from rural infrastructure work to support for research, storage, food handling and marketing projects to integrated rural development programmes.

The International Development Strategy provides us with a guide for action for development during the decade. As has been mentioned by other delegates, various meetings have been held since the 11th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, such as the Ottawa Economic Summit, the Melbourne Heads of Government Meeting, the Canoni Summit, the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries. All have reconfirmed or underscored a positive spirit of international cooperation for development or have provided an elaboration of measures which might be taken during the decade. In this last regard it might be useful to make available to delegates the relevant paragraphs of the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries' plan of action on food and agriculture.

Finally, we also expect that at our next FAO Conference we will be considering what appropriate input we might make to the review and appraisal process as envisaged under the terms of paragraph 175 of the International Development Strategy,

J. J. PEREIRA REIS (Portugal):Monsieur le President, le document C 81/21 à l'étude se revêt d'une haute importance.

Les pays devraient renforcer la formulation et l'exécution de plans de développement alimentaire et agricole dans le cadre de leurs priorités et programmes de développement national.

Il est essentiel que ce problème soit au premier plan des préoccupations des gouvernements et pour cela l'assistance de la FAO et son aide technique sont indispensables. Dans ce domaine, la FAO peut apporter une collaboration extrêmement utile, étant donné qu'il y a des pays qui ne disposent pas de techniciens dûment préparés. En référence au paragraphe 86, page 22, du document 81/22 en français, ma délégation désire rappeler ce que j'avais déjà dit dans d'autres occasions:ce ne sont pas seulement les céréales, le lait et les huiles végétales qui doivent constituer les stocks de sécurité. Pour cela nous avons déjà proposé d'inclure dans les stocks d'autres aliments, ce qui permettra d'élargir considérablement l'éventail des pays donateurs. Ainsi, nous pouvons penser, par exemple, aux conserves de poisson, et à quelques aliments déshydratés et oeufs, légumes.*

The meeting rose at 17. 35 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 17. 35 hors

* Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

conference

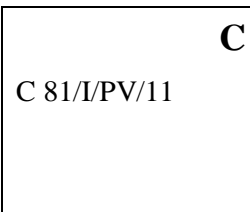
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

ELEVENTH MEETING ONZIEME SEANCE 11ª SESION

(18 November 1981)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 9. 55 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 9 h 55, sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 11 sesión a las 9. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)
- II. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- III PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)
- 7. World Food and Agricultural Development Strategy, including:
- 7. Strategiemondiale de développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment :
- 7. Es strategia mundial para el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular:
- 7. 1 UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade (continued)
- 7. 1 Strategie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour
le développement (suite)
- 7.1 Estrategia internacional de desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el
Desarrollo (continuación)
- 7. 2 Regional and National Development Strategies (continued)
- 7. 2 Stratégies de développement régionales et nationales (suite)
- 7. 2 strategias regionales y nacionales de desarrollo (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT:Nous allons pouvoir reprendre nos travaux.

Je signale, comme vous le savez, qu'hier la délégation de la Yougoslavie a, dans sa déclaration, lancé un appel en faveur de la reconstitution des fonds du FIDA. Cet appel a été transformé en projet de résolution actuellement en cours d'examen au niveau du Comité des résolutions. Après cet examen, à ce niveau, le projet de résolution nous sera transmis pour examen demain ou après-demain.

En outre, je voudrais porter à votre attention que, compte tenu du léger retard que nous avons pris sur nos travaux, ainsi qu'au niveau du Comité de rédaction, je vous demanderai d'être brefs dans vos interventions et au besoin de nous les transmettre, lorsque les déclarations sont suffisamment longues, pour que nous les insérions telles quelles à notre procès-verbal.

WU TIAN XI (China)(Original language-Chinese) : We have read with great pleasure documents C 81/21 and C 81/22 and listened to the interventions of nearly two dozen previous speakers. We are of the same opinion of those who have said that the development of food and agriculture constitutes a very important element in the international development strategy. This is because most of the developing countries, where the overwhelming majority of the world's population live, are virtually agricultural states, as was pointed out by Professor Islam in his summary of the Agenda item we discussed yesterday. In 70 developing countries the income gained from the export of agricultural commodities accounts for more than 50 percent of their total income from foreign trade. This is evidence enough to prove that the development of food and agriculture is crucial to the general enhancement of the national economy in developing countries, such as ours;thus it is an indispensable link in the establishment of a new international economic border in the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade, adopted at the last session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Chinese delegation supports this Strategy, for we believe it will be of considerable significance in the development of our country's food and agricultural production in the years to come. What is left for us to do is to take necessary actions and measures aimed at achieving the various targets quoted in the Strategy. In this connection, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight two points concerning the regional and national developing strategy.

First, in C 81/22 some ways and means have been suggested to suit the different conditions in the various areas of developing countries, with emphasis on increase of food production. In Asia special efforts must be made to improve rice production, as we consider this to be essential. In 1980, rice in China accounted for 29 percent of the total grain area of the country, and provides 43 percent of the total grain output, including tubers and pulses, so it is very important for China to improve her rice production. However, more than half of her population still has other cereals for their staple food. As yield of coarse grain, tubers and pulses is still low and only limited inputs are required per unit area, there is room for increase in their production. Moreover, the by-products of coarse grain, root and tuber crops and pulses can be used as fuel and feed in rural areas. This is also the case with some other Asian countries. Increased production of these grains in accordance with the local conditions will therefore greatly facilitate the acceleration of the overall grain production.

Secondly, the question of population and employment is one that must be taken into consideration in implementing the International Development Strategy on Food and Agriculture. This is particularly important to many of us Asian countries. More population means more labour resources, an important factor for the promotion of development. But more population also gives rise to employment problems, and if not handled properly, there will be a large flow into the cities, thus creating many social problems. So it is imperative, first of all, to control population growth through family planning and, at the same time, solve the employment problem of the rural population. To "encourage rural industrialization" as mentioned in Para. 95 of Document C 81/21 is a very good solution to the problem of employment. Since the 1960s, China has set up 1.4 million communes and brigade-run enterprises which have absorbed more than 30 million of the rural labour force and turned out a large quantity of products to serve agricultural production and people's livelihood in the countryside. The income from these enterprises accounts for one third of the total revenue of the rural people's communes, thus not only increasing the income of the commune members but also accumulating funds for production development. Besides, the state also gives support to the commune members in running side line occupations and restores and introduces hundreds of channels for production. Practice has proved that to develop a diversified economy and engage in comprehensive development in rural areas is an important approach in accelerating the development of the rural economy.

Thirdly, to strengthen the existing international agricultural research centres and establish a regional and sub-regional agricultural research network is an important aspect for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries and the realization of the International Development Strategy objectives. We would like to suggest that FAO carry out a special study of this issue and put forward concrete measures.

M, BUENO GOMEZ (España): Siguiendo sus recomendaciones acerca de la brevedad de las intervenciones y en la línea expuesta ayer por el Dr. Islam de completar en lo posible los documentos que estamos analizando, la delegación española considera que debería hacerse alguna mención a los problemas de la sub-región de la Europa meridional en el documento C/81/22, en el apartado que se refiere a Riego y Ordenación de Aguas.

En efecto, es cierto que los problemas de riego y ordenación de aguas no son hoy en Europa comparables a los que se presentan en otras regiones, pero es seguro que se van a producir en la Europa meridional situaciones conflictivas en relación con el uso alternativo de aguas para la agricultura y otros sectores, debido a cuestiones de polución y ecológicas.

Podría, pues, ser oportuno señalar esta situación en el citado documento. Además, los esfuerzos que pueden realizarse durante los años 80 en esta subregión de Europa, para desarrollar técnicas de ahorro o para utilización de aguas de riego, podrían ser de gran utilidad para la contribución de Europa a otras regiones en plan de desarrollo.

C. FRENCH (United States of America): We have been asked to comment on the UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade and also about regional and national development strategies. However, since our views on the International Development Strategy formulated by the UN are a matter of record, we will not dwell on them here. We believe however that it would be useful for the next FAO Conference in 1983 to consider a report on the progress made in the agricultural sector, in order to aid the UN General Assembly in its review of this matter which is scheduled for 1984.

We commend Dr. Islam and the Secretariat for taking the initiative to prepare document C 81/22, which appropriately makes a succinct statement introducing various important components of a regional or national development strategy, which could not be highlighted within the necessarily limited agenda of the conference overall. Further, we commend the Secretariat for its attempt to draw regional inferences about development areas—a task which we recognize as laden with difficulties and possible controversies.

The document touches upon so many elements of development strategy that this must leave it open for criticism from dissenting fora and to challenges to the relative priorities which it gives. We think it prudent for this forum to resist the varied possibilities for criticism generally, and to concentrate on the guidance given by the paper for priorities generally. It would be a worthy goal for this forum to attempt to sharpen the priorities at both national and regional level.

The document makes a good start, but could be enriched by discussion with these priorities in mind. We ourselves would wish that at the national level the paper did more specific linking of foreign policies and food policies in an integrated approach to increasing food supplies and improving distribution generally. We would have liked to see the report distinguish very carefully between research and operational development matters.

The Strategy next implies a need to gain information of a political, social and technical nature. However, the paper tends to speak more as if it was setting an agenda for needed research. Many of the research needs are set out in various documents such as the US National Academy of Science-World Food and Nutrition in 1977 and its related volumes on individual research matters.

Document C 81/22 could well be improved by comparing it against such documents, and relating specific research priorities to the areas. The analysis in the Report is heavily weighted on production and we generally think that is appropriate. However, we would have liked more emphasis on non-technological matters, for example paragraphs 59-72 singled out fertilizers and waters as being of particular and direct importance in gaining additional crop production-one can hardly quarrel with that. But failing to emphasize incentives to producers with specific regard to such matters as agrarian reform and farm price incentives leaves much unsaid, but not everything can be covered in a paper like this, but more emphasis on non-technological matters and agrarian reform would have enriched the document.

Ms. W. B. EIDE (Norway): The United Nations International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade is a document of basic importance. It is a comprehensive, positive and long-term framework for our common goal to foster a global development.

The strategy must be seen as a whole, its goals and objectives and policy measures aiming at development in general. Therefore a number of paragraphs that are not explicitly dealing with food and agriculture nevertheless are of direct relevance to these problems.

Paragraph 8 of the preamble states that the primary responsibility for the development in the Third World rests upon the developing countries themselves. The international community must, however, take effective supportive action. This is of course evident but nevertheless represents an important guide line for our work.

The special goals and objectives and policy measures for food and agriculture that is contained in the IDS, cover essentially the entire field of food and agriculture and a wealth of policy directives. Together with the Programme of Action of the World Conference of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the conclusions and recommendations of the 1981 Session of the World Food Council, and the highly relevant material contained in FAO's important work on "Agriculture Towards 2000", we have indeed been equipped with basic advice. The question of global negotiations has for quite some time been very thoroughly discussed. I will not at all get involved in this issue but simply state our view that global negotiations should be started as soon as possible by the United Nations.

With regard to the prospects for progress in the field of food and agriculture, my delegation also appreciates the prominence given to matters of food and agriculture in the summary from the meeting in Cancun. This is both a support and a challenge to member states as well as to FAO and other relevant UN bodies, active in the field of food and agriculture.

An important dimension of the IDS is that it provides a total basic philosophy to steer this development and its various components. I would like to dwell somewhat with certain aspects of this basic philosophy which should not only remain cosmetic to the document. It needs to be seriously considered in relation to each component and translated into the respective terminologies.

While IDS reminds us that development is an extremely mixed process, it also gives guidance as to certain critical elements of development that must take place simultaneously in order to achieve real results in relation to the overall goal: to improve the lives, well-being and dignity of all people in the world.

The IDS points to three fundamental elements of development: economic growth, productive employment and social equity. We could also think of them as building blocks of development. If so, however, they would have to be building blocks that interlock with each other, not blocks to be put one on top of the other. This was the way we believed development could be built in earlier decades: first, growth, then jobs, the social equity.

Today many of us believe that all this must occur in parallel, and in an integrated way, rather than as disparate and successive steps. My delegation therefore welcomes the emphasis of the IDS on the indivisibility of the three fundamental elements. It provides an impetus to rethink some of the modalities whereby development should take place.

Of course, we must be conscious that different goals such as economic growth and social equity may sometimes be contradictory. It is obviously the task of governments to balance such possible contradictions, taking into account the special conditions in each country. What will the IDS and the recent Cancun statement mean in terms of the approach of FAO and other institutions dealing with food supply and nutrition in the 1980s?

My delegation would like to pose certain questions concerning how the basic philosophy of the IDS can be translated into the most appropriate framework for practical action concerning agriculture, food and nutrition.

The summit, of Cancun reiterated that hunger should be eradicated by the year 2000. As the distinguished delegate from India pointed out yesterday, back in 1974, at the World Food Conference, the goal was set for 10 years from then, that is, 3 years from now. It is however well documented that the situation regarding hunger and malnutrition in the world is actually worsening in many areas. It is of particular concern that, the situation is still as bad, or sometimes worse, in areas where food production has increased in relation to population growth. '

How can we avoid another failure to fulfill the goals within the time frame set? Is it enough that the time frame has been moved forwards and even been extended?

My delegation believes that some fundamental self-critical questions have to be posed by the world community. Why are we now further from the goal we set in 1974 than then? It is not enough, we think, to ask for more political will. We must also reconsider the modalities of the development efforts, including in the field of food.

Could it be that we used to work with separate building blocks which did not interlock, and which therefore remained separate and sometimes wide apart? Were the plans for increased agricultural production linked to plans for how the products were going to be consumed, and by whom, guided by a principle of productive employment and social equity? Or did production targets remain goals in themselves while the other goals were left for other sections to handle? Could it be that irreversible processes thereby were set in motion, which made it impossible to implement goals for social equity, because the way in which production was steered, in fact, might deepen social un-equity?

My delegation would like to commend FAO for its willingness to consider a number of questions from a new angle. For example, in Chapter 4 of Review of Food Programme and many other points. May I also recall our own Minister of Agriculture who, in his official statement to the Conference, stressed that we must be receptive to new ways of thinking, and that imagination and new ideas are needed to meet the problems encountering the world today.

It is of course important that new thinking is not restricted to theory and hypothetical situations, but rather develop in close relationship to practical tasks. This is always easier when new ventures are embarked upon: for example, the Cancun meeting reiterated the idea of defining and implementing national food strategies, as launched by the World Food Council. These strategies are supported to encompass the entire food system of a country. Norway has had some hesitations in accepting this concept as being anything new beyond the food and nutrition policies that we talked about in the 1970s. However, the food strategies seem to have come to stay, and the task then is to see to it that they do generate new ways of "thinking food". We maintain that this can best be done in the context of the WCARRD recommendations. The most promising specific element of the food strategies as they have hitherto been defined, seems to us to be the weight put on linking production to consumption. In the language of the, IDS development philosophy, this would in principle be the same as linking growth to social equity.

How is it theoretically and practically possible to do so? It is not for us to give the answer, and, as we all know, a universal answer does not exist. However, we believe that a greater attention to consumption needs as the point of departure for national plans or strategies, rather than isolated production targets, could help us along. The production, or rather, supply targets, would thus be fitted to the consumption needs, and a stepwise harmonization between consumption and different types of production could be realized.

How then would consumption needs be defined? We are not thinking in terms of calories and protein primarily. Maybe nutritionists in the past have done more harm than good by offering to the planners such a limited set of norms for consumption. Calories and proteins reflect physiological needs, but demand is not primarily determined by physiological needs.

Consumption patterns have a much more complex basis: they are formed as a result of many factors, relating to a country's cultural heritage, social and economic structure, ecological resource base and technological skills and experience. Furthermore, consumption patterns are intimately related to the experiences, skills and priorities of women as procurers of food for the family. The relative strength between the various factors will vary depending on each different situation. But a better understanding of how they interplay will help in understanding also changes in consumption patterns. It is within such a framework that we should consider, for example, what happens to consumption in the process of modernization, urbanization and an increasing inter-dependence between countries and cultures.

My delegation was extremely pleased to see this point taken up in the Third Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment that we have recently discussed in this Commission, more particularly in connection with guideline 4. The document pointed out that major changes in traditional consumption patterns tend to follow urbanization. This is an area, it was said, to which governments seem to have given too little attention.

We would add that nor do they seem particularly concerned with a closely linked problem: that of import of unfamiliar and expensive types of foods, which also are often of low nutritional value. Such products from the industrialized countries are increasingly flooding the markets in the Third World. We also know that certain types of food aid may tend to work in the same direction. It is inevitable that this, in the long run, creates new values, new preferences and new demands. This will in turn, we believe, affect the overall supply both from import and domestic production.

For those who can afford it, it may at best mean a shift to the kind of dietary diseases prevailing in the rich countries. For the poor, in addition to their already low purchasing power, it means a risk of breakdown of consumption patterns that used to guide their choice of food products, and that to some extent protected them nutritionally.

The example of breast milk versus commercial babyfood is but a token example of a much deeper problem. That example has found at last a partial solution in the recent adoption by members of WHO of an international code of conduct for the marketing of commercial babyfoods. The joint FAO/WHO CODEX Alimentarius Commission formulated in 1979 a code of ethics for international trade in food in general, the latter having obtained much less attention.

To sum up, in any case here we are faced with a new global problem, and one which is about to affect food consumption and production patterns all over the world. If we want to preserve diversity in consumption and demand, and thereby the basis for diversified food production, we need to give the issue I have raised maximum attention from the beginning of this decade. There are no doubt national and regional differences in the degree of vulnerability of food cultures to external influences. It would be most useful if the Secretariat could consider the preparation of a special document that reflects the problem I have raised, for example, before the meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in 1983..

MAZLAN bin JUSOH (Malaysia): I would like to compliment the Secretariat for preparing an excellent document and to congratulate Professor Islam on his clear and concise introduction to this agenda item. The documents C 81/21 and C 81/22, which to my mind are inter-related, elaborate the major elements of a world food and agricultural strategy in a most comprehensive manner, with the latter, that is document C 81/22, specifically defining the major issues concerning regional and national development strategies.

We are in agreement with the intent of paragraph 5 of document C 81/22 which emphasises the need for countries to give priority to agriculture. Increasing food and agricultural production is a major responsibility of all countries, especially the developing ones. Measures taken by the international agencies to increase food production should be complimented and supported by the efforts of the countries themselves. While global and regional strategies provide the basic guidelines for national food production programmes, the final responsibility for implementing these programmes falls squarely on the countries themselves. External aid and assistance would only help in ensuring that national development efforts are sustained.

Malaysia has been, and is, giving high priority to agriculture in its development plan. With regard to the production of rice, the staple crop, our objective is to achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency above the current level. This sector of our agriculture is therefore given due emphasis through increased investment and the development of infrastructure such as drainage and irrigation works, storage and handling facilities. Subsidies and other supporting services have been increased together with research in the development of high-yielding varieties and prevention of post-harvest losses.

With regard to fisheries, the new changing regime of the sea provides us with the opportunity to increase our fish production to meet domestic consumption demand. However, due to increased distances and depths of water, a higher level of technology is needed to optimise exploitation of the fish stocks within our Exclusive Economic Zone waters. It is heartening to note that FAO has already initiated the formation of various sub-regional, action-oriented committees on the Development and Management of Fisheries, such as the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the South China Sea and the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal.

We hope that the FAO through such committees will be able to provide the necessary technical back-up for countries to undertake essential activities such as resource studies, monitoring, planning and management of fish stocks within their Exclusive Economic Zones.

Cooperation among neighbouring countries with contiguous water bodies is essential in the management of shared fish stocks. Perhaps FAO through these committees for Management of Fisheries, could help in the establishment of common user research facilities for the use jointly or individually by members of these committees.

For higher fish production we also look towards aquaculture to supplement our protein needs. In this field, most countries are still handicapped by lack of technology in mass fry production, intensive culture techniques and formulating of feed using local materials. Efforts on these aspects should be further intensified.

As alluded to earlier, the document on Regional and National Development Strategies highlights in a very selected manner a few important issues which will be useful when Member Countries formulate their development strategies at the country level, or decide to undertake cooperative programmes and policies at the regional level.

My delegation shares the view of Yugoslavia that in view of the contributions made through various studies, as well as through on-going deliberations in various FAO fora on food and agricultural problems and strategies, we hope that, if and when the global negotiations are under way, FAO will have an active role to play. Within the framework of global negotiations at the United Nations, as well as a part of such negotiations and appropriately linked with these, we hope the technical discussions or negotiations on the food and agricultural sector can be held at FAO. FAO is the UN specialized agency for Food and Agriculture, equipped with a large body of experts and supported by its various specialized committees, the CFS, CCP and CFA. Advantage could be taken of the voluminous fund and expertise that are available within the Organization.

SHIN-HARENG HUH (Republic of Korea): I would like to extend my appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of the selected issues on regional and national development strategies. I believe that the Secretariat has documented well a series of issues which are likely to assume increasing importance in the next decade as countries attempt to achieve agricultural development objectives. However, I would like to make brief comments on some of the issues concerned.

First of all, all the issues can be more systematically elaborated by classifying regions and/or countries into several stages of agricultural development, because problems and issues differ depending upon the development stages of regions and individual countries. The classification of development stages with various issues would help Member Countries to set up workable strategies without undergoing trial and error. Therefore I hope the Secretariat will consider the re-arrangement of the issues by classification based on the stages of agricultural development.

Secondly, as some delegates pointed out earlier, it would be better for countries to have integrated development strategies instead of separate strategies, because most of them are inter-related, so that higher efficiency and cost saving can be achieved by integrating some or most of the strategies under consideration.

Thirdly, FAO can play a greater role in Member Countries' agricultural development by providing analytical works on research and development in relation to past issues and problems that advanced countries have already experienced. When developing countries face new problems and issues arising from their own agricultural sectors they usually waste time in trying to figure out the nature of the problems and finding solutions for them which become, most of the time, problem areas that developed countries have already dealt with.

Fourthly, as many delegates have already pointed out, training manpower and the development of high-yielding varieties should have high priority on issues. These areas will become very important especially in densely populated countries like Korea.

Fifthly, I believe that all the issues of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries will be increasingly important in the coming decade, because these can be an effective and inexpensive means of drawing on the experience of similarly placed countries and in the higher-income countries/ regions. In addition, cooperation among Member Countries in trading raw materials as well as manufactured goods will be necessary to improve self-reliance in food in those developing and least developing countries which lack natural resources.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of the agricultural marketing area in the coming decade, because it easily becomes a bottleneck as many developing countries attempt to develop their agricultural sectors while striving for industrialization. Therefore an efficient marketing system is definitely necessary for farmers to get fair prices for their products, and hence they can be stimulated for quick adjustment to changing circumstances and for an increase in production.

K. OULAI (Côte-d'Ivoire): Ma délégation félicite le secrétariat pour la clarté des documents qui nous ont été soumis. Elle apprécie les analyses faites et les orientations indiquées. Elle souhaite que toutes les parties, à la recherche de l'autosuffisance alimentaire mondiale, puissent appliquer toutes ces directives qui sont très importantes pour l'humanité. Ma délégation voudrait seulement faire un commentaire sur quelques points du document C 81/22.

La recherche sur la riziculture: la riziculture irriguée est sans doute la forme qui a bénéficié de gros efforts de recherche; les résultats obtenus permettent d'affirmer que la recherche doit avoir une place capitale dans le développement agricole. Le riz irrigué présente des avantages certains: faible sensibilité aux aléas climatiques, rendements élevés, deux cycles annuels dans certaines conditions. Quant à la riziculture pluviale, elle est sensible aux aléas climatiques et les variétés disponibles ont de faibles rendements et des cycles longs. Ce type de riziculture n'a pas bénéficié des efforts qu'elle mérite eu égard à l'importance des surfaces qu'elle occupe et au nombre des producteurs touchés, plus particulièrement en Afrique.

Ma délégation souhaiterait que des efforts soient soutenus et accrus dans le cadre de la recherche sur le riz pluvial, La Côte-d'Ivoire, quant à elle, accorde déjà une place importante au riz pluvial dans ses programmes de recherche, convaincue que cela présente un intérêt capital pour l'Afrique.

Le prix d'achat aux producteurs: un prix rémunérateur au producteur est un stimulant important, mais tout prix fixé doit s'accompagner d'une garantie d'achat par une organisation efficace de la collecte. En effet, on a pu constater des prix fixés sur certains produits qui n'ont jamais eu d'effet parce que la collecte était mal organisée ou que l'organisation était inexistante. Le paysan, dans tous les cas, ne produira que s'il a intérêt à le faire. Cet intérêt, dans un système monétarisé, réside dans le revenu qu'il se procure grâce à sa production.

Agriculture traditionnelle: une importance doit être accordée au petit producteur qui est l'acteur principal du développement dans les pays sous-développés.

Le document souligne à juste titre le problème de l'agriculture de demain dans laquelle le paysan n'acceptera pas les conditions actuelles de production. Les jeunes déscolarisés de nos pays auraient pu être orientés vers l'agriculture qui semble être le lieu pour créer le plus d'emplois, mais cela signifie que l'on modifie les conditions de travail afin que l'agriculture leur procure un revenu intéressant. Il faudra les former, les aider pour leur installation, leur apporter un certain nombre d'avantages (crédits à terme plus long, détaxation du matériel, etc.). Cette action, à notre avis, doit concerner aussi bien les femmes que les hommes. En effet, la femme a toujours joué un rôle très important dans la production alimentaire.

Stockage: le stockage demeure un élément important. Ma délégation pense qu'il faudra améliorer le système de stockage au niveau du producteur lui-même, afin qu'il puisse se prémunir contre les aléas. Toutefois, ce type de stockage ne pourra pas retenir les produits mobilisables rapidement pour les villes. C'est pour cela qu'il faudra sans doute un autre type de stockage au niveau national qui sera la garantie pour les consommateurs non producteurs. Ce stock sera d'autant moins élevé que le stockage au niveau du paysan sera bien organisé. La disponibilité d'un stock permettra également de jouer sur les flambées de prix de certaines denrées non conservables lorsqu'elles manquent sur le marché. Mais tout n'étant pas stockable, il faut transformer. Cette transformation permettra sans doute aux autres produits alimentaires locaux de mieux répondre aux exigences de la consommation urbaine qui est de plus en plus importante.

Ma délégation apprécie l'idée de lutte contre la mouche tsé-tsé pour favoriser l'élevage bovin. Toutefois, eu égard aux essais réalisés en Côte-d'Ivoire, ma délégation souhaite que l'action soit menée sur une zone très vaste pour éviter les problèmes de réinfestation à partir des régions hors programme. L'expérience du programme onchocercose doit être prise en compte dans l'action à mener contre la mouche tsé-tsé,

J. B. JACKMAN (New Zealand): My delegation wishes to respond to Dr. Islam's call for comments on the agricultural policy issues following the lead of document C 81/22. Essentially we believe agricultural policy should focus on the environment, social and economic, in which farmers operate, as opposed to specific technical advances. Agricultural policy makers have to create a climate for growth against a background of competing claims for resources from other sectors. A four percent growth target as adopted in the UN International Development Strategy is a very challenging goal. Targets of this high order are very difficult to sustain, and to achieve them technical advances must be adopted without delay and this is why the environment becomes so important. Growth means change and change requires resources. However, an individual farmer will not change unless he is convinced both he and his dependants will gain from that change. Where family standards or survival may be compromised by change the farmer will be especially cautious. If farmers are not taking what appear to be worthwhile opportunities then on closer examination we can expect to find obstacles to change from the farmers' point of view. No one purposely chooses a second best way without a good reason. Our success as agricultural policy makers will be measured by the extent to which we can modify the conditions which cause these real or imagined obstacles.

The key to increasing production or improving efficiency is, first of all, to recognise opportunities. Worthwhile opportunities are usually based on some local advantage or skill or on a thorough analysis of the strength and weakness of a production system. Further research and development will be required to transform an opportunity into a reality. As problems arise, they have to be solved. The ideal is a partnership between farmers, researchers, and marketeers. Farmers possess a wealth of experience and they will respond to the stimulus and support of professional helpers if they are taken into an equal partnership with them. Some research workers distance themselves from farmers. To them, I say "you will not discover the real problems of farmers unless you first look where the problems are on the farms and within the farming community". Research and extension are important components of the development process but this process should begin and end on the farm. Greater adherence to this principle would improve the effectiveness of research and place it more integrally into the whole development process. We all face the problem of escalating costs of production, particularly in inputs like fertiliser.

While we might feel tempted to insulate producers from the impact of higher fertiliser prices, the only lasting solution is to redouble efforts to use fertiliser more efficiently. Adjustment to new circumstances is always painful, but usually less painful if tackled immediately. Input subsidies can only be justified if farmers undervalue the input in some way or if other national objectives such as the balance of payments benefit indirectly.

There is also a temptation to insulate local farmers from the full impact of international competition. As the pressure for change is reduced, the local producers will probably become less and less competitive. We believe a measure of international competition helps spur local producers to greater efficiency. Competition encourages change.

There are some elements of agricultural policy which need some firm government initiative, for example, action to stimulate or to promote structural change in land tenure or irrigation and drainage projects. New Zealand is unusual among nations for its purposeful efforts to give young farmers management responsibility early in their career. We believe this factor contributes to adaptability and to the acceptance of new ideas.

My delegation would also like to express our view on regional development policies. A regional approach to agricultural development is useful in that it highlights the diversity of developing country situations and effectively isolates the common problems which must be tackled. In our view, however, two difficulties are posed by the type of selective regional analysis employed by FAO.

First the danger exists that by employing this type of approach to food questions, the scope for improving the food situation of certain developing countries through increased inter-regional trade in food products will be neglected. Some may infer from the FAO analysis that domestic food production must be increased at almost any cost. For the poorest developing countries, however, it is a fact that the expansion of food imports is not a viable option. Constraints on the availability of foreign exchange mean that these countries must attempt to increase food production from domestic sources. On the other hand, increased food imports can be contemplated by middle income developing countries which have increasing per capita incomes and rising demand for such products as livestock and fish. Some of these countries, especially those in South East Asia and the Near East, have a comparative advantage in the production of minerals or manufactured products and domestic food production can be increased only under extremely high cost conditions. Increased food imports by these countries will benefit not only their own populations but also the food exporting countries.

Second, the analysis concentrates entirely on the continental areas of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and appears to ignore the prospects for agricultural development in regions comprising island developing countries. The South Pacific region is one region which warrants increased attention in this respect. With the exception of Fiji, between 50 percent and 85 percent of the labour force of South Pacific countries continue to be engaged in subsistence agriculture largely comprising the shifting cultivation of root crops. Impediments to increasing agricultural production include high transport costs for inputs such as fertiliser and the region's extreme vulnerability to natural disasters. However, as the populations of South Pacific countries are growing at rates of between 2 percent and 3.5 percent per annum, the issues involved in increasing food production must be faced squarely in the near future.

New Zealand generally endorses the validity of the regional approach to development and it is for this reason that as a country with limited ODA resources we concentrate almost 70 percent of our bilateral aid in the South Pacific region. As South Pacific island states face special and pressing problems, New Zealand would welcome increased emphasis by FAO on the problems of the region.

B. D. COLY (Senegal): Je voudrais tout d'abord, M. le Président, et cela parce que je prends la parole pour la première fois au niveau de cette Commission, vous féliciter, vous et vos proches collaborateurs que sont les deux vice-présidents, pour votre brillante élection, en souhaitant cependant, ainsi que vous l'avez fait d'ailleurs durant tous nos travaux, que les débats qui vont générer ici des décisions que nous souhaitons opérationnelles puissent être mis en oeuvre effectivement.

Je voudrais précisément faire un commentaire à deux niveaux, d'abord au niveau que l'on pourrait appeler un peu philosophique dans la mesure où nous avons le sentiment que les idées ne manquent pas à la communauté internationale pour voir comment combattre la pauvreté à travers notre planète. Nous pensons qu'en fait nous sous-estimons notre capacité, la capacité de la communauté internationale à éradiquer la pauvreté sur cette planète; nous la sous-estimons dans la mesure où, dans des situations quasi-similaires et précédentes, la communauté internationale a su faire montre d'idées ou de foi pour mettre au point des plans opérationnels qui ont sauvé une bonne partie de notre société.

Je veux parler entre autres du plan Marshall, qui, après la seconde guerre mondiale, a permis à une bonne partie de notre planète d'être tirée d'une situation qui est pratiquement similaire à celle d'aujourd'hui. Peut-être que les raisons, les causes de cette situation ne sont plus tout à fait les mêmes. J'évoque plus simplement ce plan sur la base de l'approche philosophique qui a animé les concepts de l'oeuvre et des artisans de cette oeuvre de solidarité humaine. Il faut donc tout simplement que la communauté internationale, que ce soit pour les pays développés ou les pays en développement, soit animée d'une volonté politique et pratique pour venir à bout de la misère à travers notre planète. Les documents qui nous ont été distribués ont généralement établi qu'il faudrait entreprendre d'une façon positive pour aller de l'avant, c'est-à-dire lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. Mais malheureusement ils ne font pas assez état des mesures qu'il faut pour les combattre et des attitudes qu'il faut prendre, parce que ces attitudes sont précisément ce qui va nous empêcher d'aller de l'avant. Le discours de M. le Directeur général de la FAO dans son introduction de la conférence McDougall a été clair là-dessus. Il s'agit des attitudes nationales ou de sous-groupes qui n'ont que la vertu de retarder notre objectif commun, il s'agit simplement du protectionnisme, de l'inflation que l'on voudrait bien faire croire n'être qu'une fatalité et autres artifices qui ne sont pas propres à nous aider dans notre marche en avant.

Nous estimons aussi, et nous avons remarqué, que dans le document qui nous est soumis la valorisation et la formation de l'homme ont été quelque peu sous-estimées et même largement sous-estimées dans le document C 81/21 relatif à la stratégie mondiale pour le développement. On n'a pratiquement pas un chapitre sur la formation de l'homme, or l'homme est précisément le premier facteur de production alimentaire quelque soit d'ailleurs le but économique et social. Nous estimons que ce niveau de développement aurait dû ne pas être noyé; c'est un aspect fondamental de la production alimentaire, de la sécurité alimentaire dans des chapitres tels que la Conférence internationale. En tous cas c'est ce que nous avons relevé dans ce document.

Nous avons également conscience qu'en faisant appel à la communauté et à ses efforts les pays à assister constituent en fait le substratum de ces efforts et doivent assurer en toute plénitude leur responsabilité entière, à savoir, prendre une part active dans l'oeuvre qui est commune. Cela ne devant en aucune façon exclure la solidarité internationale. C'est seulement en tenant compte de ces idées que nous pensons que la communauté internationale peut en venir à bout parce qu'elle en a les moyens et nous avons eu des précédents pour venir à bout de la misère et de la pauvreté sur notre planète. Enfin, nous allons passer à quelques détails qui ont trait au document C 81/21 notamment en ce qui concerne la formation. J'en ai parlé tout à l'heure dans le document C 81/22 également au paragraphe 20' il est fait allusion, à propos des fonds des grandes vallées, d'une approche par projets, laquelle approche, à notre avis, nous paraît, et cela n'est pas spécifique à l'aménagement des grandes vallées, bien moins performante qu'une approche par filière, c'est-à-dire une approche qui aborde toutes les questions, toutes les opérations d'amont en aval, qui vont de l'approvisionnement en intrants agricoles ou même en équipement de production jusqu'à la transformation et même la vente au consommateur du produit obtenu. Nous donnons la préférence pour une telle approche. Nous avons noté dans ce même document qu'au paragraphe 22 du document C 81/22 il y a une mention de l'augmentation si nécessaire et nous soulignons "si nécessaire" de la production des cultures vivrières de base qui est à souligner en Afrique et dépendra non seulement de progrès essentiellement techniques mais également de considérations économiques et culturelles. En fait nous voudrions appeler l'attention de la Commission sur la mention "si nécessaire" parce qu'il faut savoir si ces cultures vivrières sont de base ou non et si elles sont de base nous ne pensons pas qu'il faille faire mention de "si nécessaire", tellement l'approche nous apparaît fondamentale.

Enfin nous voudrions aussi, en ce qui concerne l'élevage, qu'en Afrique comme dans d'autres pays et dans d'autres régions il soit souhaitable d'envisager l'augmentation de la ration en protéines nobles des populations en misant également sur les productions animales d'origine volaille parce que dans le document qui nous est mis à disposition on insiste sur le gros bétail, notamment les bovins, et nous estimons que le cycle concernant la volaille étant nettement plus court il serait certainement judicieux d'appeler sur cet aspect l'attention de la FAO, autrement dit de mettre l'accent sur la production de volailles. Enfin, à propos des engrais aux paragraphes 60 à 67 du document C 81/22 nous avons constaté que le recours à d'autres formes d'engrais que les engrais chimiques est mentionné dans une phrase bien nette. Il s'agit notamment du recours aux engrais organiques, biologiques et même à des opérations d'amendement calcique qui peuvent s'imposer dans certaines zones et dans certaines conditions de production. D'autant plus que le document le fait ressortir, le coût d'installation des unités de production d'engrais chimiques est généralement prohibitif. Nous estimons que, pour préserver le potentiel de productivité du substratum de production qu'est le sol, nous devons mettre l'accent sur les engrais organiques, biologiques et également les engrais spécifiques tels que les amendements calciques et à ce niveau il s'agira essentiellement d'opérations de réhabilitation de sols. Le cas de mon pays est là pour en témoigner puisque par l'intensification de cultures pluviales sur des sols sableux nous assistons aujourd'hui à une acidification croissante de ces sols sableux. Il s'agira donc de réhabiliter par des amendements calciques ces sols et à l'avenir les préserver d'une dégradation de leur niveau de fertilité en leur ajoutant une des formules de fertilisation plus intégrale aussi bien par la compensation des exportations des cultures et également du maintien sinon du renchérissement du niveau de fertilité des sols. Voilà ce que j'avais à dire.

H. HAUSER (Austria) (Original language German): Like many preceding speakers, I would like on behalf of the Austrian delegation to thank the FAO Secretariat for the preparation and submission of the two excellent documents C 81/21 and 22. At the same time I would also like to thank Professor Islam for his very constructive and analytical introduction to those documents. Very many excellent and remarkable contributions have been made to this discussion yesterday afternoon and this morning, therefore I would like to make a few statements of principle with regard to the documents.

As far as Austria is concerned, the path towards a new international economic and social order has been stressed as being absolutely essential. The great potential and available resources of the industrialized countries must be used in order to give the developing countries the possibility of developing their agrarian and other infrastructure. We feel that this is only possible through a programme of action which will be subscribed to by all industrialized and all developing countries.

In this connexion I would like to mention that in the view of the Austrian delegation the results of the Cancun North-South Conference, in their final formulation of a new economic and social order, could provide a basic orientation, because it was clear in Cancun, and it was stated unanimously, that a programme and measures for food security, and in particular for an increase of food production in the developing countries, needed to be given the highest priority.

Austria welcomes in particular the fact that the UN International Development Strategy For The Third Development Decade gives high priority to agriculture and food. In paragraphs 81 to 95 (C 81/21) there is reference to this point. In paragraph 28 of the same document it is stressed quite clearly that hunger and malnutrition should be eliminated as soon as possible.

We feel that in the course of the implementation of the International Development Strategy FAO, with its excellent team of experts and world-wide institutions and machinery, should be given the leading role in the field of agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries. This very important task of FAO was stressed in the statement made by the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in plenary.

FAO should also, in the eyes of my delegation, be concerned with the preparation of a New Economic Order.

Concerning the very complete and interesting document C 81/22, the Austrian delegation would like to stress that we give our full support to what is contained in this document, because we feel that the national and regional measures and strategies which are called for in this document will make a contribution towards the desired progress in the developing countries.

In conclusion I would like to stress that the very complete statements which have been made in particular by Norway and Colombia have been followed by us with a great deal of interest, and that what they say concerning the importance of the Development Strategies and their rapid implementation should be given our full support.

A. B. RAMADAN (Libya)(original language Arabic): As this is the first time I have contributed to this debate, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election. I would also like to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen.

I would like to thank Dr. Nural Islam on his brilliant and clear expose of the two documents under consideration, and also the Secretariat for the good work it has done.

Document C 81/21 has taken up a few issues and tried to throw light on some regional particularities. In our opinion this document is a supplement to what is contained in other documents, for it has considered some of the issues relating to natural resources in certain regions, in particular the Near East and North Africa. We agree with the definition of the factors of production, apart from the climatic conditions in this region, especially as concerns the countries bordering on the deserts, we especially agree with the definition relating to crops and plants as well as livestock which will be acclimatized to the weather conditions prevailing in this area.

In this area, when we find water (which is the main natural resource) it is usually limited, and insufficient to meet the irrigation requirements, or else it is not of the kind which should be of interest to us in agricultural projects. Quite often we cannot use it for that reason. When we find the right kind of soil, which is usually very rarely, it is often unsuited for agricultural purposes -because of salinity, erosion or desertification. It is therefore of poor quality and needs special treatment-fertilizers to make it suitable for agriculture -- and I say this knowing that fertilizers are usually insufficient because of a shortage of resources for biological and organic fertilizers required in our area.

The climate in this area is unstable and incompatible with a high level of agricultural production. The differences between the maxima and minima of temperatures and between the temperature prevailing during the day and at night, as well as the different prevailing winds affect crops and their ability to absorb plant nutrients and water. These factors also affect the reaction of soil to plants and organic matter-and make for a poor output. All these elements affect agriculture in the areas near to deserts.

The question that comes to mind is: is it necessary to set up agriculture in such areas? Can a country convert such areas to make them suited for agricultural production?-they are deteriorating day after day to a preoccupying degree, the more so as the desert covers about 90 percent of the surface of the Libyan Republic, which is one of the countries of North Africa which borders the desert. On the basis of our experience, we believe that we can provide these areas with the possibility of playing their role in food production to arrive at a reasonable rate of food production to achieve a certain measure of self-reliance in food, especially since the discovery of subterranean water in the desert. Experience from agricultural projects which were set up in the last Development Plan has proved that it was possible to arrive at production rates that have reassured us in our attempts to achieve production averages under the prevailing water conditions; this is indicated in document

C 81/22. This means that we have to take into account proper irrigation methods and correct utilization of appropriate fertilizers, which in turn means that we have to carry out research, and this research should be given top priority-furthermore we have to carry out studies which will help us decide how to best use the subterranean reservoirs and to link them one to the other.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is making every effort to achieve fruitful cooperation at the regional level through the regional division for irrigation and livestock, which has emanated from the CILLS. This Committee has already held its first meeting in Tripoli in April 1981.

Some of the speakers here who preceded me have mentioned the importance of setting up gene centres, and in this respect I would like to say that I strongly support this view, because I believe that we have to count on gene resources in every region. These are the resources which are best adapted to every region and their improvement has been affected, throughout the areas. Transferring these gene resources is not a sound practice: it may be responsible for the failures which we have witnessed in developing agriculture in many areas. We would like to say on this occasion that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has started on the Gene Centre, with the assistance of some other centres, both regional and national, in order to provide authentic gene resources which can be applied. We are in cooperation with the Gene Centres in Bari, Italy, and in Western Australia.

Since we believe that the human element is the cornerstone of economic development, especially as far as agricultural production is concerned, as was mentioned both in the document and by some of the speakers I would like to state that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has started training technical staff and farmers in this regard. We have successfully implemented a few programmes. We have trained farmers in the rural sector, and the 1981/85 Plan includes a programme for setting up 125 centres for training farmers and extension workers, in addition to the existing centres and workshops, and the cycles which are now being held at various levels of agricultural production in Libya and in friendly countries but within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We have now more than 200 trainees per year. We have also tried to link agricultural research with agricultural extension and instruction in order to directly serve the production process and to participate in training this human element which will take over food production in future, and also to assist the farmer and supply him with the necessary information to raise productivity.

In conclusion, and to be brief, I would say that food aid, however improved, whatever the methods used in order to supply aid is not enough to increase food production in the world. The real security in food problems lies in the capacity of the developing countries to achieve self-sufficiency, or near self-sufficiency in food production. We believe that the freedom of nations and the dignity of man is directly linked to their possibility of being self-sufficient in food production. Hence, we believe that assisting developing countries to raise food production and to achieve self-sufficiency should be the cornerstone of the Development Strategy in the future, and that all efforts should be made to this effect, in pursuance of Resolution No. 35/36 of the General Assembly. We agree with other delegates who have said that food security cannot depend on storage, because storage management may lead to different problems such as problems related to storage location and delivery, which is why developing countries should be helped towards self-sufficiency in basic food items. That is the way we should proceed.

R. BRUGGER (Switzerland): We would like to commend the Secretariat on the very informative paper it presented to us on Regional and National Development Strategies. Document C 81/22 is in fact a prime example of how generalization and detail can successfully be combined, a compromise which, as Dr. Islam reminded us yesterday, it is difficult to achieve in a satisfactory way. Equally interesting and valuable in this document is the attempted synthesis of natural, technological, economic and social cultural factors affecting agricultural development in the different regions of the world. Such an inter-disciplinary approach, while rendering solutions more elusive, ensures that they will be more realistic.

We entirely agree with the Secretariat that growth of food production in low income countries is centrally imperative for the coming years. Judging from the discussions in this Commission to date, it may be safe to say that this is the unanimous view of FAO member countries.

We also appear to agree that the purpose of such increased production is an improvement to the nutritional status of rural and urban populations alike. But, when we investigate by what means increased production and improved nutrition can be achieved we immediately find ourselves confronted with the dilemma pointed out by our Swedish colleague yesterday and referred to in paragraph 22 of the document at hand. Farmers cannot be expected to increase production for the market unless lower production costs or higher prices give them the incentive to do so, and unless the additional earned income can be translated into increased consumption and improved conditions of life. While change of modes of production, irrigation, plant protection, use of fertilizer and high yielding crops do, and have had, favourable effects on

labour productivity and production costs, many constraints, dangers and uncertainties afflict a strategy bent on rapid modernization of the agricultural sector in the Third World. I do not want to elaborate on this problem since document C 81/22 very ably does so. If, therefore, there are limits and constraints to cost reduction measures in agriculture, sustained increases in food production must, barring force, be achieved by increased production incentives. But, here lies the dilemma faced by policy makers in poor food deficit countries, for it is precisely the malnourished segments of the urban population who are least able to absorb such price increase. Food aid might be a short run, stop-gap measure, but we know its long-term dangers. Growth of the secondary and tertiary sectors may in the long run provide some of the employment and income required. But, additional jobs in urban areas tend to have a multiplier effect, accelerating migration and unemployment even more.

The interesting idea of food consumption subsidies discussed in the recent session of the World Food Council may be impracticable as governments do not dispose of the necessary funds for financing the difference between high producer prices and low consumer prices. Simple answers to this very serious dilemma cannot be come by and we certainly cannot offer any. We would simply do not like to emphasize that we consider the demand side of the food security and food production issue to be crucial and in need of further analysis and research. It deserves as much attention as the productivity issue which still dominates the agricultural development debate.

We also wish to express the view that we consider the quality of rural life to be as crucial a factor as adequate producer prices in encouraging farmers to produce more rather than migrate to urban centers.

We would like to encourage the Secretariat to focus its attention, even more, in the future on the links between rural development, remunerative prices and production, the links between migration, adequate consumer prices and urban demand for food and on the ways in which governments may, with the aid of the international community, be able to bridge the divergent needs of consumers and producers alike.

M. EL-HAMOUD (Saudi Arabia)(original language Arabic): My delegation would like to give its opinion on the significance of document C 81/21. We would like to thank the Secretariat for its excellent presentation on food production and on the food production problems that face the countries of the world.

We would like to refer to some of the paragraphs in this document. We believe that improving performance of food production is one of the main requirements of social and economic development. We would like to refer you, with special attention, to the rice strategy which will be reviewed by the International Rice Commission in 1982. Agricultural estimates for the year 2000 have shown that animal production should increase by 4 1/2 percent between 1980 and 2000.

However, as mentioned in paragraph 42, it is required to improve the production of fodder in Asia and to make use of grains as food for poultry and livestock. We should also make use of harvests that are not utilized at all, or partially, and any livestock residues. Such action is the object of technological cooperation in Asia.

Paragraph 43 has stated that efforts for genetic improvement in dairy products are feeble at present and should be improved.

Paragraph 44 stated that dairy producer cooperatives may be the solution to provide incentives to small farmers to raise production.

Paragraph 53 has stated that we should set an integrated programme for grazing and pastures in order to solve most of the problems that are facing us today in this sector.

Paragraphs 136, 137 and 138 state that in developing livestock resources new technology and agricultural residues are being used. ICARDA in cooperation with national centers are working now in order to solve the problems. However, resources earmarked for this task are slight and there is talk of setting up an integrated network among regions in order to solve specific problems. This will help us avoid setting up new centers, and through reading this paragraph we see that we should make more efforts and that we should focus our efforts on specific issues in order to increase demand for livestock production. The estimate was 4.5 percent increase.

As for water resources, paragraphs 73 to 78 mention that water in northern Africa and the Middle East is a most important element in agricultural Production. In Saudi Arabia we attach great importance to water resources because this is the main element that will help us in agricultural development. We have carried out studies on irrigation, drainage, and dams and other projects such as de-salinization.

E. HJELMAR (Denmark): The paper prepared and introduced by Professor Islam presents in a succinct and realistic manner a global view of some key elements relating to the question of supplying more food for the people in developing countries.

It is realistic in the sense that it indicates a number of options available in developing countries for action by the developing countries. We all realize that a major effort has to be made by these countries themselves. FAO can do a lot, but can do nothing without the effort and cooperation of developing countries.

The Conference is invited to identify those options for action, so its increased attention should be paid.

For our part we would like above all to underline the importance of the actual participation of the people, men and women. We, in particular, think it is important to organize farmers' unions and agricultural cooperatives such as referred to in a number of paragraphs. I might refer to paragraphs 44, 54 106 and 113. We underline also the importance of support to small farmers which often are the very nucleus in rural society. We would like to refer to the experience gained in connection with the Indian "Operation Flood" which deserves to be copied in other regions.

On fertilizers, we would like to support not only the establishment of new production capacity in developing countries such as mentioned in paragraph 67, but also to emphasize the importance of programmes for educating farmers at local level in using fertilizers.

We believe also that there are vast possibilities in intra-regional trade and in technical cooperation between the developing countries. The possibilities should be exploited with the full support of FAO.

A. K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Mr. Chairman, in compliance with your request for delegates to be brief, I think I will skip the formality of thanking the Secretariat for the documents and congratulating Professor Islam on his introduction.

The Delegation of Uganda would like to associate itself with the sentiments expressed by previous speakers on the relevancy of the issues raised in the papers under discussion.

The need for improved production performance, the necessity to lay emphasis on traditional crops and the value of integrating livestock into improved farming systems, etc. are all key factors in the matter under consideration.

In the case of Uganda, I should like delegates to recall that Uganda experienced very serious food shortages in the last two years. As a result of this, the Government has had to re-orient its policies to promote food production. Food production has been placed on a higher plane of priority generally and the staple foods in particular.

A number of projects have been identified and are in various stages of implementation, aimed at increasing food production. All the projects so identified are based on integrated rural development, with the basic aim not only of raising food production, but also raising the general standard of the rural communities.

With regard to agrarian reform, the pattern of land ownership in Uganda is such that land is in the hands of smallholders. The objective of agrarian reform therefore in our country is one of consolidating fragmented holdings and discouraging further fragmentation. The class of the landless does not exist.

In connexion with irrigation water, Uganda is known to receive ample rainfall, enough to support crop production. In recent years, however, the pattern of rainfall has been unpredictable and unreliable. In the period 1979-80 the country experienced drought on a scale never before known, resulting in severe food shortages in the country. This proved beyond doubt the need to develop the irrigation potential in the country. One-seventh of the surface area of Uganda is covered by water. The possibilities for irrigation therefore exist and it is now Government policy to exploit this potential.

The use of fertilizers is likely to remain low because of our inability to pay for it and we therefore urge that the international fertilizer scheme be reactivated.

In the livestock sector our greatest concern is disease control. While we are happy with the programmes for the control of trypanosomiasis, there are other diseases of great concern which should receive urgent attention. One of these which comes to mind immediately is rinderpest. At the OAU/FAO/ OIE meeting on the eradication of rinderpest in Africa, held in Nairobi early this month, it was resolved that a joint campaign for the eradication of rinderpest in Africa be mounted as a matter of urgency. As diseases do not respect international boundaries, my Government would like to put on record the urgency of controlling the disease on a regional basis. This rinderpest situation is very worrying as it impedes our national efforts to improve and increase animal production. We therefore urge the FAO to assist in mounting a joint campaign for the eradication of rinderpest in Africa.

In the field of fisheries, we are again happy to note that something is being done to help developing countries benefit from their EEZs. It is our feeling, however, that programmes for the development of inland fisheries and the establishment of commercial aquaculture in developing countries, and especially in landlocked countries, should be formulated. Such programmes should be based on relevant research.

Since the vast majority of our fishermen are artisanal, programmes aimed at introducing better fishing methods should be followed. This will inevitably result in improving the general welfare of such fishermen.

We do appreciate the efforts of the Director-General in establishing the CIFA Sub-Committee on the Development and Management of Lake Victoria. We hope that this assistance will be extended in cases of other shared lakes.

In the field of forestry development, the main thrust of our efforts is in afforestation and the protection of existing forests. It is in this area that we require the greatest assistance. Alongside this is the need to establish the exact status of our forestry resources. The available data on this is now out of date and there is urgent need to carry out a fresh forestry inventory.

We are also developing forestry programmes for rural community development to ensure self-sufficiency in woodfuel, building poles, and also to help to conserve soil and water resources.

I must add that in all this we are ready and willing to cooperate with our neighbours in efforts to overcome any problems that we face regionally.

S. A. QURESHI (Pakistan): My delegation proposes to deal with the problems of regional and national development strategies highlighted in document C 81/22. Before I proceed to express the views of my delegation, I must congratulate FAO on the quality of this document, on the perception of analysis, the breadth of scope and the balance of strategy implicit in the recommendations.

While discussing regional policy in paragraphs 25 to 39 this document makes certain well-conceived observations. May I invite the attention of this Conference to paragraph 26 which suggests that the regional plan for the Asia would essentially be based on rice, but it notes at the same time an exception, my country, Pakistan. Pakistan is the only major country in the Asian region which has wheat as staple food. Might I supplement that by saying that more than 80 percent of the people of Pakistan, who number 85 million, consume wheat. But wheat consumption is not limited to Pakistan in the Asian region. China produces 57 million tons of wheat against 97 million tons of rice. India produces 34 million tons of wheat against 64 million tons of rice. These are rather large quantities. In fact these three countries together contribute 102 million tons out of the total world output of 450 million tons of wheat. Not only are these quantities large but they are cultivated and consumed in large contiguous areas within these countries. Therefore, it is important to attend to the production and trading aspects of wheat also even though we recognize that rice is the major food commodity of Asia.

My second observation is in relation to rice. While we agree with the need to diversify the technology of production in order to cover rainfed farming, deep-water rice and upland rice, we cannot ignore the observations made in paragraph 29 of the document that irrigated rice has a better potential yield. With 36 percent of the area it contributes 55 percent of production. It also notes that irrigated agriculture extends the period of water availability. It permits multiple cropping which monsoon agriculture may not.

In view of the fact that the production potential of systems other than irrigated is somewhat limited whilst formulating a strategy, this has to be kept in view. The strategy so formulated, should be essentially a strategy to supplement and not to substitute the work on irrigated agriculture.

In paragraph 39 of the document it has been stated that the International Rice Commission would carry out a review of the rice strategy in 1982. We welcome the prospect of this review. My delegation hopes that it will not only concentrate on problems of production but will also take into account the problems relating to international trade in rice. It is not sometimes realized that the structure of this trade is somewhat fragile, because rice in the international marketing situation is a narrowly traded commodity. International trade is only 4.5 percent of total production. The fluctuations are likely to be sharp and frequent. There are two reasons for this. First, the countries which are now on the margin of self-sufficiency will sometimes have a deficit and sometimes a surplus. This will give the market a volatile character. Secondly, with more emphasis on rainfed agriculture, the frequency of fluctuations is likely to be greater. Because of the narrow base of international trade, a small impact on the production will create a large impact on the trade. This is not only a question of foreign exchange outlays and foreign exchange earnings of the importing or exporting countries. It is also vitally linked to the stability of prices.

On regional food security we support the observations made in paragraphs 144 and 151 of the document. We assume that the regional food security arrangements will be based essentially on rice which is quite understandable but the agency which formulates this policy will have to settle how best to deal with the wheat consuming countries within this region and with the wheat consuming areas in each country of the region. Also this agency will have to see how to balance the requirements, interests and objectives of the exporters and the importers because they are not always identical. The creation of a balance, the creation of an identity of interests between the exporters and the importers will become a complex issue, if the price fluctuations are frequent or large.

We note that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is going to undertake a study on food security for the region. We hope that the observations made by my delegation are taken into account by that Commission. In attending to these complex problems, some of which have been highlighted in the document and some of which I have tried to highlight in my intervention, FAO has undoubtedly a very significant role. FAO has helped in the identification of problems and in placing them in a long range horizon. FAO has helped in diversifying and planning the approaches that deal with these problems.

We would like to make some suggestions to supplement these efforts of FAO. FAO as the largest expert body in the field of food and agriculture is equipped to work towards the evolution of a low-cost technology. The efforts for a low-cost technology have been confined basically to the countries which are still in the process of development. Some efforts have undoubtedly been made by the aid-giving agencies but the aid-giving agencies and institutions, which are oriented to a disbursement programme within a fixed time horizon, are not very much suited to this role. They concentrate on the viability of their investments and not necessarily on the optimum yields from their investments. Therefore, they are not constrained to find the least cost solutions to some of the problems which the developing countries are facing. It is in this respect that FAO can undoubtedly play a more meaningful role.

FAO could also try to explore the vast untapped potential in the upgrading of the conventional implements of agriculture. Even minor improvements in these implements can pay large dividends because the base is large and not enough serious effort has been made in this direction.

Thirdly, FAO could endeavour harder to study certain large scale afflictions of the developing countries, afflictions like water-logging and salinity. These techniques which have been adopted to resolve these problems have been successful in a technical sense. But they are expensive. They are energy-intensive. They require investments of billions of dollars, investments which do not seem visible on the horizon. The need, to find low-cost solutions, to find low-cost technology for dealing with these afflictions is paramount. With 4 000 experts to help it, FAO might be able to play a meaningful role in this field.

FAO should also help in identifying cheap and small-scale machinery for activities like chilling of milk, so that the dairy cooperatives can be helped to bring the new technology within the reach of villages, they can be helped to narrow the gap between the production and marketing of this important commodity.

Again, we hope that FAO might be able to find better and cost-effective techniques of water management. This is one of the problems which has been highlighted in this document. Here, the recent experience of my own country may be relevant, as we have improved 22 000 water courses over the last two years. These water courses have an overall length of nearly 40 000 miles. These were improved with the help of local farmers. The government contribution to cost was only 10 percent which was given as a subsidy. The rest either came from voluntary labour or from bank credit to the farmer community. It is estimated that by this effort the saving in water was 2 million acre feet, I must concede that the improvements which were made in this programme essentially related to earth work, to realignment of the water courses, to desilting, to raising the banks, to clearance of vegetation and not to the masonry work which can ensure

a still longer life for the improvements. But considering the time span in which they were carried out -each of these programmes was carried out within a time span of only three months-and considering their low cost, considering the benefit accruing from additional availability of water of two million acre-feet, these advances are worth emulating.

Another promising field for FAO would be the identification of the potential, as against actual, cropping patterns. In this scientific age, why must we be contented with what the process of natural evolution has given us? We must use our scientific knowledge to find new avenues, to find new cropping patterns, which are feasible and economically attractive and, at the same time, socially desirable. I would cite in this regard the instance of Brazil which has gone into the field of soya bean. In the last few years, from almost nil production, it is now producing fifteen million tons of soya beans. Maybe there is similar untapped potential in other countries. FAO can help in the identification of this potential and in the process of evolution which would help us realize this potential.

In many fields, the non-conventional production may be a matter of compulsion. This compulsion is dramatically visible in the ravages of deforestation. The trees are being cut at a rapid rate. We need a new type of afforestation, fast growing, unconventional trees with which the local people may not be familiar. FAO can help these countries to identify these species and it can give technical and extension support to this effort.

Finally, we would emphasize that whereas FAO has played a meaningful role in evolving the strategies of production and trade or in evolving the policies of aid, it is desirable that FAO might also support work on strategies of transition as distinct from strategies of production. In evolving strategies of transition it will help facilitate quicker adjustment. It will help prevent many a crisis and chances of mismanagement.

The need for a strategy of transition is imminent, for instance, in the fisheries sector where the exclusive economic zone has been extended for 200 miles by many countries but a large majority of these countries do not have the capability for an effective exploitation of the economic zone. It will take time. In the interim they have to be strengthened in order to be able to oversee the exclusive economic zone to work out arrangements for regulation of the zone. A similar need for a strategy of transition exists in the livestock sector. The demand for livestock is growing at the rate of 4.5 percent as against 3.5 percent in the crop sector. On the other hand, the grazing grounds are disappearing. We have to help the livestock sector to evolve non-conventional but economic feeds. These non-conventional feeds must be cheap, effective and acceptable. In this effort, FAO can aid a smoother transition, as it is trying to do in our country.

Another field where a strategy of transition can be useful, is the transition from deficit to surplus regimes in food. There are a number of countries, including my country, which are working out a transition, from a deficit to a surplus regime. This requires different arrangements of logistics, different arrangement for storage, a higher standard of quality control. These are the transition processes which need to be helped, which need to be facilitated. If we have an establishment working on the strategies of transition, the transition will become smoother. The bridges between the present and the future will become easier to cross. My delegation hopes FAO would help all concerned to cross these bridges expeditiously and effectively.

G. M. AHMED (Sudan)(Original language Arabic): Allow me at the outset to associate myself with the previous speakers in commending the documents on the International Development Strategy and the proposals contained therein. We have listened attentively to the comments of previous speakers who have dealt with the two documents under discussion, and I should like briefly to comment on them.

The International Development Strategy for The Third Development Decade is one of the most important resolutions of the General Assembly and should be commended by all delegations. It is important for us to implement this resolution. The second document is related to regional and national development strategies and envisages some issues at both the regional and national levels as well as indicators on how to solve problems.

Among the important issues in the developing countries, especially the African developing countries, which we think need ever increasing attention in the 1980's, is the planning and the better utilization of natural resources such as soil, water and livestock, and their balanced integration in order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition through increasing productivity and improving distribution. It is mentioned in this document that the developing countries must augment development plans, yet we find that the lack of resources and the inability to apply modern technology, such as remote-sensing, hinders the identification of these resources and their different uses. It can also help in monitoring both horizontal and vertical planning.

Sudan is among the self-sufficient countries in maize, and we have a surplus for export to some countries in the region. We have big potentialities to expand this area but, there are some hindrances in addition to trypanosomiasis, mentioned in paragraph 16 of the second document, that adversely affect the situation. There are also some negative factors such as the price rise of mechanical agricultural equipment, besides the lack of potentialities in some areas.

Conventional agriculture, which contributes greatly to the production of food in the developing countries, and the African developing countries in particular, is rather overlooked owing to the patterns followed in agriculture on a large scale. Any increase, however small, will be conducive to a rise of productivity at both the national and regional levels. Such a strategy should have priority areas as combatting drought and developing valleys. This order of priorities will help discover and identify their potentialities for increasing agricultural production in general. Subterranean waters need to be exploited in a sound and economic way in order to cultivate vegetables and cereals and to create employment opportunities in the rain-fed areas. This would limit migration to the urban regions.

I would like to mention here that the number of livestock is the criterion in the African countries, and through consistent efforts the number of livestock has increased; therefore the transition from quantity to quality has become an essential aspect especially through the selection of local and domestic species or those imported from outside, through artificial insemination and through keeping high producing varieties with a view to taking advantage of the agricultural residues for animal production. The integration between both animal and agricultural production in the pastoral lands should also be taken into consideration. The success of such a policy cannot be achieved except through stimulating production, giving remunerative prices and the development of rural industries related to livestock production.

We have also to give priority to afforestation in all rural areas to meet national demand on coal and fuelwood.

M. C. DIALLO (Guinée): De l'examen de la stratégie qui nous est proposée ma délégation conclut que l'ensemble des problèmes sont abordés dans leurs grandes lignes et que les objectifs généraux sont bien définis. En effet, les éléments de cette stratégie coïncident bien, pour nous, aux points d'appui essentiels du développement tels que nous les concevons:

- l'homme producteur qu'il faut former et faire participer à la conception et à la mise en oeuvre des projets;
- la qualification des moyens de production et l'amélioration des conditions de production et du cadre d'organisation des mêmes producteurs.

Et, pour cela, il faut féliciter le professeur Islam et son équipe pour avoir mis à notre disposition une bonne matière à discussion. Nous pensons que les discussions de notre commission devraient permettre d'aboutir à des recommandations concrètes à la Conférence, pour qu'elle donne des directives précises au Directeur général de la FAO quant à la mise en oeuvre de cette stratégie.

C'est dans cette optique que ma délégation voudrait aborder quelques aspects de la stratégie définie par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et qui nous est soumise. Et nous pensons que ce sera l'une des manières, pour nous, d'avoir la possibilité d'évaluer le poids effectif dans la pratique de nos déclarations d'intention à la première échéance d'évaluation, prévue en 1984.

Ainsi, en vue de favoriser le développement de la production agricole dans les pays en développement, clé d'une sécurité alimentaire efficace, la Conférence devrait demander au Directeur général de la FAO de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires et possibles pour accroître le flux de ressources financières à destination des pays en développement, et pour faciliter l'affectation efficace du peu de ressources disponibles, d'organiser des missions dans les Etats Membres pour évaluer les mesures prises pour la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie, et d'aider à ajuster et parfaire ces mesures.

Dans ce cadre, la FAO, en coopération avec le PAM, le FIDA et les autres institutions, devrait trouver les moyens de relancer le réapprovisionnement des fonds alloués au développement rural.

A l'occasion de cette relance, nous voudrions appuyer la proposition selon laquelle on devrait attirer l'attention des bailleurs de fonds sur la nécessité de faire l'effort supplémentaire nécessaire pour aider au financement des dépenses locales et des dépenses de fonctionnement, liées à l'exécution des projets de développement agricole.

Compte tenu de la faiblesse des ressources dont on dispose, et dont on va continuer certainement à disposer, il faudra que la FAO veille dans l'élaboration des projets, au rapport coût/efficacité de l'ensemble des composantes des projets à mettre en oeuvre. Elle devra à notre avis appuyer tous les projets des pays en voie de développement tendant à assurer une plus large participation des petits paysans à l'exécution des programmes qui leur sont destinés. En particulier, selon nous, les projets ne doivent plus être conçus sur la base des seuls résultats obtenus dans les stations de recherche, mais de manière à ce que toute réalisation soit à la portée des possibilités humaines réelles des paysans.

En ce qui nous concerne, c'est ce souci de coller aux réalités de la campagne qui a amené le Gouvernement de la Guinée à créer ce que nous appelons les fermes agro-pastorales d'arrondissement, pour servir de point d'appui à l'application des résultats de la recherche; pour servir de centres de vulgarisation pour la démonstration de ce que le paysan peut faire à partir des faibles moyens à sa portée pour obtenir une exploitation économiquement rentable.

La diffusion et l'utilisation de nouvelles techniques ne pourra atteindre l'efficacité voulue que si les canaux classiques de la vulgarisation agricole sont revus. Quant à nous, nous sommes convaincus que l'efficacité du vulgarisateur est liée à sa connaissance concrète des problèmes, des aspirations et des possibilités humaines des paysans. Cela ne peut se faire que si le vulgarisateur vit au sein des communautés rurales, et c'est le but que nous visons avec la création des fermes agro-pastorales d'arrondissement, au sein desquelles sont affectés de nouveaux techniciens du développement rural pour démontrer, en grandeur nature, et de manière globale, ce que la science et la technique peuvent apporter aux paysans.

A notre avis, la FAO doit donner son plein appui à de telles orientations et, une fois créées les conditions de la diffusion et de l'utilisation de nouvelles techniques, des mécanismes de soutien à l'utilisation de ces techniques doivent être trouvés.

Les documents qui nous ont été soumis mettent l'accent sur deux facteurs de l'accroissement de la production agricole, les engrais et l'eau, auxquels nous ajoutons, quant à nous, l'énergie.

Au niveau de notre organisation, il serait éminemment souhaitable que le Directeur général veille à renforcer l'action de la FAO pour la mise en oeuvre de ces facteurs. En ce qui concerne les engrais notamment, il faut tenter d'obtenir une aide accrue en matière d'engrais:

1. en renforçant et en perfectionnant le système d'option de la FAO que nous jugeons très intéressant;
2. en négociant avec le Fonds monétaire international l'extension aux engrais et autres intrants agricoles du mécanisme de financement compensatoire, comme cela a été suggéré dans le rapport qui nous a été soumis;
3. en renforçant le programme international d'approvisionnement en engrais de la FAO, qui a l'air de se mourir en ce moment; et il faudrait que les délégations appuient le Directeur général pour obtenir le renforcement de ce programme;
4. et en développant les activités sur la mise au point de l'utilisation des engrais organiques que mon collègue de la Côte d'Ivoire a eu à souligner car l'emploi de ces engrais peut amener une diminution des quantités d'engrais minéraux à utiliser dont les coûts vont certainement augmenter puisque leur fabrication exige de l'énergie dont nous connaissons le prix.

En ce qui concerne l'eau, nous appuyons fortement les recommandations du document C 81/22 relatives au développement des petits projets d'irrigation au niveau des villages.

Là dessus, notre expérience, qui résulte de la mise en oeuvre d'une capacité d'aménagements de 90 sources et de 45 puits par an dans la zone au nord du onzième parallèle de notre pays, nous permet d'affirmer et de confirmer l'efficacité de telles actions.

A présent, nous recherchons le soutien à la création d'une capacité similaire pour la construction de petits barrages et petits bassins à usages multiples au niveau des communautés rurales, pour l'irrigation, la production éventuelle d'énergie par l'utilisation de centrales de faible capacité même au fil de l'eau, pour la pisciculture et pour l'approvisionnement en eau des hommes et des animaux.

La FAO doit, dans son programme d'action, privilégier de telles initiatives en ce qui concerne les problèmes de l'approvisionnement en eau.

Parmi les facteurs sur lesquels il faut mettre l'accent, nous avons rajouté celui de l'énergie lié à la production de bois de feu et à la protection de l'environnement. La mise en oeuvre parallèle d'un

programme d'utilisation rationnelle de la biomasse, pour la production d'énergie et d'engrais organique, doit avoir tout le soutien de la FAO. Nous y reviendrons dans le débat sur l'énergie et le développement rural.

En ce qui concerne les problèmes de l'élevage, la nécessité de la liaison de cette spéculation avec l'agriculture a été soulignée de nouveau comme cela l'est depuis longtemps. Mais la mise en oeuvre du mécanisme d'intégration confirme, encore une fois, la nécessité de nouvelles structures institutionnelles pour amener les paysans à l'adopter.

Nous espérons quant à nous y arriver enfin grâce à la création des fermes agro-pastorales d'arrondis-: sèment qui aborde, de manière globale, les problèmes de développement rural au sein même de nos villages.

A propos de la lutte contre la trypanosomiase, je voudrais simplement donner une information selon laquelle il faudrait savoir que le berceau de la race de bovins la plus trypano-tolérante se trouve dans mon pays. Conscient de la nécessité de conserver, de perfectionner cette race pour être en mesure de faire face à la demande croissante de certains pays frères africains, le Gouvernement guinéen a mis en oeuvre, en coopération avec la FAO et le PNUD un petit projet dans ce sens; ce projet qui a un intérêt continental devrait, à notre avis, être développé et agrandi pour lui assurer une plus grande portée et une plus grande efficacité.

A. M. S. AL NAKIB (Kuwait)(original language Arabie): I shall try to be brief in my statement, since the preceding speakers have already dealt with this question which is of interest to us.

First of all, I would like to speak briefly about document C 81/22, the document recognizes the fact that the study of the problems of all countries cannot be seen on a global scale, but it does show the characteristics and problems of the various regions and ways and means of solving them. This leads us to thank Professor' Nurul Islam and the Secretariat for their excellent preparation of this document and of this whole subject, and also of the other documents before us. The countries should try and increase agricultural production, food production, and livestock production on a general scale, and this will only be possible if the farmers are assured of having the necessary production factors. This should include, among others, improved soils-soils improved on a wider and wider scale. We should also try and find a way of controlling soil degradation and the desertification. We should try and find modern and improved irrigation systems, and to develop irrigation networks and maintain them, and make maximum use of these networks. We should also make use of improved seed in order to intensify agricultural production since in this way we can bring about the increase for which we are striving. We should also try and find seed of drought-resistant crops-this certainly would have a significant effect on the increase of production.

The role of research is of essential importance for overall development. The fight against -ignorance, underdevelopment, and epidemics among the farmers and the rural population in general will make it possible to improve the development of the economy and of agriculture. The introduction of improved technology would also increase food and agriculture production. Everybody knows that fertilizer makes it possible to increase agricultural yields, and the utilization of fertilizers will increase. This also applies to pesticides and herbicides. Afforestation and the intensification of tree-cropping, of plant ing trees of suitable species, would make it possible to fix the soil to improve the ecology and to produce energy, which is absolutely necessary. All this should be coordinated within the framework of a well-thought out and well-defined agricultural development plan.

We still have the question of availability of financing and liquidity. This of course is of the very highest priority nowadays, whatever development it may be-agriculture, urban development or industrial development, this always remains a very important factor. As you know, the vast majority of the developing countries have a balance of payments deficit. They also have a budgetary deficit, and they cannot import certain agricultural inputs such as chemical fertilizer, certain types of equipment and agricultural machinery and other mechanical aids, in spite of the fact that arable land is available in large quantities, and also manpower. This shows how important international and other sources of financing are, to help the developing countries to develop their projects, to make it possible for them to introduce new technologies, and to increase yields and productivity. These factors are inter-related and they are mutually complementary in order to reach the desired level of productivity and to ensure food security. We need all of these factors-if one of them is missing, this will certainly have an impact on general productivity and production.

A. L. MACHADO DE MORAES (Brazil): We would like to make a few comments on this comprehensive document C 81/22 which has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Starting with paragraph 50 we wish to express our understanding that the major limiting factor to livestock development in Latin America is the protectionist policy of developed countries, expressed in terms of sanitary descriptions. The ample progress which has been made by Latin America in the area of animal health has not been fully recognized by developed meat importing countries.

With respect to the African swine fever, we were able, with the help of this Organization, to control and eliminate this disease. Along that line, the UNDP/FAO project will be implemented in Brazil next year, in support of the work of laboratorial analyses of animal references, which should benefit all the Latin American countries.

In the particular case of Brazil, in addition to the work done on animal health, which keeps under control foot and mouth disease in the country, we are developing a well-organized system of animal inspection service. In fact, Brazil has made huge investments in the meat industry in order to improve its facilities so as to meet the increasingly rigorous sanitary requirements imposed by developed importing countries. The high quality of our meat industry is recognized internationally by the sanitary authorities.

Livestock is an important activity in Brazil, occupying an area of 150 million hectares, which corresponds to three times the area devoted to agriculture. Although we continue to be traditional producer and exporter of beef, we have not neglected the production of swine, and we have expanded considerably in recent years the production and export of poultry. The meat export target established for the current year, most of which has already been attained, was around 1 billion dollars, out of which 600 million dollars represents beef and 300 million dollars poultry.

Coming now to the problems of peasant agriculture in Latin America (referred to in Chapter 5 of the document) we would like to mention that the performance of Brazilian agriculture has been satisfactory, especially in the last two decades, fully matching the target growth established for developing countries. It is true however that the export of industrial crops has expanded more rapidly in response to market incentives. This is a natural tendency to be dictated by market forces which assumes increasing importance for our importing to developing countries. In reality, given the pressure of oil imports upon the balance of trade, Brazil and Latin American countries, we do believe, could not afford to ignore the contribution of agricultural exports towards solving the problems of balance of payments. We consider however that in the particular case of Brazil it is possible to harmonize a food-producing agriculture with agriculture for export, as well as with agriculture for the production of energy.

Along that line, new agricultural policy orientations, have been introduced in the area of rural land tax and credit. The rural tax has been revised to provide on the one hand substantial penalties for continued under-utilization of land resources, and on the other hand, tax exemption for above-standard utilization and yields.

In the case of rural credit, the new policy orientation aims at reducing the implicit subsidy in finance to the sector, preserving however the small farmers who are responsible for about 80 percent of food for domestic consumption. In support of the strengthening of peasant agriculture, the Brazilian government has made an effort to facilitate the access of the small producers to the land. Along that line public and private colonization projects have been the major instrument to promote a more equalitarian personal and regional distribution of resources.

Quite recently the government submitted to the congress a draft law establishing that any person occupying privately a track of land of public rural land with less than 20 hectares for 5 years or more is entitled to ownership of that land. In favour of the urban poor and small agricultural producers it was implemented in a well succeeded food programme which consists of facilitating success of food supply to consumers in poor communities. This work is done by a Brazilian food company which buys food on a large scale and distributes it to retailers in those communities. This is a self-sustained programme that has contributed to reducing food prices and stabilizing the food market.

In conclusion, we would like to say that the potentialities of the Brazilian agriculture and the wide range of existing alternatives are a clear indication that there are no major conflicts or dilemmas in promoting a balanced growth of agriculture and performing, at the same time, the new tasks assigned to the sector.

Le PRESIDENT: Avec cette intervention nous allons arrêter nos travaux pour ce matin. Il y a de nouveaux inscrits pour cet après-midi et je signale que nous avons reçu les déclarations de la Thaïlande et Suri name qui seront incorporées dans le compte rendu de notre séance. Je voudrais remercier aussi l'observateur de l'Union internationale des syndicats des travailleurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des plantations qui nous a fait parvenir sa déclaration qui sera insérée telle quelle. Il nous épargne ainsi un capital temps dont nous avons grand besoin.

NGUEN SRISURAK (Thailand): There are three agricultural development approaches being taken into account for achieving our goals for the coming years. They are:

First, mount commodity production programmes in areas that have immediate growth potential.

Second, launch a few farming-district projects which seek to make the most of the resources of selected geographic areas with recognition that areas with immediate growth potential have different needs from those with future growth potential.

Third, improving the efficiency of the regular agricultural agencies.

These approaches, in our belief, are relevant directly to the United Nations International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade, document C 81/12, and Regional and National Development Strategies, document C 81/22. My delegation believes that they would fit the strategies to spur agricultural growth if taking the above three ways of development into account effectively. We also believe that we can do nothing in general if there is constraint in our funds. Therefore, we must invest in a specific crop or area where there is potential. Furthermore, neither commodity production programmes nor farming-district projects can deal effectively with a number of factors bearing on agricultural growth that require decisions and actions at the national level: ensuring adequate whole supplies of fertilizers and other farm inputs, determining policies regarding farm input and product prices, adopting tax policies, executing land reform programmes, and allocating public investment funds among agriculture and other sectors of the economy.

To deal with these deficiencies, it is desirable to launch an additional activity simultaneously; to seek to improve the efficiency of all regular activities of the Government that influence the rate of agricultural growth. In this connexion, Thailand, in the Fifth Five Year National Social and Economic Development Plan starting 1982 for objectives of increasing crop production as well as incomes of farmers, is going to carry out the above strategy.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation supports the Guidelines laid out in the documents C 81/21 and C 81/22. 1/

H. LIONARONS (Suriname): Mr. Chairman, my delegation joins the others which have already spoken on this item of the agenda in commending the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the document and Prof. Islam for his clear presentation. Already many analyses have been presented by various delegates. As a consequence, our comments can be very brief.

The document under discussion, C 81/21 is without doubt excellent, but to my opinion too much anticipating on the political will in the future of developed countries to assist the developing countries and arrive jointly at the establishment of the New Economic Order.

Paragraphs 81 to 95 clearly indicate the urgent actions to be taken by both the developed and the developing countries in the field of food and agriculture.

Paragraphs 96 to 114, describing the possible financial resources for development are clearly understood by my delegation. In order to be ascertained in an early stage about the realistic financial modalities for the developing countries, I should appreciate to be informed about the progress made as regards the consultations and meetings mentioned in paragraphs 83, 88 and 101. If the results have been negative or not yet concluded, the developing countries will have to seriously consider possible other options to bear their responsibility as mentioned in paragraph 96.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

As for paragraph 60, I wish to state that my country exerts its best efforts for exporting white rice to developed countries. One basic problem now emerging more and more critically is that the developed countries demand cargo rice, while in terms of our national economic approach we prefer to supply white rice, leaving the by-products and the added employment in Suriname.

My delegation furthermore fully supports the chapters G and H.

As for document C 81/21, Regional and National Development Strategies, let me be brief and make some remarks on paragraphs 55 to 58 Fisheries Development and Management.

Mr. Chairman, it is without doubt that marine fisheries development and management are best approached by regional programmes and projects, since marine fishes do not listen to national boundaries. Small countries, such as mine, benefit very much from the implementation of regional fisheries projects, executed by FAO. The integrated character of the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Development Project in Panama and the Infopesca-project in Panama, are of great assistance to Suriname in developing its fishery-industry.

It is therefore deeply regretted that due to lack of funds this WECAF project will have to terminate its activities by the end of this year. On behalf of my Government, I therefore urgently request you, Mr. Chairman, to convey my Government's great concern to the Secretariat and all other institutions concerned to do whatever possible to prevent this termination of activities of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Development Project. 1/

V. KALASHNIKOV (Observer for the Trade Unions International of Agricultural, Forestry and Plantation Workers): On behalf of my organization the Trade Unions International of Agricultural, Forestry and Plantation Workers, I would like to express some views on the problems raised in the document under discussion.

We agree with Professor Islam's remark in his clearly outlined introductory speech that the problems discussed now are closely related with the ones under review in the following papers-namely the document C 81/23 under the title "Follow-up of WCARRD". In some of my observations I would like to refer to part III of the document C 81/22.

It is a well-known fact that poverty in rural areas in many countries of the world is aggravating, that landlessness is on the increase, that poor peasants, landless and agricultural workers are under-employed and unemployed for the most part of the year. The pressure exerted by this part of the work force on the labour market not only devalues the labour in the rural areas, in towns and brings Overexploitation -to name just the child labour, but increases also the number of unemployed in general.

Paragraph 123 of the document states "An additional element of complexity arises from the possibility that increasing disparities between urban and rural development may, in fact, lead to an acceleration of the flight from the countryside".

Leaving aside the definition of the true reasons for the rural exodus, we would observe that the conditional meaning of the sentence does not reflect the existing situation because it is already the reality in many parts of the world.

It seems to us that the adopted approach-the regional description, analyses and options-is somewhat concealing what is common to many-that is:the relationship of dominance and subordination, the continuing process of complete bankruptcy for many and land concentration for some, exploitation and over-exploitation of rural poor.

This exploitation, to our mind, is not limited to the unequal relations between different strata of the local population. It has already been mentioned here that the unequal exchange further undermines the possibilities of the rapid development. Plus coffee there are other agricultural commodities and their cost goes down and down as compared with the goods imported from the developed countries. Transnational corporations not only manipulate the international markets, but many directly exploit the rural poor.

We believe that what is common to many is the necessity of the realization not only proclamation of the true democratic agrarian reforms, bringing benefits to the wide masses of the rural poor and curbing political, economic and social power of the few rich.

We believe and the document clearly states, that the problem of integrating the rural poor being potentially productive forces into the development process "could only be effectively tackled through an overall development approach going beyond the agricultural sector to the economy as a whole".

We believe that what is common to many is the necessity to realize the principles of the New Economic Order.

We would like to state again that no true solution can be found in coming closer to solving the problems without the democratic participation of the rural people, including women themselves, without the democratic participation of their representative organizations at all stages of planning, decision making, realization of plans and projects, concerning the wide masses of the rural population.

My Organization has tried to contribute to the FAO activities in this respect and will do so in the future.

Finally, we believe that solutions can more easily be found under the conditions of disarmament. According to the UN data-only 0.5 percent of world military budgets would cover the necessary agricultural inputs to increase the production substantially even during this decade-the Third Development Decade. 1/

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas

1/ 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

C

C 81/I/PV/12

Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

TWELFTH MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE
12ª SESION

(18 November 1981)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de
Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 14. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. World Food and Agricultural Development Strategy, including:
- 7. Stratégie mondiale de développement de l' alimentation et de l'agriculture,
notamment:
- 7. Estrategia mundial para el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular :
- 7. 1 UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade (continued)
- 7. 1 Stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour
le développement (suite)
- 7. 1 Estrategia internacional de desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el
Desarrollo (continuación)
- 7. 2 Regional and National Development Strategies (continued)
- 7. 2 Stratégies de développement régionales et nationales (suite)
- 7. 2 Estrategias regionales y nacionales de desarrollo (continuación)

H. HAMMAD (Jordan)(original language Arabic):To start with, I wish to say that the paper before us provides very good ideas and very useful information. This will accelerate agricultural development in developing countries provided that the principles contained therein are implemented. I have nothing new to say for all those who have preceded me have referred to the various points I wanted to mention. Nevertheless, I wish to say that the International Development Strategy for the UN Third Development Decade in the field of food and agriculture should be rooted in the countries themselves and that every country should mobilise all its possibilities toward food self-sufficiency. I say so because I am aware that food exporting countries will arrive at the time when they will be reducing their exports, particularly wheat, because the people of these very same countries will be needing the commodities they are exporting. The document sets out recommendations of a general nature which are not very precise, for example, it speaks of very urgent problems that require particular initiatives. We want to know what these initiatives are. In another paragraph reference is made to disarmament and development, and we note here that man has been able to get to the moon, to invent and produce the nuclear weapons, yet this man, egoistic as he is, has not been able to act in the rural areas in an efficient manner, and this is why rural areas are the poorest in the world. Naturally this problem cannot be dealt with by shying away from it, and very many countries need aid and support to repair this deteriorating situation, otherwise ruin will threaten this world.

Another paragraph refers to support technology in developing countries. I wish to underline that this is a very important principle and advanced countries should come to the assistance of developing countries with this kind of technology, machinery, improved seed varieties, fertilisers, etc. , so that they may thus meet in practical terms the requirements of these countries, thus allowing the farmer to use these production inputs in an efficient and comprehensive manner. It is this aid which will lead directly to agricultural development and make available the financial resources that will allow the farmer to obtain these commodities.

In speaking of women, we note that she rocks the cradle with one hand and ruling the world with the other. It is those women who are involved in the agricultural process and also employed at home. Unless she participates fully in this process, efforts will be fruitless. Therefore, we ask. the advanced countries with the help of developing countries to provide a proper extension machinery that will take into account these needs,

I also wish to say that food products once stored are exposed to considerable waste and could cause serious losses, and here I wish to refer to the proverb that says if you teach a man you are teaching a whole family. I wish to say here that producing food and distributing it in these countries is excellent per se. We need a comprehensive network so that the farmer can get his produce to the market. This naturally will lead to stability.

Another paragraph speaks of putting all our efforts to fulfil the development and the welfare of mankind. We have all been hoping and praying for this purpose and perhaps the aggressor understands the situation because development will have no future in any part of the world as long as occupation persists. We hope that the aggressor will notice this before it is too late and history is witness to what I say.

A. P. J. M. OOMEN (Netherlands): We thank the Secretariat for the document 81/22 and Dr. Nurul Islam for his introduction to it. In the document the Secretariat presents some selective issues for the 1980s. We would like to comment on some issues out of these. The resolution on the International Development Strategy for DD3 states, and I quote: "agricultural and rural development and the eradication of hunger and malnutrition are among the essential objectives of DD3. Developing countries in the context of their development plans and priorities firmly supported by the international community will take all necessary measures to accelerate food and agricultural production in order to improve national and collective self-sufficiency in food as early as possible".

How can we operationalise this objective? Cancun has provided some elements for a plan of action. We believe that the action plan of Mr. Pisani of the EEC provides a good basis for action. In Brussels, the Netherlands have strongly supported it, and we have committed ourselves to assist in its implementation. The major window of the Pisani plan focusses on our national food strategies as a prerequisite for agricultural and food production development. It asks not only for a sustained effort from governments to pursue a comprehensive agricultural development policy, it calls also on donors to exercise the necessary discipline in assisting the recipient governments in the pursuit of their policies. In fact, food strategies provide a basis for negotiation on aid allocations. This we consider as the essence of the Pisani plan.

As we have stated in the Plenary we too consider the small farmer to be the backbone of food production. In a comprehensive agricultural policy the risks he takes in changing his traditional farming system should be taken care of. In that case he will react rationally as is stated in the document. Paragraph 120, explaining what is called "the second option" enumerates the different possible incentives and measures to move the small farmer to change his traditional pattern. We see as major elements in such a policy a system of guaranteed prices together with infrastructural measures to increase his access to the productive factors. If increasing food production really becomes of interest to the small farmer he will do so. This will have positive side effects on off-farm employment in the rural areas, and a direct effect on the income situation. It will increase and broaden the effective demand for food. If, however, the small farmer is not our main policy focus and no special measures are taken he will lose his land to large farmers and become landless, poor, and deprived of food. Even if the large farms increase food production substantially and statistically the effective demand for food might be narrowed. More poverty and more hunger will be the result. An increase and a broadening of the effective demand is more likely to be the result of a policy oriented towards the small farmers,

I would like to come to the role of food aid. The short-term target for the increase of food production could be to fill the effective demand in the country. At this moment a maybe larger cost of food aid seems to go to the factual effective demand and does not reach the ineffective demand, the people deprived of food.

On a world-wide scale, however, we have the task and the possibility to provide adequate food to all human beings. On a national level, this might not be possible. Food aid therefore has the role to reach those who have no access to food because they have no title to obtain it on the market. In this specific way food aid can finally play its role to eradicate the hunger from the world, for which it is intended.

P. A. BLANDÓN (Nicaragua): En el aspecto regional, nuestra delegación presento ante esta Comisión, el día viernes 13 por la tarde, una exposición que demostraba nuestro especial interés porque se impulsara una estrategia regional para la seguridad alimentaria en la zona de Centroamérica y el Caribe.

El documento C 81/22, presentado por el Dr. Islam, en sus párrafos 145 y 146 recoge perfectamente el significado que favorece un enfoque regional de la problemática para resolver fluctuaciones de producción mediante la creación de reservas regionales de alimentos.

El SELA (Sistema Económico Latinoamericano) ha propuesto, dentro del marco regional, una serie de actividades de las que ya hemos hecho mención en el tema sobre seguridad alimentaria. Varios países en esta Comisión hemos sustentado los objetivos y beneficios que se obtendrían con las alternativas discutidas en México en agosto pasado durante la reunión de expertos gubernamentales de alto nivel para la seguridad alimentaria.

Sin embargo, un aspecto fundamental que encontramos necesario priorizar dentro de las actividades propuestas es el fortalecimiento institucional a empresas u organismos estatales de comercio exterior que intervendrían en la ejecución del intercambio comercial y del acopio interno de los alimentos.

En el marco de la estrategia nacional para el desarrollo agrícola, Nicaragua, a pesar de los diversos problemas que afronta, ha considerado indispensable la inclusión de soluciones integrales. Se deben integrar a estas soluciones, no solamente los aspectos técnicos y financieros y de comercio, sino que fundamentalmente se deben integrar soluciones que den una respuesta sólida y permanente a los problemas sociales heredados, los cuales repercuten sobre todo en el sector rural productor de alimentos.

En los párrafos 116 al 126, el documento deja entrever la triste realidad de la mayoría de los países pobres de América Latina en cuanto a los problemas que afronta la agricultura campesina. Nuestro Gobierno ha tomado como tarea prioritaria realizar profundos cambios estructurales en este importante sector de nuestra economía al introducir una ley de reforma agraria que verdaderamente redistribuya con justicia revolucionaria los grandes latifundios improductivos o ineficientemente explotados, que benefician realmente a los campesinos pobres, sin detrimento de la productividad.

Tenemos como principal objetivo estimular la producción campesina dentro de un contexto verdaderamente revolucionario que contemple la integración de todos los factores de orden económico, político y social, con el único propósito de lograr la felicidad y bienestar de nuestro pueblo.

Finalmente, nuestra delegación desea invitar a países y organismos internacionales interesados a observar el desenvolvimiento de nuestra estrategia de desarrollo agrícola, con el propósito de hacer una modesta contribución para el fortalecimiento de una agricultura que favorezca cada vez más a los sectores marginados de nuestro mundo.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Nous voulons remercier vivement le secrétariat pour la brillante présentation de son rapport. Nous ne répéterons pas ce qu'ont déjà dit les honorables délégués qui m'ont précédé mais voulons faire quelques observations.

Nous voulons parler d'abord de la question des intrants agricoles. En effet, à nos yeux, il s'agit là du point le plus important. Nous avons appris avec beaucoup de satisfaction l'ampleur et l'importance qui ont été données aux engrais. Nous pensons que c'est une très bonne chose, mais voulons aussi que dans ce document une certaine place soit donnée à la protection des cultures. C'est bien de produire, mais il faut aussi protéger la production dans les champs.

Nous voulons aussi souligner un point très important : une fois que les récoltes sont dans les hangars, il faut avoir les moyens de l'importation. A nos yeux, les pesticides et les moyens de traitement dans les champs et après les récoltes ont toute leur importance.

Ma délégation a pris bonne note de l'importance que vous avez donnée dans ce document au problème du maïs; en effet, le maïs constitue une des bases essentielles de l'alimentation des pays en voie de développement, notamment en Afrique. C'est pour cela que nous croyons qu'un effort de recherche génétique et de divulgation des semences sélectionnées doit mériter une place très importante.

Tout ce qui est préconisé dans ce document est bien joli, mais l'important c'est l'homme; il faut qu'on forme des gens au ras du sol et à tous les niveaux; il faut qu'on crée des sites d'extension rurale au niveau des pays en voie de développement afin de pouvoir mettre en pratique la technologie de recherche.

Je veux dire que la pêche doit constituer un volet important, je parle de la pêche artisanale; il faut qu'on associe la pêche à l'agriculture dans nos pays en voie de développement.

Nous voulons appuyer sans réserve les programmes de la FAO en ce qui concerne les zones exclusives. Il faut que la Conférence demande au Directeur général, M. Saouma, de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour alimenter les fonds et les ressources pour la concrétisation de cette stratégie.

En ce qui concerne l'eau, nous croyons que l'eau est un aspect très important, même un élément indispensable; il faudra que l'hydrologie villageoise et pastorale, en tout cas pour les pays en voie de développement et surtout les pays africains, soit considérée comme un point d'appui très important.

Concernant le stock alimentaire, nous pensons que l'aspect régional est à nos yeux un aspect qui mérite d'être médité et nous avons des espérances très claires au Sahel et dans les dix-huit pays membres du CILSS dont notre projet régional constitue les stocks nationaux et régionaux, les stocks de sécurité alimentaire et nous pensons que ce projet qui est appuyé par la FAO, serait peut-être un exemple dans l'avenir.

Pour terminer, nous voudrions souligner l'importance d'une approche intégrée de développement rural; nous croyons beaucoup à l'exemple de la création du centre africain rural intégré en Tanzanie, nous demandons à la FAO et à certains membres de tout faire pour que ce centre démarre des actions très rapidement en faveur du combat contre la faim.

C. D. SANCHEZ-AVALOS (Argentina) : Me limitaré a hacer muy breves comentarios sobre el tema correspondiente al documento C 81/22.

En nuestra opinion ese documento constituye un claro y alto examen del tema estrechamente ligado a los esfuerzos de desarrollo regional y nacional. La enunciación de estrategias referidas a esos niveles constituye sin duda un elemento de información sobre puntos de partida y caminos alternativos que conducen hacia objetivos" de desarrollo tal y como imponen las diversas realidades de las regiones y de los países.

En el transcurso de esta Conferencia, nuestro país pudo señalar en el Plenario, en la exposición del Jefe de la Delegación Argentina, y en esta Comisión, al debatirse el tema del estado mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación, los avances de nuestra producción agrícola.

La base fundamental de los progresos logrados en Argentina se manifiesta en incrementos de productividad por la introducción de mejoras tecnológicas que lentamente han repercutido también en los niveles de ingresos de los productores.

Si a la vez tenemos en cuenta que el 95 por ciento de las explotaciones agropecuarias argentinas son de propiedad de productores independientes, y que en el sector rural sólo se localiza un 6 por ciento de la población nacional económicamente activa, podemos apreciar el grado de desarrollo agrícola alcanzado por nuestro país.

Al referir este desarrollo a los puntos de vista y alternativas expuestos en los párrafos 116 a 126 del documento que analizamos, podemos afirmar que estamos encuadrados en la alternativa de la agricultura dinámica moderna, cuyas implicaciones se manifiestan en los hechos positivos de nuestro desarrollo, sin que se presenten situaciones conflictivas o problemas que exijan cambios estructurales, salvo en el caso de algunos problemas originados en áreas geográficas determinadas por la excesiva fragmentación y por la antieconómica pequeña extensión de los predios en explotación.

Con esto, quiero significar, que las estrategias del desarrollo agrícola argentino pueden presentar hechos cuantificados e importantes por estar orientadas en la permanente búsqueda de ventajas comparativas, originadas por la eficiente combinación de sus factores positivos.

TAZI SAID(Maroc): Je voulais compléter mon intervention d'hier sur l'expérience marocaine en ce qui concerne la stratégie de développement nationale par quelques remarques d'ordre général. Je voudrais notamment préciser que la mise en place de la stratégie nationale qui devait s'inspirer de la stratégie internationale de développement préconisée par les Nations Unies nécessite que les Etats en développement procèdent à une réorientation des investissements internes au profit de l'agriculture. Il faut qu'il y ait priorité réelle au profit de l'agriculteur concrétisée par un taux d'investissement aussi élevé que possible. Cette stratégie nécessite également qu'un équilibre soit trouvé au niveau des différents secteurs de production à l'intérieur des investissements destinés à l'agriculture.

Très souvent on constate que les terres arides ou semi-arides qui comportent cependant des potentialités importantes ne sont pas traitées avec le même égard que d'autres zones de production plus favorables. C'est pourquoi d'ailleurs je pense que les recherches en aridocultures doivent être encouragées au niveau international et appuyées techniquement et financièrement car nous pouvons avoir, dans ces zones réputées plus ou moins défavorables sur le plan agronomique, des potentialités encore plus importantes qu'on ne le soupçonne.

Il est entendu à ce propos que l'exploitation de nos potentialités agricoles ou des potentialités agricoles dans le monde, tout en étant utiles et opportunes, ne peuvent être rigoureuses et définitives vu le caractère évolutif de ces potentialités dans la recherche agronomique. Dans le cadre de l'équilibre des investissements à l'intérieur du secteur agricole, il est indispensable également de réserver une part valable aux secteurs alimentaires autres que les céréales, tels que l'arboriculture, le maraîchage, la viande et le lait.

Ma deuxième remarque est que la recherche technologique et la recherche agronomique doivent être conçues et orientées selon un schéma directeur qui puisse privilégier le développement de la production de produits de consommation de base et l'utilisation de techniques à coefficient d'utilisation de main-d'œuvre aussi important que possible. J'insiste particulièrement sur ce dernier aspect vu la pression démographique qui s'exerce sur les structures agraires de nos pays en développement. L'emploi agricole, en effet, ou à un niveau plus élevé l'emploi rural, doit recevoir de plus en plus la priorité dans notre stratégie de développement. Nous rencontrons d'ailleurs un paradoxe au niveau de notre action de développement. Je prendrai un exemple, l'augmentation du rendement est tributaire, parmi d'autres éléments, de l'utilisation de la mécanisation. Or, la mécanisation risque de contraindre la politique de l'emploi qui s'impose à nos pays dans les zones rurales. Il y a donc des options fondamentales à prendre pour orienter la recherche.

Ma troisième remarque: toute stratégie de développement des pays en développement doit prendre en considération les impératifs de développement socio-économique du monde rural et partant, tenir compte du fait de l'infrastructure de base en routes, équipement en écoles, dispensaires, administrations locales, structures de distribution et d'approvisionnement qui sont intimement liés au développement de la production et de nature à promouvoir culturellement et matériellement l'homme agriculteur qui est la base et la source de développement véritable que nous escomptons.

Quatrième remarque: il est nécessaire de réfléchir au niveau de chacun de nos pays en développement sur notre modèle actuel de consommation; notre faible autosuffisance actuelle n'est-elle pas une conséquence d'une structure de consommation partiellement ou totalement importée? N'est-il donc pas opportun, préalablement à la conception de toute stratégie de développement de la production alimentaire à long terme, de réfléchir sur le profil nutritionnel actuellement en vigueur dans chacun de nos pays et d'approfondir résolument la recherche sur les aspects nutritionnels des denrées vivrières locales dont les potentialités sont importantes au niveau de chacun de nos pays?

Je pense que la politique nutritionnelle doit se baser sur ces considérations et comprendre, pour sa mise en œuvre pratique, la formation du personnel pour l'éducation et la vulgarisation dans le domaine de la nutrition.

Ma dernière remarque est relative au protectionnisme actuellement exercé dans le cadre des échanges internationaux. Je pense que si la montée actuelle du protectionnisme continue, les échanges commerciaux avec les pays en développement risquent de diminuer et, partant, la possibilité que les pays en développement ont d'accéder à l'achat de biens d'équipement risque de s'atténuer. Déjà on a constaté une réduction du rythme d'augmentation des échanges avec les pays en développement et on a constaté la détérioration des termes de l'échange au niveau des pays en développement.

Nous ne pouvons donc qu'appuyer l'idée de libérer les échanges internationaux et ne point étouffer les économies encore jeunes des pays en développement qui luttent déjà sur le plan interne contre des contraintes physiques, techniques et sociales pour assurer à l'élan de leur développement une base sûre et saine.

Je pense que toute stratégie de développement internationale doit nécessairement, voire impérativement, comporter la libération des échanges internationaux comme partie intégrante de ces mécanismes essentiels.

J. D. JAVIER GAZZO (Peru) : Tengo el honor de referirme a las acciones de mi país en relación con las estrategias regionales y nacionales para el desarrollo. Aludo específicamente al documento Nu C 81/22, de magnífico contenido.

Los problemas del hambre y malnutrición deben encararse sin duda con acciones polisectoriales. Y dentro de este orden la producción de alimentos a nivel local es uno de los principales elementos, pero no el único.

Por ello recuerdo la mención que hizo el honorable Señor Ministro de Agricultura del Perú, Ingeniero Nils Ericsson, en su discurso en la FAO que mencionó la cita que hizo el Presidente Reagan en la reunión de Cancún, relacionada con el pensamiento de Confucio, y que dice así: "Si te doy un pescado, podrás comer un día; en cambio, si te enseño a pescar comerás para siempre". Entendemos que habría que completar esta frase pidiendo también que el que me enseñe a pescar me venda luego los insumos baratos-redes, cañas de pescar, etcétera-y no se aproveche de mis necesidades para venderme caras las herramientas necesarias para la propia pesca, y que luego además, cuando gracias a sus enseñanzas pesquemos excedentes de peces nos los compre a buenos precios.

Creo que otro componente esencial es aquel del aprovechamiento de los alimentos nativos.

Cuentan los narradores de la historia del Imperio de los Incas que ya en esas épocas más de 10 millones de habitantes eran perfectamente alimentados con alimentos nativos. Solo a la llegada de los conquistadores, se introdujeron el trigo y los bovinos, y por ello se comenzaron a occidentalizar nuestros hábitos alimenticios. Hoy mi país importa cerca de 1 millón de toneladas de trigo por año y considera grandes cantidades de carne bovina. Grasas y leche en polvo son también importadas haciendo una fuerte presión sobre nuestra balanza de pagos.

Solicitamos a la FAO su valiosa ayuda para rescatar estos cultivos incaicos. Tenemos más de 1 000 leguminosas nativas como los lupinos y otras de alto valor proteico como la quinoa y la cañihua, las cuales se están usando en escala comercial en el Perú. Sin embargo, queda mucho por hacer y es necesario también trabajar en esta dirección. Falta más investigación en aceites y grasas, en lupinos, algodón y palma aceitera. Solicitamos a FAO esta ayuda.

Otro aspecto que debe ser estudiado es la transformación de productos perecederos en no perecederos. Vuelvo a mencionar a la papa seca que nos permite usar una tecnología incaica para no perder las papas en épocas de cosechas abundantes que no encuentran mercados de compra y que permite además usar tubérculos de reducido tamaño, que no tendrían mercado precisamente por ser pequeños.

Es la agroindustria a nivel rural la que dará valor agregado a nuestros productos.

Debemos aprender también a consumir nuestras materias primas con los menores intermediarios posibles.

Puedo hacer una cita que ilustre esta idea. Perú fue el primer productor del mundo de harina de pescado (fish meal) y la exportaba a buenos precios para que en los países desarrollados sirviera de alimentos a los animales. Después los mismos países nos vendían la carne, los huevos y la leche a precios que no guardaban relación con lo que nos pagaban por la harina.

Al no existir una justicia internacional en el comercio, nos ha parecido lo más lógico que el hombre consuma directamente el pescado sin pasar por su transformación animal. Y hoy tenemos florecientes industrias de conservas de pescado, cuya producción es consumida en el interior del país y aun, en parte, exportada.

Otro sistema que está dando excelentes resultados en la nueva dinámica en el Perú del Arquitecto Belaunde Terry es el hacer que la actividad agrícola sea rentable, condición primordial de toda actividad humana; que no sea el campo el que siga subsidiando a la ciudad. Para esto se ha dictado una Ley de Promoción y Desarrollo Agropecuario que crea incentivos tributarios importantes, no pago de impuestos por 10 años a las actividades agrícolas; no pago de impuestos a las utilidades de cualquier actividad que reinviertan en el sector agrario; incentivos financieros a través de préstamos blandos a los agricultores y facilidades de nuevas tierras a los nuevos colonos y empresarios agrícolas. Todas estas medidas, unidas al buen año agrícola, han permitido al Perú que tenga un crecimiento récord en el sector agrario del 11,4 por ciento, que ha venido a romper la falta de crecimiento que tuvimos en los últimos 10 años. Se ha apoyado fuertemente a la Oficina de Apoyo Alimentario, (Instituto de Investigación y Promoción Agropecuario) que ha juntado finalmente la investigación, la extensión y el fomento agrícola en un solo Instituto, descentralizado, con financiación apropiada y oportuna.

Este Instituto tiene una participación muy importante en la FAO, a quien agradecemos esta labor. Además, se dice en forma muy eficiente el apoyo de los Organismos Internacionales, especialmente del Centro Internacional de la papa, en el que bajo la dinámica dirección del Dr. Richard Sawyer, hemos tenido logros excepcionales en la genética y en la agroindustria de la papa que ya mencioné.

Estas acciones, unidas al generoso apoyo de países hermanos como los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, Inglaterra, Alemania, Suiza, Holanda, Bélgica, Nueva Zelandia, Canadá y otros, que aunque no mencione son igualmente importantes. Con ellos tenemos proyectos en el campo que, unidos al Instituto interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura y otros, han creado una verdadera cruzada en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición, que cuenta con el decidido apoyo de nuestro Ministro Ericsson, quien toda su vida fue un agricultor que vivió en el campo.

Debo declarar, además, que la nueva Constitución de mi país, promulgada en 1979, establece en uno de sus artículos que el sector agropecuario tiene la primera prioridad en el país. En el Perú se está produciendo un regreso de la gente de la ciudad hacia el campo, a base de llevar un poco la ciudad al campo a través de nuevas infraestructuras rurales.

Todas estas acciones pueden tener éxito cuando se hace que la actividad agrícola sea rentable y no un cúmulo de subsidios ciegos. Creemos que hay que ser novedoso e innovador, desarrollando métodos de atacar los problemas.

Solo cuando, nuestros países no encuentran los medios de romper las cadenas de exagerada dependencia alimenticia se sienten desilusionados, frustrados e incomprendidos, y esta impotencia a veces se traduce en violencia y en actos de fuerza.

Evitemos esto a través de un tratamiento más equitativo con los países en vías de desarrollo por parte de los países desarrollados.

Agradecemos, pues, nuevamente a la FAO la ayuda invaluable que nos ha dado para lograr estas importantes metas.

H. MARMILLA (Observateur pour la Communauté Economique Européenne) : Parmi les différentes recommandations de la stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième Décennie, j'ai l'intention de traiter deux points auxquels la Communauté internationale européenne attache une importance particulière: à savoir, la lutte contre la faim dans le monde et le commerce international de produits alimentaires. Pour ce qui est de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde la CEE souscrit entièrement au paragraphe 93 de la stratégie qui recommande aux gouvernements d'adopter des plans de stratégie alimentaire. En effet, déjà en 1980, le Conseil de la Communauté a pris position en faveur de cette stratégie internationale alimentaire définissant les principaux aspects qu'elle devrait revêtir. Il y a deux semaines à peu près cette recommandation du Conseil a été confirmée et renforcée d'une façon concrète, à la suite des résolutions de notre Conseil 1980; la Commission au titre de la Convention de Lomé et des actions en faveur des pays en voie de développement non associés s'est engagée à aider les pays qui le souhaitent à définir et mettre en oeuvre leurs stratégies alimentaires nationales. La Commission a réitéré cet engagement en participant en novembre 1980 à la réunion de 19 pays africains soucieux de se doter de cette stratégie et à une réunion sur la stratégie alimentaire en Amérique latine qui s'est tenue à Mexico en février 1981. Individuellement liés, les Etats Membres assistent également les pays intéressés pour définir les stratégies appropriées en fonction de leurs besoins. Dans le cadre des institutions de la Convention de Lomé, la Commission a engagé avec les pays de l'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique assistant à cette convention une réflexion sur la situation alimentaire dans leurs pays et la politique à mettre en oeuvre pour l'améliorer. En outre, la CEE et les pays ACPC se basant sur l'expérience de plus de 20 ans de coopération ont mis au point des principes de base pour la mise en oeuvre de projets de développement rural. Entretemps, vue l'évolution de nos propres réflexions et l'avancement des discussions dans de nombreuses enceintes internationales compétentes en la matière, la conviction d'approfondir ce que toute politique d'aide doit considérer dans leur complexité les problèmes qui se posent pour les pays en développement, c'est à dire que l'aide alimentaire doit être vue dans son contexte à l'aide du développement rural et aussi avec l'aide au développement général. Egalement faut-il voir dans leur ensemble, par exemple, les problèmes de la faim en contexte avec le développement rural et le développement économique en général qui inclut également des problèmes sociaux et autres dans les pays en voie de développement.

Ce sont les éléments qui se trouvent à la base de la conception que la Communauté vient d'élaborer dans son plan d'action contre la faim. La réalisation de la stratégie internationale de développement est l'objectif principal de ce plan. Il vise la mise en oeuvre d'actions coordonnées des Etats Membres et d'autres pays donateurs pour mettre en oeuvre des stratégies alimentaires cohérentes avec certains pays particulièrement touchés par la sous-alimentation.

Les actions régionales sont nécessaires pour lutter contre les causes de dégradation de la situation alimentaire de certaines régions. Par exemple, la désertification dans les zones sub-tropicales, la reconstitution de surfaces boisées et la meilleure utilisation du bois ainsi que la lutte contre les maladies endémiques. En dépit des plans d'action cela comporte toute une série d'éléments concrets ainsi que des procédures appropriées dans la coopération entre les pays donateurs et les pays en développement intéressés dans la mise en oeuvre des stratégies.

Je passe maintenant au second point de mon intervention: le commerce international des produits agricoles traité au paragraphe 60 du texte de la stratégie. Afin d'illustrer l'intérêt que porte la Communauté au développement des relations commerciales avec les pays en voie de développement, j'aimerais mentionner deux instruments qu'elle a créés en faveur de ces pays: à savoir, la Convention de Lomé et le système des préférences généralisées. Je ne pense pas qu'il soit nécessaire d'expliquer par le détail la fonction de la Convention de Lomé étant donné qu'elle a déjà été signée par 61 pays en voie de développement y compris la plupart des pays les moins avancés. Puis-je me permettre de

rappeler que la première Convention garantissait déjà l'entrée dans la Communauté, tous droits exem ptés, de la plupart des produits en provenance des états EACP de la Convention à améliorer ce système en facilitant l'entrée des produits agricoles en provenance des états ACP. De même, le système stable concernant les recettes des exportations des états ACP a été amélioré pour ce qui est des produits couverts par le mécanisme du fonctionnement dans le cadre du système des préférences généralisées. La Communauté en 1981 importait en provenance des pays en voie de développement non signatari' es de la Convention de Lomé les produits agricoles d'une valeur de 1,3 milliard d'unités de compte. Un nou veau régime a été instauré en janvier 1981 pour les dix années à venir et avec deux objectifs nouveaux, c'est à dire la simplification et la modulation du régime suivant les pays bénéficiaires. Je peux ajouter que des instances communautaires sont en train d'élargir le nombre de produits couverts par le système de préférences généralisées, notamment en faveur des pays les moins avancés, et d'augmenter les préférences pour une série de produits déjà couverts par le système à partir du premier janvier 1982. A coté de ces actions positives, il mérite d'être rappelé que la Communauté est le plus grand importateur mondial de produits agricoles; en outre, ces importations se développent continuellement tout comme le déficit de la CEE dans les échanges des produits agricoles; dans ce contexte je souligne qu'en 1979 ce déficit a atteint 34,1 milliards de dollars. A remarquer aussi qu'entre 1974 et 1979 les importations communautaires de produits agricoles en provenance des pays en voie de développement sont passées de 14,1 à 21,6 milliards de dollars: soit une augmentation de plus de 80 pour cent. Un taux de croissance d'ailleurs bien supérieur que celui des importations en provenance d'autres pays. C'est pourquoi au cours de cette période la part des pays en voie de développement dont les importations totales de produits agricoles de la CEE est passée. de 41 à 50 pour cent. Aussi la CEE est-elle de loin le plus grand client des pays en voie de développement puisqu'elle absorbe 50 pour cent environ de toutes les exportations agricoles de ces pays. Toutefois, cela ne veut pas dire qu'il n'y aura plus aucun problème dans leurs relations commerciales. Il faut savoir que la CEE, comme cela a déjà été le cas dans le passé, reste toujours disposée à examiner avec les pays intéressés les difficultés qui pourraient se poser pour leurs exportations et elle reste disposée à participer à tous les efforts entrepris sur le plan multilatéral pour améliorer les conditions d'échange pour les pays en voie de développement.

Cependant comme l'a fait apparaître le distingué délégué du Canada, concernant la recherche des pro grès, nous mettons également tous nos espoirs dans les travaux du GAP tels que pourrait les définir la réunion ministérielle prévue pour 1982. Nous considérons cette enceinte particulièrement compétente en matière de commerce international auquel il faudrait ajouter les problèmes spécifiques des pays en voie de développement.

A. GAC (Observateur pour l'Institut International du Froid): La lutte contre la faim et l'insécurité alimentaire implique une stratégie de production comme cela a été dit par tous les délégués mais aussi, nécessairement,, une stratégie de préservation de cette production. C'est cette dernière stratégie de la préservation dont je voudrais entretenir la Commission. La plupart des denrées de grande valeur nutritive et de composition alimentaire équilibrée sont périssables (lait, poissons, viandes, fruits et légumes). A la température ambiante les phénomènes d'altération sont rapides, de sorte que les pertes quantitatives de ces substances au cours de leur distribution représentent fréquemment du tiers à plus de la moitié de la masse initialement disponible. En outre, la part restante, offerte aux consommateurs, est le siège de modifications indésirables qui affectent certains composants essentiels, notamment les vitamines, les enzymes, les protéines pour ne citer que quelques-uns.

Enfin, même si l'aspect et le goût d'un produit sont satisfaisants, il peut subsister un risque, en raison du développement des germes pathogènes et de la production de toxines par ces germes. C'est pourquoi un moyen efficace d'accroître la ressource alimentaire consiste à ralentir les altérations et à arrêter celles qui sont dangereuses pour la santé.

Les techniques traditionnelles de conserve, comme le séchage et l'appertisation, permettent effective ment de mettre à la disposition des consommateurs une plus grande masse alimentaire; mais les produits ainsi traités peuvent être dans certains cas de moindre qualité diététique, spécialement s'ils sont consommés crus. Les techniques du froid, de la réfrigération et de la congélation sont sans doute celles qui respectent le mieux l'état initial des produits et par là même sont capables de réduire de façon très caractéristique les pertes alimentaires. En outre, elles préservent avec certitude leurs propriétés nutritionnelles, ainsi que les qualités hygiéniques.

Je n'insisterai pas beaucoup sur l'efficacité des techniques du froid car il existe une véritable unanimité de la part des nutritionnistes sur l'efficacité du froid pour la conservation de façon plus ou moins prolongée, selon le niveau de température atteint, de toutes les catégories de. denrées périssables et de substances manufacturées altérables.

Par contre, les économistes reprochent aux techniques du froid la servitude de la constitution d'une chaîne du froid et leur coût, estimé à priori comme élevé et non compétitif.

En fait, la mise en place d'une chaîne du froid est effectivement nécessaire quand il s'agit, en macro-économie, de transporter des lots importants de denrées périssables vers des marchés plus ou moins éloignés de la zone de production; en outre, si le pays ne dispose pas d'une infrastructure routière, ferroviaire et portuaire suffisante et du personnel compétent, la création et l'exploitation d'une telle chaîne du froid peuvent être impossibles à bref délai.

Mais, en micro-économie, à l'échelle d'une communauté de producteurs consommateurs, telle qu'une bourgade ou d'un village, les techniques du froid exigent des équipements qui sont spécifiques, mais qui aujourd'hui sont simples et remarquablement fiables: une chambre froide, à parois en panneaux pré-fabriqués avec une machinerie autonome à compression entraînée par un moteur à essence ou diesel et dans un avenir prochain un système solaire thermodynamique ou bien une chambre froide équipée avec un groupe à absorption pouvant utiliser des capteurs solaires, peut rendre d'éminents services pour la conservation de certaines denrées-du lait frais, des poissons, des viandes ainsi que des vaccins et certains médicaments fragiles.

Il a été démontré clairement que l'usage du froid n'est plus un luxe, comme on le dit volontiers, et son prix de revient est compétitif par comparaison avec celui d'autres procédés considérés comme étant particulièrement économiques, ceci parce que des progrès technologiques et l'accroissement des séries de fabrication ont considérablement abaissé les investissements initiaux, parce que les machines sont maintenant d'un fonctionnement très sûr et parce qu'elles ont un rendement énergétique exceptionnellement élevé. Elles sont d'ailleurs de plus en plus adoptées dans les pays industrialisés comme moyen de chauffage ou de séchage des produits alimentaires ou industriels. Il s'agit de pompes à chaleur et de systèmes à recompression mécanique de vapeur.

Pour illustrer par un exemple très simple que les techniques frigorifiques ne sont plus des techniques de luxe, je dirais simplement que presque toujours la valeur des denrées alimentaires stockées est nettement supérieure aux investissements qui ont été consentis pour construire, isoler et équiper une chambre froide.

Pour les raisons que je viens d'exposer, l'Institut International du Froid (IIF), qui est un organisme intergouvernemental, créé en 1980 et ouvert à tous les pays et dont actuellement les pays membres re-présentent plus des 3/4 de la population du globe avec les pays qui ont adhéré à l'Institut, a pensé utile d'attirer l'attention des délégués à la Conférence générale de la FAO sur l'intérêt considérable des techniques du froid, quel que soit le niveau de développement économique des pays, pour une gestion plus économe et plus autonome de leurs ressources alimentaires. D'ailleurs l'IIF a, spécialement depuis la fin de la seconde guerre mondiale, mis en place une politique d'information purement scientifique et technique sur le froid pour les principales régions du globe et il a établi des liaisons régulières avec la FAO, avec laquelle d'ailleurs il va prochainement constituer un groupe de travail mixte sur l'équipement frigorifique pour les pays chauds.

Enfin, l'IIF a également pensé opportun d'inviter tous les pays, qu'ils soient membres ou non membres de l'Institut, à participer à son prochain Congrès international qui aura lieu à Paris début septembre 1983, parce que son thème ne peut que vous intéresser étant d'intérêt universel puisqu'il s'agit du "froid au service de l'homme".

AZIZUL HUQ (Observer for the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific): Document C 81/22, amongst other things, dwells on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, as an instrument for the promotion of overall agricultural and rural development. Regional institutions to facilitate the exchange of ideas, information and skills are necessary to achieve this end through inter-country studies, inter-country training programmes and the dissemination of information.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations deserves to be congratulated for taking the initiative in this respect. On their initiative, and with the encouragement of other Agencies of the United Nations family, two such institutions have already been established, one for the Asia-Pacific region, which I represent, and the other for the countries of the African regions. These studies are essential for the promotion of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, particularly those living in the same region.

The Asia-Pacific region has a diversity of experiences and some of the programmes that we are trying to promote relate to delivery systems in support of agricultural development, delivery systems in support of agricultural inputs particularly with reference to the small farmer and the under-served quarters of the rural areas. Prices of agricultural commodities, systems of price support, systems of incentives and systems of procurement, etc. These studies are assisted by the FAO, CIRDAP and CIRDAF. /

We have studies now going on about the role of rural youth in agricultural and rural development and the role of women in agricultural and rural development.

We have also started cooperating with other institutions making similar studies, such as very recently we conducted a study on rural technology, rural institutions and the rural poor in collaboration with the IDS. Similarly, we have done a consultation on employment promotion in the rural areas in cooperation with ARTEP of the ILO.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous n'avons plus d'autres orateurs sur cette question. Je pense que l'on s'est suffisamment exprimé là-dessus, nous allons donc passer la parole au professeur Islam qui va répondre aux questions et aux demandes d'information que vous avez formulées.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economie and Social Policy Department): We are happy to note that the Secretariat document on national and regional development strategies has been able to stimulate considerable discussion among the distinguished delegates. We appreciate that the distinguished delegates agree with our selection of the issues and of their relative importance. We have taken careful note of the various comments and suggestions made by them relating to their assessment of priorities in the context of their respective regions and countries. Comments have been made that the Secretariat document places too much importance on technological issues and less on social and institutional issues. This is indeed partly true. As I indicated in my introduction, in order to avoid duplication with another document which will be discussed in Commission II in connection with WCARRD follow-up we thought we would produce this document to be viewed in the context of the other document so that we avoid duplication. One question has been raised as to whether the rate of increase in the use of fertilisers postulated in our analysis is not unrealistic in view of the rising cost and increasing possibility of scarcity of fertilisers in the years to come. Our analysis indicates that the modernisation of agriculture in the developing countries and increased yield is not possible without substantial increase in the use of fertiliser per hectare. Of course this will imply that greater priority in the use of energy-intensive inputs is accorded to the agricultural sector. Of course this does not preclude, in fact it does have to be associated with, more efficient use of fertiliser through education extension training as has been emphasised by a large number of distinguished delegates associated with improved cultural practices as well as ways of improving and maintaining soil fertility. Other ways of maintaining and improving soil fertility should be explored. Reference has been made to the role of technological change in agriculture and the importance of technological innovations in accelerating the rate of growth. We agree and we indeed believe that the wider dissemination and more efficient use of low technologies holds the key to a considerable increase in agricultural production in developing countries. What is needed as many distinguished delegates have pointed out is greatly expanded location specific research at the national level, supported by exchange of experience between developing countries and by the International Research Centre. This is a subject also discussed in Commission II under a different agenda item.

The question has been raised by the distinguished delegate from Ethiopia as to why, in the International Development Strategy, the rate of growth of overall imports exceeds that of overall exports. Exports are postulated to increase 7.5 percent whereas imports are postulated to increase at the rate of 8 percent per annum. In our analysis, which relates to only agricultural trade, not overall exports and imports, we have assumed a higher rate of growth of exports than imports but the IDS refers to the overall rate of growth of exports and imports. And since the assumption is that in the years to come there will be an increasing flow of external resources to the developing countries this is only consistent with a widening trade gap. There has to be an increase of net deficit in the balance of trade in order to make possible a larger flow of external resources to the developing countries. Therefore the assumption of the rate of exports and imports has to be consistent with the assumption of a widening trade gap as assumed in the IDS, and that has to be consistent with the increasing flow of resources which has been assumed in the IDS.

Experience indicates that as income grows demand for imports grows at a faster rate than the rate of growth of income. As you will recall in the IDS the rate of growth in income is 7% and the rate of growth of imports assumed to be 8% and the rate of growth of exports assumed to be 7.5%, so the assumptions are internally consistent.

The question has been asked about "Agriculture Towards 2000" and its revised version. As the distinguished delegates will recall, the provisional report was discussed by the Conference in 1979 and various comments and suggestions were made for its revision. The revision has been completed and the study is under printing now. As soon as we are able to get the printed copies it will be distributed to the member governments and we hope it will be very soon. It has been suggested that the Development Strategy should differ depending on the stages of development of various countries. In our analysis we have taken regions as a framework of analysis for distinguishing between selected priority issues. Regions differ also in terms of the stages of development-Latin America and the Near East differ significantly from Africa, Asia and the Pacific. They also differ in terms of other characteristics, socio-economic as well as ecological and physical resources. Again within each region one could certainly distinguish between low-income or high-income developing countries. As we have indicated in our introduction these selected issues are not to be considered in isolation. They and other issues have to be considered in an integrated manner, and their successful solution in most cases needs to be part of an overall and comprehensive approach so we entirely agree with all the distinguished delegates who have emphasised this point, that there has to be an integrated and comprehensive approach in coordinating all areas of emphasis.

We agree with the distinguished delegate for Norway that consumption, production, distribution must be seen in their inter-relationships. The delegate from Norway has also pointed out the need to emphasise the wider aspects of food consumption issues in relation to changes in income as well as cultural, social and ecological factors. We in the Secretariat are working on these and related issues, in our work of analysis of consumption in the context of ongoing work on integration of nutritional objectives in agricultural and rural development projects. We hope in our nutrition paper to be submitted to the 1983 Committee on Agriculture we would be able to place a great deal of emphasis on these and related aspects of food consumption issues.

The distinguished delegate from New Zealand pointed out that the paper does not single out the special problems of island developing countries such as in the South Pacific region. He is indeed right and we agree that these areas do need special treatment as has been recognised in the IDS itself.

Mention has been made of the need for consistency between economic cooperation among developing countries on a regional basis and national development strategies. We agree with this emphasis. We have assumed that economic cooperation among developing countries in the field of food and agriculture would proceed, would be carried out within the framework of the Programme of Action on Economic Cooperation among developing countries as adopted at the recent Conference at Caracas on ECDC convened by the developing countries. FAO of course stands ready to support and work with regional groupings to help in elaboration of programmes or in the implementation of programmes of economic cooperation among developing countries.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci M. le professeur Islam. Je pense que tous les délégués ont trouvé une réponse au travers de la déclaration du professeur Islam. Nous avons ainsi terminé l'examen du point traitant de la stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement ainsi que des stratégies régionales et nationales de développement. Le débat consacré à ce point important a été large et fructueux; 55 délégués de pays membres et quatre observateurs se sont exprimés. Les documents clairs et riches présentés par le secrétariat ont été dans leur ensemble appréciés, ce qui a permis aux membres de la Commission de porter leur intervention sur les aspects pratiques de la mise en oeuvre de la résolution de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies pour l'enrichir.

Plusieurs orateurs ont reconnu l'importance de cette résolution, ont exprimé l'espoir de voir celle-ci être suivie d'effets. La Commission a rappelé la nécessité pour chaque pays de prendre des mesures concrètes en vue de contribuer à l'intégration de l'économie mondiale et insisté à cet égard sur les interdépendances des économies des pays développés avec celles des pays en développement.

C'est pourquoi plusieurs délégués, qui ont relevé que la mise en oeuvre des stratégies nationales est avant tout l'affaire des pays en développement eux-mêmes, ont réaffirmé cependant que l'aide accrue des pays développés était une impérieuse nécessité si l'on veut accomplir un progrès substantiel vers l'autosuffisance alimentaire des pays déficitaires, autosuffisance indispensable à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Plusieurs délégués ont souligné l'importance des objectifs de la stratégie internationale de développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement comme étant un pas important vers un nouvel ordre économique international fondé sur la justice et l'équité.

Plusieurs délégués ont noté le nombre élevé de conférences et réunions internationales consacrées à cette question ainsi que les importantes mesures qui y sont arrêtées, mesures malheureusement peu suivies d'actions concrètes. C'est ainsi que certains délégués ont souligné que la quasi-totalité des pays développés ne jouaient pas le jeu de la solidarité internationale puisque le taux de 0,7 pour cent du PNB consacré à l'aide publique n'a été atteint que par un très petit nombre d'Etats et qu'en moyenne seulement 50 pour cent des objectifs ont été réalisés,

Certains délégués se sont inquiétés des égoïsmes des pays développés dont les mesures protectionnistes étouffent le commerce agricole des pays en développement. On a insisté sur la détérioration des termes de l'échange qui frappe les pays en développement exportateurs de matières premières et qui exige que des mesures soient prises pour l'enrayer. Plusieurs délégués ont souligné la nécessité de mettre en oeuvre les recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, notamment en appliquant une politique de redistribution des terres équitable pour tous les ruraux.

Plusieurs délégués ont noté que l'humanité avait suffisamment de ressources et que celles-ci étaient mal utilisées et ils ont demandé que la course aux armements soit abandonnée au profit de la lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition et la misère dans le monde. A cet égard, on a suggéré que les budgets militaires soient distribués en faveur du développement et plusieurs délégués ont fait part de stratégies adoptées par leur pays dans le cadre de leurs contributions à la mise en oeuvre de la Stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième Décennie des Nations Unies.

Des mesures visant à récupérer les terres actuellement incultes ont été proposées.

Le Programme Engrais a reçu un soutien unanime et beaucoup de délégués ont demandé son renforcement, demandant en même temps qu'un accent spécial soit mis sur l'utilisation des engrais organiques peu coûteux pouvant permettre aux petits agriculteurs d'accroître la productivité de leurs exploitations.

Beaucoup de délégués ont mis l'accent sur les efforts à déployer en faveur de la formation de l'homme, élément central dans la mise en oeuvre des stratégies du développement; de même, ils ont demandé qu'un accent particulier continue à être mis sur les pertes après récoltes.

On a insisté sur la mise en place, dans les pays en développement, d'une recherche adaptée à l'introduction d'une technologie peu coûteuse en rapport avec le milieu. On a suggéré que cette recherche concerne aussi bien les cultures vivrières de base que la production animale, la foresterie et les pêcheries.

Certains délégués ont insisté pour que, dans les négociations globales qui se tiennent dans le cadre des Nations Unies, les compétences de la FAO soient pleinement utilisées en tant qu'organisme spécialisé du système des Nations Unies dans les problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Enfin, je rappelle une résolution visant à inciter les pays membres à tout mettre en oeuvre pour que le FIDA entre rapidement en possession des ressources qu'il a sollicitées depuis l'année dernière en vue de l'accomplissement correcte de sa mission. Cette résolution est en cours d'examen et nous sera soumise.

Ce sont là les principaux points sur lesquels se sont focalisés nos débats depuis hier. Selon la pratique habituelle, le Secrétariat en reprendra les points importants dans le projet de rapport qui sera examiné demain par le Comité de rédaction avant son adoption par la Commission.

Nous en avons terminé avec ce point et nous allons poursuivre nos travaux. J'en viens maintenant au point suivant de notre ordre du jour :

8. Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development

8. Energie en agriculture et développement rural

8. La energía en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural

Trois documents sont consacrés à ce point de l'ordre du jour :

Premièrement, le document C 81/25 "Energie et développement agricole et rural"; deuxièmement, le document C 81/25-Sup. I qui est un résumé du programme d'action de Nairobi pour les sources d'énergies nouvelles et renouvelables du point de vue notamment de l'énergie nécessaire au développement rural. Troisièmement, le document C 81/INF/18 qui reproduit le discours prononcé par le Directeur général à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les sources d'énergies nouvelles et renouvelables qui s'est tenue en août 1981 à Nairobi.

Je donne maintenant la parole à M. Bommer, sous-directeur général chargé du Département de l'agriculture. qui va nous apporter des informations sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

D. F. R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) : Food and energy are two of the urgent problems presently confronting many of the countries of the world. In introducing this topic, I will speak of three areas which are of major concern to FAO as indicated in the Director-General's address to the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy which has been distributed to you for reference.

The first is the need for a substantial increase in the use of commercial energy by developing countries in order to speed up the rate of growth of their food production at this time of high energy costs.

The second is the fuelwood crisis, which affects developing countries in all regions.

The third is the question of how far agriculture can itself produce commercial energy, particularly liquid fuel, without prejudicing its primary role of feeding the world's population.

When discussing the need for additional energy inputs into agriculture, it is necessary to keep these energy requirements in perspective. Within the total economy, agricultural production is a rather modest consumer of commercial energy. We estimate that it accounts for about 3.5 percent of all commercial energy used, in the world, and for about 4 percent of that used in developing countries. The proportion may be small, but for agriculture-and thus for food supplies-its importance is vital.

One of the immediate world food problems is the enormous difficulties of moving from tropical agriculture of the traditional type to modern farming systems capable of a sustained growth in production. At present there is no alternative to basing high yields on the use of energy intensive inputs such as fertilizers, farm machinery, pesticides and water pumping for irrigation. Without major research breakthroughs, and these are not presently in sight, the increased productivity of tropical agriculture, like that of the temperate zones, will continue to depend, at least in the next decade, largely upon an increasing use of commercial energy.

However, there is need for more research on technologies that would lessen dependence on energy-intensive inputs. For example, research into atmospheric nitrogen fixation by cereal crops and the developments in genetic engineering may ultimately prove to have practical applications in agriculture.

There is also scope for some conservation and substitution of commercial energy inputs. Improved fertilizer management through proper placement and timely application, recycling of organic materials, and biological systems for integrated pest control are several ways that reliance on commercial energy inputs can be reduced while agricultural production is increased on a sustained basis.

Turning to the second major area of concern, the problems created by pressure on firewood resources in many developing countries is now acute. This is well illustrated in the Fuelwood Situation Map in developing countries prepared by FAO for the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy which has been distributed to Delegates. According to our figures more than 100 million people live in areas where there is already an acute scarcity of firewood. Over a far wider area, the felling of trees and scrub currently exceeds regrowth. If present trends are allowed to go unchecked, shortages will affect over two billion people by the century.

When fuelwood becomes scarce, rural people, particularly women and children, have to spend an increasing amount of time or money from their limited resources to collect or purchase fuelwood; in acute scarcity situations people may find themselves unable to cook their food and warm their homes.

Further, this problem also has a multiplier effect on the environment. The clearance of trees and vegetation permits erosion and flood in lower catchments, thus affecting food production, and in cases of severe damage compromising the viability of agricultural land. Also the burning of dung and other wastes as a substitute for wood reduces the amount of organic fertilizer available on the farm as well as feed for cattle.

The improved conservation and management of fuelwood resources, and technological improvements such as more efficient stoves, are indispensable measures for resolving the fuelwood problem. However, they can be expected to have an effect only in the medium term. Therefore, particular emphasis must be given to the massive planting of woodlots for fuel, using quick-growing species. We estimate that on average, a five-fold increase in current planting levels is urgently needed. Such programmes are by no means easy; they require a great deal of organization, and they usually fail if local populations are not involved.

In the meantime, we must recognize that many areas will face-or indeed may find themselves in a fuelwood emergency already-and this calls for immediate action. The only short-term measures that can be envisaged involve the supply of charcoal from far away or the substitution of other fuels such as kerosene for wood. Where there is no other option open, governments should be ready to promote and subsidize an approach of this type and the international community should be ready to assist low income countries in areas of fuelwood emergency.

The last of the three issues which I have raised is the extent to which agriculture can itself provide commercial energy, notably in the form of liquid fuel.

The distillation of ethanol from sugar cane, maize, and other crops as a substitute for gasoline has been the main focus of attention by countries considering biomass energy programmes. At this stage, the extent!to which "energy cropping" of this type is undertaken appears to depend on government policies rather than on market forces.

The potential contribution of liquid fuel from agricultural crops may easily be overestimated. In fact it is quite limited. For example, had the entire 1978 world production of cereals, root crops and sugar been converted to ethanol, it would have met less than 83 percent of the world's 1978 automobile gasoline need and only 6 percent of the world's total consumption of commercial energy.

The world food situation is already highly insecure without the new competition of energy cropping for scarce land and other agricultural resources. Therefore, when programmes for conversion of agricultural crops to energy are being considered,it is urged that priority be given to food needs, particularly the honouring of food aid commitments and the promotion of food security.

There may be a greater potential for producing fuel from other forms of biomass, such as cellulose from woody plants. However, in developing countries, programmes for production of commercial fuel from biomass must effectively safeguard the interests of rural populations, especially their supply of food and fuelwood.

Agricultural and rural energy problems impinge on many different parts of FAO's work, and the Organization needs to be in a position to provide effective advice and assistance to member governments in this area. This need is particularly evident since the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy adopted the Nairobi Programme of Action which identified rural energy as one of the major priority areas. The Director-General, therefore proposes to give greater emphasis to energy questions in FAO programme, with special attention being given to conservation measures and to the fuelwood programme as well as the development and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy.

The Conference is invited to renew the broad question of energy in agriculture and rural development, formulate policy guidelines on the major national and international issues, and advise on future action. The discussion can also offer the opportunity for you to provide information on the effects of energy problems on the agricultural and rural sectors of your countries and on the measures taken to meet them. Such information is not readily available at present and will be of considerable help to FAO in its future work.

J. J. PEREIRA REIS (Portugal): La Delegation portugaise félicite le secrétariat pour la présentation de ce document bien élaboré,non seulement pour la manière succincte dont le problème est exposé, mais encore pour les perspectives suggérées en vue de sa résolution.

Le Portugal, comme les autres pays, a ressenti profondément l'aggravation de la situation économique résultant de la hausse rapide du prix du pétrole, étant donné que c'est là notre principale source d'énergie. . .

Ce fait, conjugué avec la hausse du dollar, a exercé une influence négative sur l'a Balancé "dès paie ments et a contribué à accélérer le processus inflationniste, qui a eu des répercussions extrêmement néfastes pour le développement de l'agriculture dans mon pays.

Effectivement, la hausse du coût des facteurs de production qui en est résultée, notamment des combustibles, des engrais, des pesticides, etc. , a constitué un obstacle à la modernisation de notre agriculture et a agi comme un facteur de démobilitation des actions que l'on se proposait de mettre en oeuvre dans ce secteur.

C'est pourquoi mon pays envisage avec le plus vif intérêt le recours à l'utilisation d'autres sources d'énergie, tout particulièrement des sources renouvelables.

Actuellement sont en cours quelques projets d'investissement orientés dans ce sens, et, simultanément, on s'efforce d'augmenter la production de matières premières à usages multiples, susceptibles d'être utilisées à cet effet. Tel est le cas, par exemple, de la production forestière, à laquelle on a porté une attention spéciale et que l'on s'efforcera mutuellement de développer, moyennant le boisement de terrains sans vocation agricole, actions qui sont cofinancées par l'Etat portugais et par la Banque Mondiale.

D'autre part, conscient des difficultés qu'il traverse pour ce qui est de l'obtention de biens alimentaires (l'importation de ces biens atteint près de 50%), mon pays ne pourra s'engager dans la voie du recours inconsidéré à de nouvelles sources d'énergie qui risqueraient d'affecter le développement des cultures alimentaires, bien qu'il souhaite et encourage l'utilisation intégrale des sous-produits correspondants, quand ils sont susceptibles d'être utilisés à cet effet.

Pour toutes ces raisons, la Délégation portugaise se félicite des initiatives de la FAO, non seulement pour la somme de documentation utile qu'elle a produite dans ce domaine, mais encore pour la récente décision d'instituer le Réseau de Coopération Européenne pour les Energies Rurales Renouvelables, au quel mon pays ne manquera certainement pas d'adhérer et auquel il désire participer activement; et nous formons des vœux pour que les échanges d'expériences qui en résulteront soient une source de bénéfice non seulement pour les pays qui en feront partie, mais encore pour toute la communauté internationale,

WU TIAN XI (China) (original language Chinese): We have read document C 81/25 with great interest. I would now like to put forward my view on several issues raised in the document, and give a brief account of energy and agriculture in China.

We believe that it is entirely necessary to formulate a national policy and a planning system of energy and agriculture by proceeding from the specific conditions of the respective countries and combining their immediate needs with long-term interests through overall planning.

With regard to national energy policy, we agree with the view expressed in paragraph 72 of this document, that it is, to assure the supply of commercial energy required for production, and the use of inputs in the agricultural sector. This matter is indispensable to the developing countries for the future development of agricultural production. At the same time one should derive lessons from depending entirely on commercial energy to develop agriculture.

Apart from the rational use of commercial energy and efforts exerted to economize it, we should actively tap and utilize new and renewable energy on the basis of exploration of energy resources with a view to discovering new energy sources and effecting economic and efficient use of energy so that more energy can be used in agriculture to provide favourable conditions for developing production and improving people's livelihood.

In order to attain this goal, the international community must organize the manpower concerned to strengthen the scientific research work on energy in agriculture, particularly the research work on the development and use of new and renewable energy. It is an issue which merits our attention in the Medium-term Action.

In the meantime, we have also noted that the rural areas in many developing countries are short of fuel, which affects peasant's lives seriously. If this problem is not solved in time, land vegetation would be devastated further, thus resulting in a more serious soil erosion threatening food and agricultural development in the future. Hence, we endorse the measures put forward by the Director-General in his speech at the Nairobi Conference.

Mr, Chairman, please allow me now to give you a brief introduction about energy in China's agriculture and our current practices

According to recent estimate, the total annual consumption of energy used directly for agricultural production and people's livelihood in China's countryside is equivalent to over 300 million tons of coal, accounting for 40% of the total energy consumption in China. However, it still cannot meet the ever-rising requirement of expansion in agricultural production and betterment of the peasants' lives. Moreover the use of energy is not yet rational as desired.

For solving this problem, we have primarily adopted two measures:

One is to strengthen the management of farm machinery and strive to reduce fuel consumption; to improve the methods of applying chemical fertilizers and pesticides, so as to cut down the doses of their application; to encourage the use of organic fertilizers and the growth of green manure crops; to popularize in a big way different kinds of firewood-saving or coal-saving stoves and try every possible means to reduce fuel consumption in the rural areas.

The other is to encourage tapping energy resources in rural areas according to local conditions. In the barren hills and barren land suitable for afforestation, farmers are encouraged to plant trees for firewood production. Water resources is utilized and small coal mines are set up in a planned way. In 1980, small coal mines in China's rural areas produced 100 million tons of coal; nearly 90. 000 small hydro-electric stations were constructed; their total capacity is over 10 billion kilowatts per year. In vast rural areas of China, 6 million biogas digesters were built up, usually with one digester for one family. Human and animal excretions as well as crop stalks are used to generate biogas so as to satisfy the farmer's needs in their daily lives. Wastes from biogas digester can also be used as organic manures. Practice in the past few years has proved that biogas is a kind of energy in the rural areas that is characterized by small size, less investment, quicker result and easy construction by small farmers. Besides, the Chinese government provides the rural areas with large quantity of commercial energy at preferential prices and begins to make use of solar energy, wind energy and geo-thermal energy.

In short, our energy development policy in the rural areas is to develop multiple-energy sources. Now we are carrying on regional classification of energy in the rural areas and undertaking energy development there according to China's present policy of energy and in a planned way. We look forward to intensified international co-operation in this field and further exchanges of information and experience so as to advance our cause jointly.

T. ONUL (Turkey): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dependence of agriculture on non-renewable energy resources has had profound effects on this sector, especially in the developing countries. The cost of energy dependent inputs have increased, resulting in the decrease of productivity rates, which were already very low in the developing countries. It seems that the energy requirements in agri culture will not be replaced by sources other than fossil fuel in the near future. Therefore, it is necessary to conserve energy in machinery, fertilizers and pesticides use. As an example, ferti lizers could be applied after determining the actual requirement by leaf and soil analysis. FAO could assist the developing countries, under a special programme, in the establishment of these necessary laboratories.

Another important practice for saving fertilizer use is the inclusion of food and feed legumes in the crop rotation systems which has double benefit and reduced requirements for external inputs. We have concentrated our efforts in this practice.

We would like to comment on the use of solar energy in agriculture. The use of this type of energy is handicapped by the high initial investment costs. Therefore, international aid organizations should consider the construction of pilot greenhouses and storage facilities as models for the develop ing countries, so that increased use of solar energy in intensive agriculture can be accomplished.

Another source of energy which has big potential is bio-gas. However, more research is needed for this practice, especially in areas where long and cold winters prevail.

Wood as fuel is the main source of energy used by 90 percent of the population in the developing countries. Therefore, the efforts spent in the more efficient use of forests, planting fast growing species, forest improvement, increasing firewood production, transportation, and the use of recycled forest products, must be according to modern methods and cooperation among the countries must be initiated.

In conclusion, it seems that the dependence on fossil fuel will continue for some time. Therefore, it is necessary to carry the research efforts for using renewable energy resources at all levels through international cooperation, while implementing non-renewable energy conservation programmes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MRS. SAODAH SJAHRUDDIN (Indonesia): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation wishes to express its compliments to the Secretariat for the excellent job they have done in document C 81/25, C 81/25 Supp. 1, and C 81/INF/18. Also I would like to congratulate Mr. Bommer on his very comprehensive introduc tion.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to reiterate its support to the objective of the Nairobi Programme of Action, which is to promote the concerted action in the field of new and renewable sources of energy in helping to meet the future overall energy requirements. On this occasion my delegation would like to, firstly, point out on the energy from agriculture and for agricultural activities, and its possible substitution, or at least complementarity, promotion of draught animal power through credit provision for small farmers will help in saving the fossil fuel energy use in the food and agricultural sector in addition to the provision of facilities in creating more cash income to the farmers. Such scheme has been implemented integrally in the Indonesian agricultural development. Although it is not substitutable the use of chemical fertilizer can at least be reduced down to the most efficient manner by mass utilization of organic fertilizer for food production and agricultural development. The practice of recycling of crops and animal residue will be of great benefit in maintaining soil fertility and can partly replace the use of mineral fertilizer. Composting both of urban and rural wastes is another great potential to reduce the use of fossil fuel energy for fertilizer. This is the positive side effect of the main objectives which are to maintain and improve soil fertility, to improve land productivity, and to betterment the environmental health of human life.

The use of wood as a source of fuel in Indonesia plays an important role, more than 50 percent of the total energy consumption coming from fuelwood. Available data indicates that there is a deficit of about 10 to 12 million cubic metres of fuelwood per annum.

Measures have to be taken by the government to increase fuelwood production to fill the gap. Identification of suitable wood species for fuelwood will be needed. At the same time, there should be an improvement of fuelwood technology and store design. Improvement in the combustible value of fuelwood will lead to efficiency and a decrease in consumption.

The programme also includes the promotion of agricultural waste, like sawdust, padi and cornstalk, etc. as a source of household energy. As a complementary effort, the use of other sources of energy, such as cattledung, etc. should also be encouraged. Logging waste outside Java covers about 40 per cent of the total production. This waste can be used as a source of raw material for charcoal which can be efficiently transferred to other regions as charcoal briquettes.

Let me now turn to my Government's policy. The Government's policy on energy sources is directed towards the following objectives:

To diversify sources of energy and energy consumption. In line with this policy, the Government has taken several actions to increase energy sources. Among others, they are to grow various fast-growing trees through re-forestation and greenery programmes; to develop the technology of charcoal; to increase and develop hydropower on a small scale for the rural areas; to select higher varieties of cows and buffalos for meat and animal draughts; and to expand the use of electricity in the rural areas;

To introduce the new technology into rural areas so as to save as much energy as possible. For example, by introducing the energy-efficient stove.

With regard to energy for rural development, this has been the priority of the Government's projects since the Second Five-Year Development Plan. Several research projects on small-scale energy resources have been done and the results have been applied in some rural areas. Research on these subjects is on various levels: fuelwood has long been in use by the majority of rural communities. The problem is to increase the supply by the selection of fast-growing trees that can grow in various climatic conditions. The residue of crops has been used traditionally by the rural population. Biogas is now being promoted for utilization in the rural areas. The FAO Technical Cooperation Programme has made a positive contribution to the development of biogas in Indonesia. . Ethanol production from cassava: research is still at the laboratory level and a pilot project is under construction. Micro-hydro-power has been practised in some rural areas with satisfactory results. The problem is to maintain the water resources and to protect the catchment and the water-shared areas. The use of draught animals has been a tradition for a long time. However, today the small peasants cannot afford to buy a buffalo or a cow since they have to compete with the butchers. The ones who are wealthy enough would rather use a minitractor.

Solar energy has also been used traditionally by rural peoples for drying. Better technology is introduced so as to have the optimum benefit of the solar heat. Solar energy for pumping water, and other possible applications of it, is still on trial in the laboratory. Wind energy is at the experimental stage in the Eastern Indonesian area which geographically has advantages for this technology. Tide energy has also been explored and is still at the research stage.

The Government has also developed large electricity projects in order to reach the target that will give everybody the benefit of electricity. This development includes hydroelectric power, a diesel system, geothermal energy, natural gas and nuclear energy. This is still being initiated.

V. KRENTOS (Cyprus): It is an understatement to say that we share with most countries the concern about the detrimental effects of the energy crisis on food production and agricultural development which year by year is becoming more serious. Document C 81/25 projects the problem and offers an action-oriented process. We agree with the assessment of the Secretariat that we should not allow energy "cropping" to compete with food production. However, we do not wish to imply any criticism but rather to point out that this document is a descriptive report, in effect an inventory of what can be done in a number of areas. We would rather request the Secretariat to provide a critical review of what can be done in each sub-sector of energy for agriculture.

We do believe that this document provides numerous subjects for research and development but we would like to see one or two sectors emphasized more. One of them is the utilization of solar energy in agricultural development and in agricultural production. The other one is the efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides, for if they are used meticulously, indirectly we shall be putting less energy into producing a unit of food. With respect to nitrogen fixation, I think this is being given more attention than it deserves in that it also appears in some documents in another commission.

There is another aspect of concern and that is the proliferation of interest from various directions with somewhat different approaches and to some extent different objectives and varying degrees of emphasis on what should really be done.

We would like FAO to focus on these aspects and really direct a global and a regional approach which would in effect provide the means for introducing and developing sources of energy for agricultural and rural development.

I think those are the mainpoints which I would like to put before the Commission.

S. MURTZA (Pakistan): My delegation appreciates the excellent documents which have been prepared by the Secretariat, that is C 81/25 and C 81/25 Supp. I on Energy in Agricultural and Rural Development and the Summary of the Nairobi Programme of Action on New and Renewable Sources of Energy with particular Reference to Energy for Rural Development.

It analyses well, in very broad terms, the utilization of energy for agriculture, energy from agriculture and rural energy systems in developing countries. FAO's activities in the past in this field were praiseworthy but, at the same time, in view of the recent developments in the field of energy, a more concerted effort at national and international levels cannot be postponed any further.

We agree with the conclusions of this report and the mid-term action as outlined.

Agriculture must continue to receive an increasing share of the commercial energy. An increase of 2 percent in the use of commercial energy can achieve a one percent growth in the production of crops and in livestock productions. With our aim of increasing production at a rate not only to provide sufficient food supplies to the hungry, but also to cope with the increasing demand as a result of the growing population of the world, we can work out the necessary increase in the use of energy in this sector. On the other side, with the present picture of energy supplies in the world, its prices and prospects for availability, and costs in future, it would be timely if we were to start looking for and utilizing new and renewable sources of energy in the field of agriculture.

There is a need for detailed studies and some action programmes in this field, particularly with reference to rural development in Pakistan. However, the regional development pattern as depicted in the FAO document, coupled with the available national figures, provides an interesting feature. Pakistan meets about two-thirds of its energy requirements from domestic sources. Oil constitutes a major import with foreign exchange costs approaching \$2 billion annually. Although only 6.14 percent of oil energy is used in agriculture, high costs are becoming a constraint to food and agricultural production. 58 percent of chemical fertilizers, consumed at 54 Kgs. per hectare of nutrient, although only 30 percent of the recommended level, is still imported by us. The costs involved for this energy-intensive input are probably the single most important constraint in the crop sector.

In Pakistan we do not expect to completely mechanize agriculture very soon. We are, as a policy measure, going for selective mechanization and importing 15 to 20 000 tractors every year. Draught animals and human power, while sharing in this field, is expected to dominate the next twenty years, which at present would be as estimated for the Near East in the FAO document. As such, it is a welcome proposal to improve draught animal power through better breeding and improving the implements which are used with the animals. It will in fact help almost all of the developing countries.

Whereas crop and livestock production sector catches attention the energy crisis in agriculture must be viewed in the totality of crop and livestock production, forestry and fisheries sub-sectors in agriculture and rural energy systems. The inter-relationship and inter-actions of various sub-systems of agro-rural-energy systems are too vital to be ignored. This necessitates provision of assistance to the developing countries, to integrate energy considerations into all aspects of agricultural and rural development and in the formulation of related medium and long-term energy strategies, plans and programmes. A survey conducted in 1978 provides a glimpse of household, that is non-commercial fuel energy consumption per year in Pakistan. Utilisation is as follows: Fuel wood-450 million cft fuel wood equivalent. Fossil fuel-140 million cft fuel wood equivalent. Cow dung-210 million cft fuel wood equivalent. Agricultural residues-110 million cft fuel wood equivalent.

The ramifications are intersectoral and obvious to a discerning eye.

We propose that FAO may support a regional research/development (that is, R and D) project in this field. This is not the proper occasion to give details but ongoing regional projects like the one for Asia and the Pacific on improving soil fertility through organic recycling including biogas and Training Centre for Africa on fuel wood and charcoal production which is under preparation could provide broad guidelines suitably amended to suit the needs and conditions prevailing in the region. Research in some major fields can, however, be suggested. This, of course, would not restrain research work on more efficient use of energy in the field of agriculture from conventional resources of commercial energy and increased utilisation of energy from new and renewable sources. These are: improved methods for the application of fertilisers, proper placement in the soil, timing of applications to coincide with nutrient demands of different crops, split doses to reduce leeching, better agronomic practices such as timely sowing and better water management to enhance efficiency of fertiliser use; choice of fertiliser materials, that is, slow releasing fertilisers; development of crop varieties that require less nutrients, are disease and pest resistant, have higher photosynthetic and bio-mass production efficiency; land development, soil preparation and conservation and management systems ensuring less requirement of fertiliser and reduction in fertiliser losses etc.

Fertiliser substitution would be another field where research is necessary, that is, fertiliser partly replaced by the greater use of such practices for maintaining fertility as crop rotations, catch-cropping, lay farming with a legume rotation, recycling of crop and livestock residues, and associated management problems; combination of mineral and organic fertilisers; increased use of nitrogen fixing legumes, the blue-green algae, water fern azolla, plant breeding, and genetic research to transfer the nitrogen fixing capacity to food crops such as cereals and roots, etc.

Then we come to farm machinery. Increased efficiency through proper choice of designs, horse power, improved tillage systems, and practices including the concept of minimum tillage, better maintenance and tuning of engines, use of diesel engines, choice and design of proper implements/equipment which are matching with the power units; proper condition of implements; improvement in animal and human power used tools, equipment, etc. could have great benefit.

Irrigation. Water should also be used more efficiently. There should be enhanced efficiency in conveying on-farm systems, use of gravity systems, renovation of inefficient irrigation systems, proper layout distribution, drainage, land grading, and levelling better implements and water application methods.

The same applies to pesticides where cooperative resistance to various tests would certainly reduce the utilisation of energy in this field.

The Nairobi Programme of Action envisages mobilisation of financial resources for its implementation in various parts of the world. My delegation invites the attention of FAO and donor countries to come forward and provide assistance in the form of technical know-how and finances for project preparation and implementation by the developing countries.

My suggestions for such assistance would include practical projects in the field of social policy, efficient fuel-wood cookers, solar crop drying, solar cookers, which could be provided to rural families, windmill for water lifts which would help in multiple cropping, mini-hydro power plants, possible on small streams or canals, or in countries with large canal irrigation systems. These projects we feel certainly need support, under the present environment, as they would play a very important role, not only in agricultural progress, but also in rural development.

J. ROWINSKY (Poland): Since the outbreak of the energy crisis the energy consumption in agriculture became an essential problem, not only for the developing countries, but also for the developed ones. The reason for it is that modern agriculture uses, both in direct and indirect form, much more energy than traditional agriculture. This does not mean that while modernising agriculture it is impossible to influence the volume of used energy in this sector of the economy. There exist less and more energy consuming technologies and the total energy consumption in agriculture depends on which technology is chosen. The choice of the proper solutions is a vital issue which is confirmed by the experience of Poland. Recently Poland is going through considerable energy troubles caused by the decrease of coal output and by the necessary limitations of oil imports. The shortage of energy is now one of the bottlenecks of the national economy. In this situation, the problem of sensitiveness of agriculture to reduced direct energy supplies emerged in a particularly sharp form. This question may also be of interest to other countries. It appears that agriculture strongly responds to a reduction of energy deliverance. It is a consequence of some features of agricultural production such as the necessity of performing field works in due time, recurrence of some works such as animal feeding and primarily of the fact that live plants and animal organisms participate in agricultural production and that specified environmental conditions must be ensured for them. .

The industrialised technologies and also some traditional ones are particularly responsive to energy supplies. In traditional technologies substitute solutions are usually feasible, for example, using as fuel timber or peat instead of coal. The responsiveness grows with modernisation of agriculture. Thus, farmers who gave up horse traction and used tractors are helpless when running short of fuel and lubricants, and unable to perform field works then. The most dependent on energy supplies are the industrialised technologies of animal breeding and plant cultivation in greenhouses. In some cases, even a short break in energy supply during the production cycle may completely destroy the production. For example, the power cut-off on a chicken farm for a few hours only can bring about the death of all the fowl. The consequences of a break in greenhouse heating may be similar. In big farms of cattle and pig fattening which are highly mechanised the shortage of energy renders it impossible to feed the animals and to remove waste, and in milk cow farms also to milk cows.

As it appears from the above observations some agricultural technologies are extremely responsive to energy shortage. Their sensitiveness can be compared with that of industries which for technological reasons have to be in a continued operation, or those in which some of the operations e. g. mine drainage must be performed permanently regardless of whether the basic production is going on or not.

In time, when there is a lack of energy, the agriculture must be regarded as a particularly protected sector of the economy. That is because a reduction of energy supplies in some situations may account for a drastic decline of agricultural production.

We limited our observations to the use of energy in agriculture in a direct form, but we would formulate the same conclusions if we analysed the use of energy in agriculture in the indirect form.

By way of general conclusion, we may say that the new technologies marked for higher direct energy intensity than those applied so far or requiring new energy sources should be introduced in agriculture very carefully. Sometimes a less modern technology which would, be less energy intensive and which would allow the comeback to a traditional technology in case of energy difficulties might prove the more advantageous. This is an assumption worth consideration in the global strategy of agricultural development, if only for the reason that world energy problems will rather increase than diminish.

I would like also to raise another question. Poland attaches great meaning to the work of the European research network dealing with renewable energy sources. Two important Polish research centres joined the network and we expect very much in the 80s from the cooperation in this field. The problems tackled by the network are of such a nature that the results will be useful not only for the participating countries but also for countries in other regions.

D. IYAMABO (Nigeria): When you do not speak first you run the risk of repeating what earlier speakers have said but sometimes such repetition is desirable as it lays emphasis on the topics that are repeated. In any case I will try as much as possible, to minimise such repetition. I join others in congratulating the FAO on this paper and Dr. Bommer for its excellent way of presentation. We share the emphasis on fuel wood as a source of energy but I would wish that the emphasis is really not just on fuel wood but on forests and trees. Supply of fuel wood is just one of the possible derivations from forests and trees. As was mentioned; trees help in the stabilisation and conservation of the soil, which are essential for continuous agricultural production. They supply food, cylinders for housing and things like that.

I think one has to emphasize that the areas that are short of fuelwood are usually areas that are very sparse in natural vegetation, so when we are talking of fuelwood for energy we are talking of afforestation on a very massive scale, and I hope this is borne in mind.

With regard to liquid fuel from agricultural crops -- sugarcane, cereals -- we share the fears of the FAO. My part of the world, Africa, is one of those with the greatest food problems for human beings, and from all indications, the prospects in the next decade or so are certainly not very encouraging. An energy source which would compete with human requirements would certainly not be in one's interest, or perhaps would need to be looked at more closely before it is pushed. Both the paper and its presentation, to my mind, left out major areas which have been mentioned by other speakers. Whether this omission was deliberate or not, I do not know. Certainly the potentials for the use of solar energy are extremely high and as is well known, the areas in which such fuelwood is required very much are areas where solar energy is quite high, and certainly solar power in all these areas are in parts of the world which have been developed quite well now and certainly could be used in these very rural areas where agriculture is practiced.

Also no mention was made of windmill energy. In many areas this is the traditional source of energy, and I think there are now very excellent and very efficient windmills. I think these should be also explored.

No mention too was made of hydro-electric power by the last speaker. The other speakers have mentioned this. There are a lot of structures of hydro-electric power, large ones, and certainly for agriculture there is no reason why we cannot have small dams which can irrigate also supply power for a limited area. I think this is an area which needs to be looked at, and the possibilities advanced.

The use of animal wastes and agricultural wastes gives one a bit of worry, except that additional information is available. Surely, the animal wastes could be used for organic fertilizers. Most of our soils in Africa are very fragile, and the use of mineral fertilizers gives a boost, in many cases a temporary boost, but does nothing at all in helping to stabilize the soil, but organic fertilizers will, to a greater extent, do this. The other agricultural wastes like grain, like maize and so on, have other uses, and I think one should not close one's eyes to this completely. It may be the economics of these other possible uses should be thought of before one thinks in terms of using this waste as fertilizers. Now, all these and other points mentioned by others require considerable research in forestry production; one or two very fast growing species; in many cases in very difficult sites such as sugarcanes, fertilizers and fertilization; research and agricultural production systems which would use less-intensive energy systems.

I hope all this will be borne in mind by the FAO and that the FAO will match this in giving a lead with regard to harnessing these possible sources in the aid of the developing countries.

M. SANKARANARAYANAN (India): I would at the outset compliment the FAO Secretariat for highlighting, in a comprehensive manner, the energy problem in agriculture and rural development in the developing countries at this critical juncture when the developing countries are fighting hard to find a solution to the energy crisis. It has been rightly emphasised by the FAO Secretariat that agricultural production uses a very small proportion of the total consumption of commercial energy but its assured supply and more efficient and economical use are necessary for the rapid growth of agricultural production, particularly in the developing countries. This has become all the more important in view of the worsening world food situation. In the recent years the increase in the world food production was very marginal and consequently the per caput food supplies have fallen over the last two years. Food production, in the developing countries as a whole, though increasing faster than in the developed countries, remained well below the target of 4 per cent envisaged in the international development strategy for the Second Development Decade. All these factors have made the world food security precarious. It is, therefore, very important that the energy requirements of agriculture and allied sectors are met in full in the developing countries to back up the efforts for augmenting food production in these countries.

The FAO Secretariat has in Part V of the Document identified the key issues which have to be considered in the formulation of agricultural and rural energy policy at national and international levels. Besides assured supplies of commercial energy required for production of energy intensive inputs, these issues envisage keeping a close watch on the farm price relations, reorientation of research and extension services to provide conservation of fossil fuel, integration of tree growing for fuel with agricultural policies and stimulation of participation of local communities, individual farmers, in this effort, priority in national energy policies of developing countries to the needs of their rural poor communities etc We are in full agreement with this 'approach.

The energy policy of the Government of India in the case of agriculture and rural development fully recognises the need for exploitation of renewable resources of energy, like energy forestry and bio-gas, especially to meet the energy requirements of rural communities, more efficient use of animal and human power in agricultural operations, pursuing application of new energy sources, intensifying R and D activities relating to application of new sources of energy specifically solar energy in the agricultural sector and improving efficiency of energy use in agricultural equipment and operations. Our Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) which synchronises with the launching of the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade aims at a speedy development of indigenous sources of energy with proper emphasis on conservation and efficiency of energy use.

India has vast potential for developing bio-gas production. According to a recent estimate, about 300 to 400 millions tonnes of animal excreta is available in India as base for bio-gas production. Besides, bulk quantities of residues and other organic waste could also be used with animal excreta for bio-gas production. If all these materials could be utilised, about 70,000 million ton cubic meters of methane gas equivalent to about 160 million tonnes of fuel wood could be produced. During the past few years, therefore, steps have been taken to popularise setting up of bio-gas plants in farm homes. The Government of India has taken a major initiative during the Sixth Five Year Plan to mount a massive programme for the development of bio-gas at an outlay of Rs. 500 millions. It is proposed to install about 4 lakh family size bio-gas plants and 100 community size plants during the Plan period. Our achievement in bio-gas production have been appropriately acclaimed by the FAO.

We have also taken a series of measures for maximising efficiency of fertiliser use. These include orientation of package of practices for securing more efficient use of fertilisers, promoting right type of fertilisers suited to specific crops and soils, split application of nitrogenous fertilisers, effective use of soil testing to ensure balanced application of fertiliser nutrients and development of integrated nutrients supply system. Steps have also been taken in the country to promote a large scale use of rhizobium culture in the case of the guminous crops and the use of blue algae and azola in the rice growing areas. On the basis of the experience gained in the implementation of these programmes in our country, we not only support the FAO initiatives in the matter, but would also like to emphasise that the FAO should give a greater emphasis to renewable sources of energy for agricultural production especially to the programmes relating to development of bio-gas and biological nitrogen fixation. FAO should make provision for expert consultation, establishing information exchange systems, organising training seminars etc. Some of the specific areas where FAO could arrange to help India and other developing countries are production of intrinsically new fertilisers which are cheaper and which release nutrients slowly and development of a suitable and economical fertiliser drill which can be used with ease in the case of application of urea super granules.

Fuelwood is one of the important energy sources for domestic consumption and agricultural utilisation in the rural areas of India. A series of steps have already been taken in my country to ensure production of fuelwood on sustained basis. The strategy being adopted to increase availability of fuelwood as near as possible to consumption points. India has also embarked on a massive social forestry programme. Social forestry as currently practised in my country aims at raising plantations and growing trees of species suitable, among others, for fuelwood along road-sides, railway lines, canal banks, tank shores, unproductive and marginal agricultural lands, school compounds and similar other institutional lands, community lands, homesteads and available government lands in rural areas. As a matter of fact, large scale social forestry programme have already been taken up in several States in my country and are likely to be taken up in the remaining States, in the near future. In preparing the social forestry projects in India, care is being taken to analyse the management of existing rural energy system and further to ensure an equitable distribution of the energy resources created through fuelwood plantation under such programmes.

India is also concerned with conversion of fuelwood and wood residues to conventional gaseous fuels. Experiments have already been initiated for the production of gas from charcoal and wood.

Along with development programmes, considerable research work is already under way in India in the use of energy for agricultural purposes by various research institutions and agricultural universities under the ICAR, which is entrusted with the responsibility of coordination of research at the Apex level in India.

Under the Sixth 5-years Plan (1980-85), it is proposed to intensify research on Renewable energy sources, comprising different aspects such as solar energy, bio-gas and wind energy with higher outlay. It is also proposed to intensify research on energy requirements for different farming systems and associated rural homes; and organic recycling and biological nitrogen fixation for substitution of chemical fertilisers during the Sixth Plan.

In the matter of fisheries, India has recently concluded a T. C. P. Project on energy economy, based on fixed propeller nozzles to the existing fleet of fishing trawlers in the country. In this context of high cost of diesel it is essential to harness wind power for fishing craft. For this purpose it is necessary to take up a project to construct and test various prototypes of commercial sailing fishing vessels for use by fisherman. We will welcome any assistance from the FAO in the matter.

In conclusion, my delegation has given a bird's eyeview of our endeavours and experiences in the sphere of energy planning for agriculture and rural development sectors. We will be happy to share our experience with countries, in case our fellow developing countries feel they can benefit from our experience.

SHIN-HAENG HUK (Korea, Republic of): I would like to extend my appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of a rather difficult report on energy in agriculture and rural development. So many developing countries have strived for their agricultural development objectives, the use of energy has been increasing in the agricultural sector. For instance, in Korea, the agricultural sector had heavily depended upon such traditional energy sources as fuelwood, crop and livestock residues, and animal power in the past. However, as our agricultural sector has been mechanized, the consumption of energy, especially liquid energy, for the purpose of agricultural production has been dramatically increasing.

We are all aware of the importance of energy substitutes to be developed, more efficient use of energy, and technology development for energy saving devices. However, these projects need much longer time to be useful for the agricultural sector. In order to increase agricultural and marine production with respect to energy use in the short-run, the Government of the Republic of Korea has long implemented the policy of price discrimination with liquid energy favourable for agriculture and fishing since productivities in these sectors are in general lower than that in the non-agricultural fishery sector. We have to stimulate farmers to produce more by providing cheap energy. Otherwise, we may not be able to solve the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the future. This is especially true when we consider the agricultural sector's increasing dependence on energy use.

Considering the small position of commercial energy used for agricultural production, I wonder whether our member countries agree to apply the concept of price discrimination favourable for only agricultural production in developing countries as a price subsidy to trading energy, if agreed. This will become a great encouragement for farmers who are under heavy burdens from the increasing use of energy on farms in food-deficit countries.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic) : I should like to commend the excellent preparation of the document under discussion. Due attention was given to points of detail concerning the importance of energy in agriculture and rural development; a matter about which we agree unanimously. It has been proved that agriculture is one of the major forms of renewable sources of energy. It is not only a producer of energy but a consumer also.

My delegation expresses satisfaction with the past and current activities of FAO in energy, nationally and regionally as set out in Chapter 6 of the document.

After considering the medium-term plan of action in Chapter 7 of the document, my delegation would also like to express its full support. We would ask the international community and donor countries to strengthen their assistance to FAO.

The Egyptian delegation believes in focussing on the extraction of energy from the biomass in order to produce biogas from the soil and in order to develop furnaces.

We propose a more efficient utilization of solar energy and more attention being given to light as a source of energy in producing crops that are highly sensitive to photosynthesis.

We are of the opinion that surface waters should be used to plant algae and hydrocarbon.

To make use of energy in agriculture, action should be taken to prepare hybrid legumes and nitrogen fixation to be used as rice fertilizers. Projects to develop fertilizers from farm residues should also be encouraged.

In my country, when the high level of waste due to producing energy from burning farm waste was noticed, we started on a programme of extracting biogen from organic waste.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the close and fruitful cooperation with FAO.

FAO through the technical cooperation programme has trained workers in biogen development in Egypt, it has also helped carry out research and application projects in this area.

My country welcomes students from the developing countries to take part in training in research and applied studies in this new field. We are ready to enlarge technical expertise and assistance with all these countries.

B. O. M. CHIYAMBWE (Zambia): Allow me to make a short intervention and announce that it is a strong feeling on the part of a number of delegations present here at this Conference that forestry in general is not being given the priority which it deserves. To this effect a resolution is being drafted and will be presented to the Drafting Committee. It is hoped that the Resolution Committee will approve this draft resolution. I would therefore request that at a future date during the deliberations of this Committee, discussion on this resolution be opened.

PAOLO VICINELLI (Holy See): The Holy See delegation takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to the Secretariat and to the Commission for the very concrete approach made to the development of the different items on the agenda. The Holy See delegation greatly appreciated the increasing importance that both the Secretariat document and the Assembly remarks are devoting to the subjects which are at the base of agricultural action—that is to men and women. The time seems to be past when attention and hopes for the human future were almost totally focussed on scientific technology and productivity, the fastest the better, or to large development schemes, the biggest the better. The average farmer, both as a human being and as a decision-making operator, appears to have taken his revenge and is now seen more and more as a starting point for any step further.

All this appears particularly true in the field of energy in agriculture. One thinks particularly of the enormous toil and stress which millions of women and children in the developing world still have to suffer daily in order to grind their grain, to travel long distances for their fuel and to transport water and crops on their heads.

It is with the view of correcting these still so diffuse hardships that the Pontifical Academy of Science has last year concentrated a special effort of study on the relations between energy and mankind, the report of which was offered to His Holiness the Pope on the occasion of the recent audience to our Conference.

The three exhaustive papers by the Secretariat go deep in suggesting many intelligent approaches to the solution of small-scale energy problems. We recall as first steps to progress the fundamental presence in crop rotations of nitrogen-fixing crops, or the importance of a good choice and strong action of the diffusion of wood fuel apt trees, or the possibility of cheap donkey-drawn chariots for crop transport, and of oxen-draught ploughing. Simple hand-operated machines could help in reducing the toil of grain-grinding, and a larger use of windmills may greatly help in multiplying the number of drilled wells in dry areas. However, one wonders how it happens that simple new techniques are sometimes largely adopted in one country and completely unknown in a neighbouring one. That simply underlines the enormous scope more and more open to diffuse technical assistance and the great need of mutual exchange of information and help between all countries: which is exactly the aim of this Organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie l'observateur du Saint-Siège.

J. THINSY (Belgique): J'aurais voulu vous poser une question, M. le Président, concernant la suite de nos travaux pour cette semaine: vous avez fait remarquer que nous devons avancer rapidement mais, quand je vois le programme, il était prévu que l'énergie serait traitée encore demain et vendredi; vous avez parlé de problèmes de résolutions que nous devrions discuter; quand, comment envisagez-vous de traiter ces problèmes et à partir de quand?

LE PRESIDENT: En réponse à la question qui vient de m'être posée, je voudrais dire que nous souhaitons terminer avec cette question demain, après quoi nous aurons à examiner les projets de résolutions et comme vous le savez les projets de résolutions peuvent encore soulever beaucoup de questions qui peuvent nous entraîner jusqu'au vendredi. Il faut laisser le temps nécessaire au Comité de rédaction de faire son travail, c'est pour cela que nous souhaitons aller un peu plus vite. Puisque tout le monde est d'accord la séance est levée.

The meeting rose at 18. 05 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 05.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 05 horas.

conference

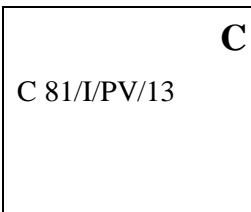
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

THIRTEENTH MEETING TREIZIEME SEANCE 13ª SESION

(19 November 1981)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 9. 55 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La treizième seance est ouverte à 9 h 55, sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 13ª sesión a las 9. 55 horas bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

LE PRESIDENT : Nous allons reprendre nos travaux et avant de vous donner la liste des intervenants de ce matin je voudrais vous annoncer que la résolution sur la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA est prête. Elle est présentée sous la cote C 81/LIM/30. Elle sera considérée, disons plutôt prise en compte, au niveau de notre Commission dès que nous aurons terminé le point 8. Nous avons également une autre résolution, plutôt un projet de résolution, actuellement soumis au Comité des résolutions et qui sera examiné pour être pris en compte par notre Commission, et ce, demain.

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTATION (continuación)

8. Energy in agriculture and rural development (continued)

8. Energie en agriculture et développement rural (suite)

8. La energía en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural (continuación)

J. H. M. AALDERS (Netherlands): Energy and food are two of the most urgent problems of the eighties. The document which the Secretariat has prepared gives a good picture of the energy problem with respect to agriculture and rural development. The analysis and recommendations for action correspond in general with the Dutch view. I would like to speak about three major issues in this field. Firstly the relation between energy and food production, secondly rural energy supply and thirdly relation between these two. I will restrict myself by stipulating the most important aspects.

Turning to the relationship between energy and food production, strong emphasis has to be given to food production in developing countries, this requires an assured supply of commercial liquid fuel for agriculture, fertilizers and all other goods, or growing conditions which are dependent on energy. This is a pre-condition for the increase of food production.

Secondly with respect to energy needs, my Government considers the needs of fuel for the rural population of prime importance, hence special attention must be given to new developments in this field, namely the development of local renewable sources of energy such as wind and water and the improvement of conversion technologies, cooking equipment and the increase and improvement of the production of biomass, in particular fuel wood. As to the latter my Government has created a special assistance programme of energy in developing countries, an important part will be used within the framework of the FAO Forestry and Rural Energy Programme. The main objectives are the improvement in the productivity of existing sources for fuel wood production; development of new forestry plantations; the improvement of conversion technology and lastly the development of other renewable energy sources. With FAO, activities in the field of fuel wood are started in Peru and Burma. Potential donors are urged to join in the FAO Cooperative Programme on Forestry and Rural Development. The fuel wood crisis can be tackled by State authorities, but even more so by direct engagement of the rural population by stressing the responsibility of the local people themselves. Much gain can be made by the development of communal forest areas and by village forestry programmes. In many cases specific world food programme activities are directed to reforestation. We feel more use can be made of the 'food for work' idea to improve the fuel wood situation at village level. The fuel wood crisis causes particular shortages in local supplies and it therefore becomes necessary to collect fuel wood over longer distances.

As the task of collection often is performed by women the programmes of action on fuel wood supply in rural areas should pay attention to the role of women which is in line with the recommendations of WCARRD. The energy crisis causes, in a number of countries, an increasing need for the production of liquid fuels from energy crops as has been pointed out by Mr. Lester Brown, the production of energy crops might be competitive with the production of food and this situation could endanger the supply of food at the international level. Moreover, if the production of liquid fuels from energy crops becomes economically attractive, the supply of food to the poor is enlarged. Hence, the supply of food at national and international level should not be endangered by the production of liquid fuels from energy crop.

Another aspect I would like to mention is the use of organic material and agricultural waste for energy production which could result in a decrease of the supply of organic matter to the soil in areas where soil fertility and soil degradation are crucial. This aspect should be taken into account.

Next to solving to a direct extent the fuel wood crisis, I now come to my third line, to mention the key role of forestry within the perspective of rural development. Forestry is important for the supply of fuel wood; the supply of building materials; the water balance in rural areas; environmental quality; the conservation of production capacity of soils as mentioned by Mrs. Gandhi to this Conference "there is food as long as there are forests".

In summing up, the medium term plans of action should not only deal with national food strategies, but also with national forestry policies within the perspective of rural development. My delegation therefore, supports the idea of a resolution as put forward yesterday by the delegate of Zambia stressing the key role of forestry in rural development, particularly in those areas which I have mentioned.

A. F. M. de FREITAS (Brazil): In the last few years the problem of energy has been frequently discussed in different meetings of international organizations. This demonstrates the importance of this question, particularly after the two substantial rises in oil prices of 1973 and 1979. FAO has also shown interest in the subject, especially in view of the consequences of the new prices of energetic inputs on food production. The Brazilian Delegation had different opportunities of intervening on the subject of energy in this Organization, especially on what concerns energy in agriculture and in rural development. Permit me, to discuss once more the experiences of the Brazilian Government on this question of new and renewable sources of energy.

But first, I would like to commend the Secretariat for the preparation of document C 81/25, which contains a concise and complete discussion of energy in agriculture. I would offer now a few comments on selected topics of the document.

There appears to be today a consensus in the world community regarding the target of 4 percent of annual growth in agriculture, if self-sufficiency in food production, together with a reasonable degree of Food Security are to be attained. This growth in agricultural production requires a correspondent growth in commercial energy use in the agricultural sector of about 8 percent a year. This position is recalled in paragraph 16 of the document. I would like to mention that the document might have included an estimate of the consequences of such a ratio on the food and agricultural production of developing countries, and of its effects on World Food Security.

Paragraphs 20-28 deserve a special attention by the Brazilian Delegation for the simple, concrete and easily applicable suggestions therein described, on the efficient use of energy. My delegation is also pleased to note that the experience of Brazil in this area is often mentioned.

In this respect, my delegation would be happy to offer additional information with regard to the new and renewable sources of energy developed by the Brazilian Government. Brazil has started an ambitious programme of biomass production for generating power through the use of natural renewable resources. Originally, this programme was only aiming at the production of alcohol by using mostly sugar cane. This is the so-called Brazilian Programme of Alcohol (PROALCOOL). The PROALCOOL is only one of the outstanding aspects of the Brazilian efforts to substitute biomass energy for non-renewable energy sources. Launched in 1975, it is the result of an appropriate strategy to reduce petroleum imports, using the possibilities of the land. The Brazilian Government established a strategy aiming at: 1) increasing the domestic petroleum production; 2) promoting energy conservation; 3) stimulating the use of new and renewable sources of energy and 4) modifying the refining profile in order to adjust the products to the existing alternatives. It should be stressed that the main energetic restriction in Brazil is related to liquid fuels, since 70 percent of the transportation system depends on trucks, buses and automobiles.

Three favourable conditions led to the definition of ethanol as an alternative energy to replace gasoline: 1) the existence of extensive sugar cane plantations, which were stimulated by the high sugar prices on the international market; 2) the existence of installed distilleries adapted to the ethanol production; and 3) the previous experience in using alcohol as fuel, that goes back to 1925.

The primary goal of alcohol production was set in order to provide a blending of 20 percent of anhydrous ethanol to gasoline. This target being achieved in 1979, new structures and targets of the programme were then approved. Nowadays, over 81 percent of the PROALCOOL targets have already been achieved, and some social aspects can easily be quoted. PROALCOOL was established not only to reduce the dependence on foreign oil and to improve the balance of payment, but also to transfer other benefits to different social sectors. Aiming at these objectives, efforts are being directed so that (a) the programme will not adversely affect living conditions, (b) will not lead to a displacement of food production areas, (c) will offer new job opportunities, and (d) will improve a more equitable income distribution. Taking into account the number of distilleries so far installed, one new direct job is created for every 20,000-30,000 liters of produced alcohol. Besides direct employment in the

industrial sector, there is a growing demand for manpower in the agricultural sector. More than 300,000 new jobs have been already created by PROALCOOL. The environment impact of distilleries effluents, stillage, in hydrological basins is the object of special concern, however, due to its high mineral content, particularly potassium, the stillage has proved to be an excellent fertilizer.

It should be stressed once more that the beneficial results of the Alcohol Programme have to be viewed within the framework of Brazilian social and economic conditions.

More recently, however, other raw materials are being used as a complement or in substitution for the sugar cane, such as manioc, sugar sorghum and wood. Furthermore, there is research going on in Brazil as part of a programme aimed at the production and utilization of vegetable oils as a source of energy. This endeavour is, however, conditioned to a very important limiting factor, which is the availability of financial resources. The government is considering this question with great care and concern, and it is devoting the necessary attention to its solution.

The accomplishment of this global production programme gives a new dimension to Brazilian agriculture and it is based on the fundamental factors which are at our disposal, that is, land, abundant labour, a favourable climate and a domestic market with a very large consumption potential.

The Brazilian government believes that energy from agriculture is the most immediate alternative for replacing fossil fuel for energy from other sources. In the case of Brazil, the total area devoted to agriculture for energy production is small in comparison with the total agricultural land for that use in the country. The Brazilian government has issued guidelines on this matter, taking into consideration the fact that the expansion of agriculture for energy should not forestall the development of agriculture for food. Brazil is perhaps one of the few countries where it is possible to harmonize three different goals in the agricultural sector, that is agriculture for food, agriculture for export, and agriculture for energy. The government is aware of the delicate balance of resources that should be allocated to each one of those sectors and it keeps a close watch on the development of each one.

Brazil feels proud for having anticipated some of the conclusions of the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held recently in Nairobi. As is indicated in document C 81/25-Sup. I, the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy notes that:

"An energy transition from present international economy based primarily on hydro-carbons to one based increasingly on new and renewable sources of energy is inevitable. For developing countries an effective energy transition may involve the question of economic survival. "

And I go on with the quotation:

"Effective achievement of this energy transition should be viewed as an essential element for assuring sustained growth of the international economy, in a manner that, consistent with the needs and options of individual countries, is technically and economically feasible, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable and for safeguarding world peace and stability. "

In the light of the Nairobi Programme and of the Brazilian policies for the development of new and renewable sources of energy, it becomes a little bit difficult for the Brazilian delegation to accept some of the conclusions in Chapter V of document C 81/25, in particular paragraphs 78 and 79. My delegation does not believe that policies which favour energy crops may become obsolete in a relative short time or that they may cause serious repercussions to the supply and prices of food. We think that the great diversity of conditions in developing countries does not authorize this kind of broad generalization. Moreover, the Brazilian Government believes that each country should decide, with the maximum of flexibility, the energy policies that it deems appropriate to its peculiar conditions.

In conclusion, the Brazilian delegation is convinced that the utilization of liquid fuel from biomass is accessible to developing countries, and its economic and social relevance has been confirmed by the Nairobi Programme of Action. The equipment and services needed to produce liquid fuel from biomass are of low cost. Most of the equipment already installed for oil processing can be utilized for biomass. Brazil has always encouraged horizontal cooperation and we believe that with adequate financial resources this might be an appropriate field for the development of such cooperation.

Ms. R. TIRONA (Philippines): We have before us documents C 81/INF/18, C 81/25 and C 81/25-Sup. I which the Secretariat has painstakingly prepared for our meeting. I shall try to be very brief in my remarks.

My delegation appreciates the contribution of FAO in the field of energy and agriculture and rural development, particularly the Regional Project for Asia and the Pacific on improving soil fertility through organic recycling. The exchange of information on pertinent technology in this field including biomass is of special interest to the Philippines in view of its own experience in producing biogas. It is our hope that FAO will continue to regard research on energy for agriculture and rural development as an important and critical phase of its work.

The Philippine delegation takes note of the findings of the Secretariat in its paper C 81/25 and enjoins the Secretariat to proceed with this task on the conservation and management of traditional as well as commercial energy in agriculture. It is also useful, in my delegation's view, for research to be continued on issues which would lessen dependence on energy-intensive inputs.

It will be recalled that the Philippines was one of the participants at the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi last August. We should like to recall that the FAO Director-General, in making his statement, gave the assurance that the FAO, is following up the recommendations of the Nairobi Conference, would help governments maximize the use of energy from these sources.

The Philippines feel that the meeting of this Commission is a good opportunity to consider the Nairobi recommendations, particularly in the context of the follow-up action that FAO might be able to take. Therefore we would like to request the Secretariat to outline some suggested approaches for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. It may wish to do so towards the end of the deliberations of the Commission on this item when it makes its summary of observations.

The Philippine delegation notes that five of the areas of activity recommended in Nairobi are directly related to the activities in which FAO is involved, namely fuelwood, charcoal, biogas, solar energy, draught animal power and wind energy. In outlining the Secretariat's suggestions, it might be practical to use the Nairobi Plan of Action item by item, including arrangements for the implementation and monitoring of the Plan.

Needless to say, the Philippines support the objectives of the Nairobi Plan of Action, as set out in document C 81/25-Sup. I, namely to promote concerted action in the context of the energy transition in development and the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy with a view to helping mutual overall requirements, especially those of the developing countries.

Furthermore, the Philippines wish to make the following comments in the light of the recently concluded Summit Meeting in Cancun, which discussed energy issues as one of the framework areas. The Philippines support the proposition that energy is a global issue which affects both developed and developing countries and therefore there must be a universal approach to this problem. It finds some merits in the proposed world energy plan as a framework to ensure orderly transition from the era of hydro-carbons to the era of diversified energy sources. It recognizes the potential contribution that regional cooperation schemes in the field of energy could make in development.

The Philippines share the views of some countries that the World Bank could expand its energy lending capabilities to developing countries by the establishment of an energy affiliate. It also concurs with the FAO that there is a need for an exchange of information between energy producing and energy consuming countries so as to assist in long-term energy planning.

Finally, the Philippines is inclined to suggest that national and international institutions should appraise the energy problem in a unified manner not only in providing an appropriate package of financial resources but also in making relevant technology more readily available to the developing countries.

A. GAYOSO (United States of America) : The problem of energy is one that for the past several years has seriously affected all of the countries represented in this room. It has, however, been particularly damaging to the poorest countries and especially to the food production capability of their populations. In the short run the problem is principally one of capacity to purchase. Very large shares of foreign exchange revenues continue to be needed for energy inputs which are no longer growing as fast as food production needs require, because in the short run only financial assistance will effectively assist non-oil producers in securing the necessary energy required for food production and industry.

The United States is particularly pleased with the development of the special mechanisms on the part of Venezuela, Mexico and Nigeria to assist many developing countries with their oil purchases. Obviously financial assistance is not a long-term answer. Amelioration of the energy cost problem will be more a function of conservation, of the development of alternative sources of energy and of new agricultural technology which are less energy-intensive, of the development of plant varieties that fix nitrogen, thus reducing the need for hydro-carbon based fertilizer.

Having said this it might be worth emphasizing, lest our attention be fully diverted, that although a critical element, energy is not the only resource or input crucially affecting food and agricultural production. Water and land are also vital components that are not only in limited supplies in many areas but also dwindling because of misuse, over-use or poor management

I would like to complete my remarks by offering some comments on some of the issues explored in the Secretariat's document. We find this document to be a very useful one for our discussion. We fully support the view that commercial energy consumption within the developing world can be expected to increase severalfold by the end of the current century, if projected food requirements are to be successfully met. While conservation and increased energy use efficiency is needed within developing country agriculture, low energy production techniques now commonly used in most of their production systems cannot produce the surpluses needed to feed rapidly growing populations. This is an area in which the Director-General was particularly clear in addressing the Conference on new and renewable energy sources, in which he said, and I cannot find a quote but I will paraphrase, that food needs in the remainder of the century would require a rapid transition from low energy use agriculture to high energy use agriculture so the problem of energy is here to stay for a long time.

In the light of my opening remarks the US delegation wants to stress its conviction that public intervention will most likely be required in most countries to ensure that agriculture gets the energy needed to enable it to meet the production goals required in most countries. Thus we strongly support the call for developing countries' governments to take the necessary policy actions to assure that their agricultural centers receive the crucial supplies of commercial energy vitally needed to improve performance and meet food production requirements. Similarly we agree with the assertion that the fuel wood crisis is probably the most critical international issue in the energy area. We think therefore that highest priority should be placed on efforts to expand supply by involving local groups and communities in programmes of systematic replanting, protecting and better managing their fuel wood resources including the introduction of improved and faster growing species of trees, more productive woodlots and the use of agro-forestry systems. We would like to commend the role that FAO is playing as represented and illustrated by the recent publication of an excellent book on eucalyptus trees. We also agree that agriculture's potential as a supplier of renewable energy food stocks is vital and should be developed as the utilization of such becomes economically and technically feasible. However we also very strongly agree that progress in this area needs to be closely monitored to evaluate its impact on food production capability particularly as larger scale energy cropping could divert substantial land area from food production. While calling for increased energy inputs into developing country agriculture, we also support the need to conserve energy where possible and to adopt energy-efficient practices, techniques and production systems. The question of energy is a long-term question. It requires, as the paper suggests, to be looked at in a comprehensive way that will include not only consideration of energy as a factor but how it interrelates with land and water use. Finally, and probably most important in the long term, is the need to develop that form of energy that is even more vital to the process of increased food production, which is human energy, the necessity to increase human resource capacities in the developing countries.

H. K. SEIP (Norway) : Energy is certainly a most fundamental requirement for a decent life for humanity. My delegation highly appreciates that it has been taken up, with sufficient time for a broad discussion at this Conference. This shows that FAO is aware of the responsibility resting on the Organization for solving its part of the energy problem of the world. This part is of basic importance, first for the rural population but also for urban areas all over the world. I congratulate the Secretariat on the excellent document C 81/25 which forms a very good basis for the discussion in this Conference and also for action-oriented in time to come. The document takes up both the production and the consumption sides of the energy problem. Both are important. Let me first comment on the production side. Both agriculture and forestry give inputs to the production of energy. Forestry is the leading producer here with its fuel wood and charcoal. In discussing energy from crop and livestock residues, the document in paragraph 49 states that there are however substantial constraints on using large quantities of both crop and livestock residues for fuel. On the other hand it is pointed out in paragraph 65 that deforestation leads to such environmental damage as soil degradation, soil loss, flooding and siltation. The unavoidable consequence of these statements must be a clear priority in the work of FAO for promoting the production of fuelwood rather than energy from agricultural biomass, even if the latter should not be ignored.

In many parts of the world it seems to be the responsibility of women to carry home the fuel wood. As the distance from the village to accessible wood increases, the women will be increasingly occupied with this part of their job and have correspondingly decreasing possibilities for giving active inputs in the process of development. To correct this situation there has been a strong tendency in recent years to concentrate forestry development on fuel wood plantations in the immediate vicinity of village. This is certainly an important thing to do but it is only a partial solution of the problem of the village. It is a short term solution of one isolated problem. It is only natural that a developing country with acute problems everywhere should give high priority to short term problems and solutions. Also in more developed countries such tendencies are visible. Governments should review their system of setting priorities to give more attention to long term problems. Even in an international organization like FAO, with responsibility for advising on management of renewable resources, the time horizon is rather limited. The year 2000 seems to be the end of imagination for most of us. Beyond this time limit the results of most of what we are doing in forestry, and even further into the future the consequences of environmental damage, will meet our children. In the document "Agriculture Towards 2000" we can read that wood will be scarce in the world for all purposes and there are clear indications that this will have a strong negative effect on development in general.

Most trees take time to grow. Only fuel wood production can be made in a few years. It seems to be a general situation that in setting priorities the human brain is more apt to think of a problem's distance in time than of its importance. It is important to notice then that future forestry programmes of the type mentioned can only be solved today. To achieve this it is necessary to look at production of wood in a very long-term perspective.

The document under discussion points out the need for an integrated view of the various sources of rural energy. This is certainly important. There are varied aspects in forestry including forest industries that need integration or coordination with other sectors such as land management and environmental conservation. All this integration and coordination is good and important as long as it does not lead to a disintegration of forestry itself. This is the danger in the strong concentration on the problem-of fuel wood plantations. A plantation that produces industrial wood will automatically also produce fuel wood. By varying the choice of trees the part of the production that is suitable for industrial purposes also varies and even industrial wood is good fuel where there is need. All forestry must have a social aspect.

It must fit in with the needs of the society and be coordinated with and linked to other activities for development. In most cases pure fuel wood production serves the conservation of the existing situation but brings very little progress. A fully fledged multi-purpose forestry brings fuel wood and through employment and income also a basis for further development. Forestry should not be disintegrated. Undoubtedly much more can be achieved for the same amount of money if it is regarded as a continuous chain of operations from seed to a variety of useful products clearly linked to general development. A closer discussion of these problems should probably be taken in the COFO before it again comes up in the Conference. For this purpose it might be useful if the Secretariat in the preparation for the forthcoming meeting in May 1982 would include items within this spectrum of thinking. I would suggest headlines for two such papers. One could be "Long-Term World Wood Balance" and the other "Multi-purpose Forestry for Rural Development".

Let me now turn to another aspect. Questions arising from the increase in energy cropping are well covered in the document. Particularly important are the effects of energy cropping to world food security. In paragraph 60 it is stated that in the short term only small price changes seem likely.

In the longer term however energy cropping on a substantial scale in exporting and potential exporting countries could limit the availability and increase the prices of food with detrimental effects on the nutrition of poor people.

The Norwegian delegation will strongly underline this possible competition between energy cropping and world food security.

As a consequence FAO should be critical to increased energy cropping in general, and in countries with under-nourishment in particular. Priority must be given to food needs as also highlighted by Dr. Bommer in his introductory statement. Energy cropping is however not very practicable for small-scale agri culture; in fact it seems that for using this kind of energy to competitive prices, the agriculture is to be highly industrialized.

In most developing countries energy cropping is therefore not very suitable and does not seem to stimulate rural development as defined in the WCARRD context.

I have been speaking at some length about problems of energy production. Allow me now to make some comments which are more connected with the consumption side. While recognizing the amount of human energy that in rural areas is being put to harvesting and transporting fuelwoods and the extremely low efficiency in cooking in open fireplaces, there seem to be very great possibilities for technological improvement. There is a long list of appropriate technology, including wood harvesting, transport and various types of stoves which are already available. There is certainly a demand for more research but to make existing technology available for people needing it is a still more pressing task. Also, more advanced technologies are to hand but here I think research should have a high priority.

In Norway we are now increasing research work on a number of renewable sources and I take the opportunity to comment briefly upon them.

Norway today favours four sources of renewable energy : biomass, excluding energy cropping, solar energy, waves and wind. For biomass, we have a particular research programme which gives high priority to easily available biomass sources such as hard wood and animal waste.

Of special interest for developing countries may be the research work on charcoal, which tries to work out stoves with higher degrees of efficiency. This research work is very promising. Economic analysis suggests that it may be possible to sell charcoal at a price corresponding to 3.5 US cents per Kw. hour when competitive prices are paid for the raw material.

Another research project aims at the production and utilization of biogas and compost heat from animal waste. The composting process produces a manure temperature of 40 - 50 C. This heat is transferred via a heat exchanger. The heat is most easily extracted by using air heaters. I cannot see this system mentioned in the document.

Work has also been started to calculate the various life-stages of important seaweeds, both in the laboratory and in the field. Seaweeds are the only large scale available primary producers in Norwegian waters.

They represent an annual production in the order of 10 billion tons of organic material. This water and carbohydrate-dominated biomass can be fermented into energy carriers methane and ethanol or they may be used as alternative energy saving raw materials by industry. No attempt has been made to improve these plants genetically.

I feel that I may have taken too much time, but the item under discussion is so important and so much could be achieved, so I could not resist and I hope I will be forgiven.

M. BOURGET (France): Je voudrais souligner l'intérêt que la délégation française attache à ce problème de l'énergie dans le développement agricole du monde rural. Il est tout à fait judicieux que ce problème ait été mis à l'ordre du jour de la présente session.

Je voudrais d'abord faire part de nos réflexions concernant l'excellent rapport qui nous a été soumis. Je voudrais noter la part relativement faible (3,5 pour cent) de la production agricole dans la consommation globale d'énergie. C'est un point important, mais le rapport fait également remarquer que la satisfaction des besoins énergétiques de l'agriculture revêt un caractère prioritaire pour accroître la production agricole et répondre aux besoins d'une population croissante. C'est effectivement extrêmement important d'accorder une réelle priorité à la satisfaction des besoins énergétiques de l'agriculture, surtout si l'on considère l'effort d'intensification qu'implique l'augmentation souhaitable de 3,7 pour cent par an, entre 1980 et l'an 2000, de la production agricole dans les pays en développement.

Pour réaliser cet objectif, il faut rappeler la priorité des priorités énergétiques qui devrait être réservées aux facteurs d'intensification de la production agricole dont certaines sont très exigeantes en énergie et je pense aux engrais azotés.

On ne peut pas non plus oublier la mécanisation. De ce point de vue, l'expérience acquise dans ces dernières années dans les régions de la savane sahélo-soudanaïenne est porteuse de promesses. Je citerai la production d'un tracteur économique qui peut être techniquement approprié aux besoins des agriculteurs les plus avancés, c'est le tracteur Bouyer qui a révélé d'ailleurs que, grâce aux moyens de travail accrus qu'il offre le bilan énergétique global des exploitations est non seulement amélioré par une augmentation de la production mais que cela permet également l'introduction de légumineuses fourragères réduisant la demande en fertilisants azotés. Il est par conséquent important d'encourager, comme le préconise le rapport, à la fois les économies d'énergie et le développement des énergies de remplacement dans le secteur agro-alimentaire.

Toutefois, s'agissant d'actions aussi diversifiées, il convient de bien distinguer les mesures d'application immédiate de celles qui nécessitent encore un important effort de recherche. La mise au point de cultures alimentaires moins exigeantes en engrais, ou de céréales ayant la même capacité de fixer l'azote que les légumineuses demandera sans doute encore plusieurs années. De même le développement de la lutte intégrée ne pourra être que progressif. En revanche, l'amélioration des pratiques culturales, des techniques d'irrigation et du réglage des moteurs peut être obtenue assez rapidement, mais elle réclame une action d'information et d'appui technique intense et suivie. Il faut aussi que l'examen des problèmes énergétiques afférents au développement agricole et rural tienne le plus grand compte des situations géographiques et socio-économiques très différentes selon les zones et les pays pour déboucher sur des solutions adaptées. L'approche de ces problèmes ne peut évidemment être la même dans une région équatoriale peu peuplée et dans une zone subdésertique fortement peuplée. Cela vaut particulièrement pour la mise en valeur très diversifiée des énergies renouvelables.

En ce qui concerne la contribution de l'agriculture à la production d'énergie, je voudrais mettre l'accent sur les possibilités d'utilisation des résidus agricoles (végétaux et animaux) et des déchets des industries alimentaires qui sont loin d'être négligeables, même si les techniques actuelles (je pense au biogaz) ne sont pas encore très performantes.

La récupération des déchets est d'autant plus intéressante qu'elle peut répondre à une triple finalité: énergétique bien sûr, écologique (réduction des pollutions organiques) et agronomique dans le cas de la fermentation anaérobie qui préserve le pouvoir fertilisant des résidus traités.

On doit en outre considérer que l'intensification, qui permet d'augmenter la production agricole, accroît aussi les quantités de déchets dont la récupération peut aider à réduire la part du bois de feu.

Le problème du bois de feu est tout à fait fondamental. La multiplication par cinq du rythme actuel des plantations exige un effort très important. Les moyens à mettre en oeuvre pour atteindre cet objectif devront donc faire l'objet d'un examen attentif par l'Organisation pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture. Le bois doit être considéré comme une ressource rare.

Quant aux cultures énergétiques, il ne faut en effet envisager leur développement que dans la mesure où elles ne risquent pas de nuire à la production alimentaire.

Pour l'action à moyen terme, nous mettons l'accent sur:

- l'intégration des considérations d'ordre énergétique dans les programmes de développement agricole et rural;
- les programmes de reboisement;
- le rôle des communautés villageoises comme unités de base pour le développement des énergies renouvelables ;
- une meilleure utilisation de l'énergie dans la préparation des aliments.

II - Pour la France, le problème énergétique est un problème majeur en raison de la faiblesse de ses ressources énergétiques fossiles.

Mais notre pays dispose d'un potentiel de production agricole et forestière important et diversifié, sur lequel il peut s'appuyer pour répondre en partie à ses besoins énergétiques.

C'est pourquoi il me paraît utile de vous présenter l'action de la France dans ce domaine.

La politique énergétique de la France vise d'une part à accroître très fortement les économies d'énergie, d'autre part à diversifier ses sources d'énergie en accordant une place importante aux énergies nouvelles et renouvelables: biomasse et bois, énergies solaire et éolienne, hydro-électricité, géothermie.

Pour mettre en oeuvre cette politique, notre pays s'est doté d'outils spécifiques tels que l'Agence pour les Economies d'Energie, le Commissariat à l'Energie solaire et la Mission Energie du Ministère de l'Agriculture.

Je tiens à souligner l'intérêt que la France porte aux énergies renouvelables dont le développement au cours des vingt prochaines années nécessite un très gros effort de recherches. Les organismes de recherche ont donc un rôle fondamental dans la promotion des énergies renouvelables.

Si l'on considère la production énergétique de la biomasse en France, c'est le bois de chauffage qui constitue nettement la ressource la plus importante. La contribution du bois de chauffage qui est actuellement de 3 millions de TEP (tonnes équivalent pétrole) par an, provient principalement des sous-produits de la forêt (éclaircies, transformation des taillis en futaies, déchets d'exploitation forestière et des industries du bois). Elle peut et doit être doublée d'ici une dizaine d'années.

Parmi les autres sources énergétiques de la biomasse en France, on peut citer:

- l'utilisation directe des déchets végétaux (paille, rafles de maïs, sarments de vigne) pour le chauffage ou le séchage;
- la fermentation méthanique des déchets animaux et végétaux qui fait l'objet de recherches et de réalisations expérimentales;
- les cultures pratiquées à des fins spécifiquement énergétiques (taillis à évolution rapide et plantes saccharifères) qui sont encore au stade des essais.

L'action conduite pour développer la production énergétique de la biomasse en France repose sur:

- l'information et la formation;
- l'incitation à la recherche;
- l'incitation au développement industriel;
- le soutien aux opérations de démonstration;
- la définition des conditions d'utilisation des carburants.

III-De par l'intérêt qu'elle porte aux questions énergétiques, notamment aux énergies renouvelables; De par sa tradition agricole et forestière;

De par son ouverture aux problèmes du Tiers-Monde, la France paraît bien placée pour mener une coopération active avec les pays en développement.

Elle a clairement exprimé sa volonté d'aller dans ce sens lorsqu'elle a décidé:

- d'une part de doubler d'ici 1988 son effort d'aide publique au développement;
- d'autre part de retenir, parmi les priorités d'affectation de cette aide, la lutte contre la faim et la recherche d'une plus grande indépendance énergétique.

Elle dispose d'organismes de recherche qui travaillent depuis de nombreuses années avec les pays en développement. Or, leurs moyens vont être accrus dans le cadre d'une politique de la recherche confortée.

Je confirme aussi l'intérêt que la France attache au réseau coopératif européen pour les énergies rurales renouvelables qui a été constitué à Paris le mois dernier. Les échanges d'informations et d'expériences que ce réseau engendrera devraient aussi profiter aux pays en développement.

DATUK AHMAD YUNUS (Malaysia): Firstly, I would like to commend the Secretariat for this excellent document which serves as a basis for our discussion. I would also like to thank Mr. Bommer for his concise and clear introduction. The Malaysian delegation endorses the proposals by the Director General to give greater emphasis in FAO programmes to issues relating to energy, particularly to conservation measures and development and promotion of new and alternative sources of energy. We compliment the Director General for playing a major role in the preparation of the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August of this year. We hope that the conclusions and recommendations of that Conference are given serious consideration and implemented accordingly.

On the question of commercial energy use and future requirements, my delegation notes with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by FAO in determining areas where the use of human labour and draught animal power be expanded. The projection made by FAO that a one per cent growth in crop and livestock production would require an additional commercial energy input of more than two percent: reflects the urgent need to find ways and means of conserving energy, and to develop new and renewable sources of energy in agriculture and rural development. It is therefore important that other possible energy saving devices and methods, apart from those mentioned in the document, be explored or discovered.

Malaysia is concerned with energy problems because of their direct effect on the national economy. A comprehensive national energy policy is being formulated to meet the increased requirements in energy inputs in line with the national economic goals. Measures are being undertaken to explore new sources of energy and to manage them efficiently. An important step taken towards this end is the Survey of Energy Sources covering both conventional and non-conventional sources. This survey, inter alia, will identify and inventorize potential energy sources, followed by economic and technical studies in priority areas.

With regard to the issue of the fuelwood crisis my delegation welcomes the call for international action to give all the necessary assistance in educating and stimulating awareness of the importance of fuelwood in rural energy supplies, and to assist countries to develop the capability to formulate and implement a plan of action. My delegation supports the actions required to overcome the crisis as contained in paragraph 86 of the document.

My delegation compliments FAO on its activities in this field. Many information bulletins have been prepared and training courses conducted for the benefit of member countries. FAO has been cooperating and collaborating with other international agencies in its work on energy in agricultural and rural development. With this cooperation, possible areas of duplication are lessened and avoided.

Finally, the Malaysian delegation wishes to place on record its endorsement of the medium-term action and related sub-programmes as indicated in Appendix A of document G 81/25.

A. NIKKOLA (Finland): My delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the excellent document C 81/25. This report is, indeed, very informative. There is no doubt that the item under discussion is of the utmost importance.

It seems that there are actually two energy crises as far as the developing countries are concerned. In addition to the world-wide oil crisis, the poor rural people of the developing world are suffering from a worsening shortage of fuelwood and of other traditional fuels. The fuelwood crisis is very serious and seems to be getting worse. About 100 million rural people are at present living in areas where there is already an acute scarcity of fuelwood and as many as 1000 million are in situations of growing deficit. By the end of this century, the rural population in situations of acute scarcity or deficit of fuelwood might rise over 2 000 million.

In the view of my delegation, FAO should do its utmost in order to help developing countries to find solutions to the worsening fuelwood crisis. We note with satisfaction that FAO has already been active in this field. We strongly support the measures proposed in the chapter on "Forestry for Rural Energy" in the document C 81/25. The fuelwood crisis of the poor countries further emphasizes the importance of forestry voiced by many delegations during this Conference and also in the Commission. Also, a more efficient use of fuelwood resources, as for example the improvement of wood burning stoves, must be stressed. We note with satisfaction that a training centre for Africa on fuelwood and charcoal production is in preparation. We fully support the view that although the improvement of wood supplies for fuel belongs to forestry, the close inter-relationships between forestry and agriculture in the sphere of land use must be taken into account very carefully. We also stress that FAO should make its full contribution in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the UN Nairobi Conference.

Concerning sources of rural energy, there are two points which my delegation would like to touch upon. In our view, much more attention should be paid to draught animal power in developing countries, both within and outside the agricultural sector. Improved draught animals, animal draught equipment and hand implements could greatly ease the drudgery of human labour in the rural areas of developing countries.

My delegation would like to point out that our document does not at all mention one source of fuel energy which at least in some developing countries could be worthy of developing, namely peat. This source of energy, which is more or less non-renewable, is at present under intensive development in some developed countries, like our own. We think that peat should become one of the subjects of study when developing countries try to find new sources of energy.

Finally, I would like to say some words about the Programme for Rural Energy adopted in Finland recently. The main purposes of the programme are to conserve energy and to substitute domestic energy like wood, wood residues and peat for imported energy, like oil. Therefore technology for using domestic sources of energy e. g. in grain drying and especially in central heating of rural houses, will be promoted. It seems very likely that in a few years the production of nitrogenous fertilizers in Finland which is now based on imported oil will be based on domestic sources of energy especially peat.

To conclude, my delegation hopes that a European Cooperative Network on Rural Energies would start its function as soon as possible. A consultation on the establishment of the network took place in Paris at the end of last month at the invitation of the French Government. Finland will participate actively in the network and we are convinced that this kind of international cooperation in the field of rural energies will not only benefit European countries but also FAO member countries outside Europe.

G. HOERSTADIUS (Sweden): Under the present agenda item this commission is addressing the problem of meeting the energy requirements of food production and of rural populations today and in the future. The Swedish government is concurring in the appraisal that this is one of the most urgent and vital problems facing the international community. Thus Sweden took an active part in the recent Nairobi Conference on 'New' and Renewable Sources of Energy and its preparatory work. Within the framework of FAO's Swedish researchers are prepared to participate in the European Network on Rural Energies, which is about to be started.

As to the need of commercial energy for food production it seems evident that it has to be met largely by fossil energy in the foreseeable future. The classical technological package for intensive agriculture, which is based on such energy, cannot be changed overnight, and alternative systems are still in their infancy. Increases in agricultural output will mainly be brought about by means of intensified methods, and it has been estimated that as a rough global average another two percent of commercial energy will be needed to secure a one percent increase in production. Against this background, it appears above all essential that national and international energy planners take the growing commercial energy requirements of agriculture into account and ensure that they are met.

The most pressing specific energy problem for the rural populations in many developing countries today is that of fuelwood to be used in the households. According to FAO estimates, more than 100 million people live in areas where there is already an acute scarcity of fuelwood.

The number of people thus affected will grow rapidly if the present over-exploitation of forestry resources is left unchecked. As for the ensuing fuel shortages, one has to add the serious side effects on the environment which could eventually lead to the loss of a significant part of the soil resources in the developing countries. Measures to cope with the fuel wood crisis are top priority in FAO's Programme of Work and this policy has the full support of my delegation. Our support in this respect is not only verbal, as is shown by Sweden's contribution to the forestry programme for local community development. We note with great satisfaction that this programme is meeting with a very strong response from the developing countries.

The main document under the present agenda item C 81/25 depicts a very vast field of possible FAO activities concerning energy in rural development and in the agricultural sector taken in its broadest sense. Consequently, it poses the perennial problem of priorities. Apart from the general stress on the problems of developing countries the document does not contain any clear-cut suggestions in this respect. Since a selective approach seems necessary, my delegation thinks that the Secretariat should be invited to present a tentative list of specific priorities for discussion. In our opinion, these priorities should be selected in areas where FAO has a unique and well-established competence. Among these priorities we expect to find subjects which FAO helped to prepare for the recent Nairobi Conference, that is, inter alia, fuel wood and draught animal power. Another priority task for FAO that we have in mind is a realistic appraisal of the potentialities of energy crops. Doctor Saouma had some interesting things to say about that in his statement to the Nairobi Conference.

The energy problem is looming large in the world economy of today and its many aspects are being treated in many international and national bodies. The risks for unnecessary duplication of work are, hence considerable. The final paragraph of C 81/25 is a reminder of this and of the need for close collaboration between those concerned. We wish to underline the importance of this paragraph.

Finally, let me quote the following from the statement by the Swedish Prime Minister at the Cancun Summit concerning the present obligation of political leaders: "We have a responsibility to formulate a sustainable energy policy as the world now seems to have passed the peak of the petroleum era. We must work together to find new energy resources and to distribute and manage available energy in a better way",

Sra. E. MUÑOZ (Cuba): Nuestra delegación ha analizado el documento C 81/25 y el Suplemento N° I relativo a este último al Programa de Acción de Nairobi sobre Fuentes de Energía Nuevas y Renovables.

En general, el documento C 81/25 está acorde con el Programa de Acción de Nairobi, aunque este último, en la síntesis revisada, incluye un número de medidas muy concretas en las cinco Fuentes propuestas, que son de acción coordinada con la FAO, de entre un total de 10 fuentes sugeridas. Es necesario, a nuestro entender, hacer concordar estas medidas de modo a incluirlas totalmente en el texto del documento C 81/25.

La utilización de energía comercial en forma de combustibles fósiles ha aumentado en los últimos años, al tiempo que los precios de los mismos experimentan alzas permanentes desde 1974.

El aumento pronosticado del 3,7 por ciento anual en la producción agropecuaria de los países en desarrollo que conlleva a un incremento del 8 por ciento anual proporcional en la utilización de energía comercial para el período final del presente siglo, demuestra que la situación se hará aún más crítica en los próximos años.

El desarrollo tecnológico y la explotación máxima de recursos naturales que demanda la agricultura para elevar la proporción de tierras cultivables por habitante y por tanto, las disponibilidades de alimentos, va aparejada a procesos que insumen energía. De igual forma, los métodos de conservación y elaboración de alimentos, conlleva también a mayores gastos de combustible. En tal sentido, apoyamos los aspectos planteados en el Suplemento No I, relativos a la transición inevitable de la energía de los hidrocarburos, a una que se base cada vez más en fuentes de energía nuevas y renovables. Asimismo, apoyamos la afirmación a que el acceso a las fuentes convencionales por parte de los países en desarrollo seguirá jugando un rol importante en corto plazo.

Concordamos con el documento en las medidas a ejecutar relativas a un Plan general de ahorro de energía y de sustitución de fuentes, inevitable en las condiciones críticas actuales.

No obstante, lo anterior implica serios esfuerzos en la investigación, como se refleja en el Programa de Acción de Nairobi. Las investigaciones deben estar encaminadas a lograr que en ningún caso se afecte la productividad actual de los procesos agrícolas.

El empleo del tiro animal, el riego por gravedad y los molinos de viento, entre otros, no pueden conlleva a la ineficiencia en la explotación de los recursos naturales ni a la disminución o estancamiento de la producción agrícola. En tal sentido, destacamos el contenido del discurso del Dr. Saouma en Nairobi, cuando indicó acertadamente que el aumento de la producción de alimentos en los próximos años deberá proceder en sus tres cuartas partes de una mayor intensidad de cultivos y de mayores rendimientos; así también en la afirmación en cuanto a que el empleo de insumos de productos energéticos fósiles en la actual tecnología agrícola es el resultado de medio siglo de investigaciones.

Concedemos la mayor importancia a las medidas relativas al empleo de biomasa, en cualquiera de sus formas, como fuentes de energía nueva y renovable. Esta es una de las vías de mayores perspectivas que depende para su aplicación de los resultados concretos que aporte la investigación técnica.

En la utilización de los desechos de la industria agropecuaria, queremos repetir nuevamente, señor Presidente, los planteamientos de nuestra delegación ante el sexto Comité de Agricultura en marzo de 1981 y en la mesa redonda sobre cultivos energéticos, efectuada en nuestro país en 1979, relativos a la utilización del bagazo de la caña de azúcar como combustible en el propio proceso industrial de producción de azúcar, así como otros derivados también de la caña de azúcar.

Los resultados en la investigación realizados con relación a la caña de azúcar en nuestro país arrojan resultados muy favorables en tres vías estudiadas:

Primero, ahorro de empleo de combustible fósil en el proceso de producción de azúcar, mediante el empleo de bagazo, lo cual conlleva a un cambio en el proceso tecnológico de las fábricas actuales.

Segundo, producción de etanol, levadura forrajera, y

Tercero, utilización de los residuos de la cosecha de la propia caña de azúcar como combustible. Estos residuos actualmente se pierden en los campos de cultivo en grandes cantidades.

La aplicación de estos resultados conlleva en todos los casos a concluir estudios previos acertados a la inversión en nuevas fábricas o a la inversión para convertir las actuales tecnologías en centrales azucareras; pero tiene la gran ventaja de no competir decisivamente con la producción de azúcar para consumo humano, lo que constituye gran preocupación, como se expresa en los documentos que analizamos y en el discurso del Dr. Saouma en Nairobi, ya citado, respecto a no afectar la producción alimentaria de los cultivos energéticos al destinarla a la producción de combustibles en gran medida.

La utilización de energía solar, eólica o híbrida constituyen, al igual que el empleo de la biomasa y la biometanación, importantes vías a utilizar en mayor escala en los países en desarrollo, aunque conllevan inversiones costosas y requieren transferencias entre los países de los resultados de la investigación.

Concedemos particular importancia a las medidas propuestas sobre rotación de cultivos, ahorro en la aplicación de fertilizantes, de plaguicidas y agua, al empleo de materia orgánica y fijación biológicas de nitrógeno en los suelos. En todos estos aspectos, señor Presidente, nuestro país propicia actualmente programas nacionales concretos para su aplicación a corto plazo.

Resulta también de particular importancia el estudio sobre la sustitución de materias primas sintéticas, no renovables, que forman parte actualmente de muchos procesos vitales en la agricultura y están igualmente afectados por alzas continuas de precios.

Al igual que planteamos en el Comité de Agricultura de 1981, nuestro país está muy interesado en las nuevas tecnologías de producción de carbón con máximo aprovechamiento en relación a los métodos tradicionales.

El documento C 81/25 debe incluir, señor Presidente, íntegramente los aspectos de investigación, transferencia de tecnologías y capacitación, recogidos en el Programa de Nairobi. Igualmente nuestra delegación apoya los aspectos relativos a la planificación energética por cada país que se refleja en el propio documento. Queremos añadir, en este aspecto, que los proyectos de desarrollo que se confeccionen por los países y por instituciones nacionales e internacionales deben, a partir de ahora, a nuestro entender como aspecto esencial, incluir la evaluación de su implicación sobre la demanda energética futura.

T. OKAMOTO (Japan): My delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for documents C 81/50 and C 81/25-Sup. I on this very important issue. My comments are brief.

The Secretariat document points out that crop and livestock production in 1972-73 counted for about 3.5 percent of the total world use of commercial energy, and that the developing countries were estimated to have been responsible for only 18 percent of this total.

We think that the future requirements of intensive energy inputs in the agricultural sector in the developing countries are inevitable in order to increase the food production required by the growing population. Under these circumstances it is very important for FAO to contribute to the solution of energy problems by means of data collection analysis activities and technical assistance to the developing countries in the area of energy for agriculture and rural development.

With rapid population growth and urbanization in many places, forest resources are heavily exhausted in tropical areas. The need to secure energy in rural areas of the developing countries was stressed as an urgent task at the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Energy, recently held in Nairobi. My delegation hopes that the FAO will intensify its activities towards developing techniques for the conservation and reafforestation of tropical forests.

The document makes clear the medium-term action, which is an energy policy, planning and information, the improved use of energy in rural areas, the production of commercial energy from agriculture, forestry for rural energy and energy for fisheries and rural energy systems. Japan agrees with all the items for medium-term action.

The energy problem is complicated and extensive. Therefore my delegation hopes that the FAO will maintain close contact with the other international organizations concerned and in particular with the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

J. SCHERER (Federal Republic of Germany)(original language German): Document 81/25 on the importance of energy for agriculture and rural development is valuable follow-up of the publications that have been made by FAO on the subject of energy. We also wish to commend Mr. Bommer for his excellent introduction.

The FAO Secretariat has succeeded in providing a comprehensive review of the complex inter-dependencies between the supply of energy, the feeding of man and the conservation of the natural environment. It becomes quite clear in this connection that adequate energy supplies of developing countries are the truly pivotal cornerstone for a sufficient food supply, taking into account on the one hand the steady increase in population and on the other the conservation and safeguarding of the natural foundations for living and production for mankind.

We particularly welcome the proposal of the Director-General to give more emphasis to energy problems in FAO programmes, and particularly to focus on energy saving measures and the opening up of new and alternative sources of energy. Particularly in many developing countries the spiralling of prices for fossil sources of energy have already had quite negative impacts. Today the already expensive further increasing commercial energy, such as coal, oil, and electricity is being replaced by non-commercial forms of energy: wood, plant and animal residues.

The cutting down and the steady decrease of forests, which has now already reached shattering proportions, leads to the erosion and desertification of the environment. Food production in these countries which is becoming increasingly dependent on the use of high energy consuming fertilizers is running into additional constraints because of these developments. Thus in many developing countries the so-called diabolical circle of poverty, which has not yet been pierced, is being made further acute by the diabolical circle of the energy crisis and the diabolical circle of large-scale environmental destruction.

What we particularly commend in the document is the stocktaking and the future outlook of the situation as split up into three main sectors. However, in order to obtain an even clearer basis for political recommendations and measures and scope with respect to the setting-up of priorities for time, area and practical applications, it would be advisable to differentiate this analysis even more strongly according to different groups of countries. Here it would become evident that greater attention should still be paid to the really low income and raw materials poor developing countries and to those countries whose living and production foundations are jeopardized already today by this increase in erosion and desertification.

The forecast of requirements of commercial energy for the year 2000 should be further supplemented by an analysis of supply potential.

With this kind of information we could get an approximate idea of whether and under which conditions like market prices and regional availability, the quantities indicated for fertilizers, energy for irrigation, and so on, could be made available in these various countries and regions.

A further increase in domestic production of foodstuffs in developing countries should suffer no set-back. In this connection the available quantities of fertilizers which already account for 60 percent of the long-term commercial energy requirements are of great importance. The under-supply of developing countries is less a problem of quantity than a lack of foreign currency and purchasing power. This should also be strongly borne in mind.

With respect to the further increase in the capacity of nitrogen production, it might be useful for the energy poor developing countries to reach an agreement with the OPEC countries on the setting-up of factories for nitrogenous fertilizers in the OPEC countries. The deficit in nitrogenous fertilizers could be reduced in many regions of the third world if the oil-producing countries of the Middle East would make resources freely available for the production of ammonia and nitrogenous fertilizers. For instance, natural gas is still being burnt up uselessly in the atmosphere, while OPEC countries have sufficient investment capital, the industrial countries could put in their available know-how.

In order to give the poorest developing countries access to production-increasing fertilizers, wherever possible developing countries would also be recommended increased subsidies for fertilizers.

Over and above this, agricultural price policies, as demanded so rightly by the FAO Secretariat, should also take account of the increased cost of inputs in these countries.

We particularly welcome the fact that in document C 81/25 the vital importance of forestry with respect to energy utilization and ecological balance has been sufficiently stressed.

Forestry projects should be granted higher priority in the future. The Federal Republic of Germany will therefore support an increase in development aid in the area of forestry.

With respect to more economical utilization of renewable sources of energy, we should also pay greater attention to the promotion of biogas installations in developing countries. The production of biogas can contribute considerably to reduce firewood demand. Biogas production technology, we gather, has reached a mature stage, for example, as the Republic of China has already shown.

The planting of energy crops should certainly never be to the detriment of the hungry population of the world, which must always be supported. The economic justification for the selective planting of energy crops depends above all on the situation in the different countries and the prevailing conditions in the agricultural and energy sectors. In developing countries with surplus agricultural production and an energy deficit at the same time, the appropriate utilization of the agricultural potential should not be too problematical if it is a matter of producing energy.

Industrial countries, in view of the specific problems relating to the planting of energy crops, should support developing countries in their efforts in order to work out strategies which are compatible with their situation. Here aid should be particularly offered in the research sector so as to provide appropriate technologies of production and conversion. Here we should particularly promote such forms of energy production which do not bring about the controversial problem of food versus energy production competition, as we see in the case of maize and sugar cane.

We do not consider useful the proposal for an agreement giving priority to using foodstuffs to feed the world, as outlined in paragraph 87 of the document. Before far-reaching administrative steps are devised on an international level to organize energy production from biomass, present developments in that sector should be awaited. The stocktaking done by FAO on national production targets by using a questionnaire action could be a further useful contribution to this discussion.

We are in favour of the concept recommended by FAO of an integrated energy planning attuned to the agricultural and rural developments of each individual country. Here the prevailing rural and agricultural energy system should be again embeded meaningfully into the existing overall national energy policies. Through appropriate investment programmes for the opening up of domestic resources on the basis of World Bank investigations and surveys national energy production of oil-importing developing countries could be doubled up to the year 1990. In this connection I should like to quote our Federal Foreign Minister when he stated at the summit meeting in Cancun recently "The international community should contribute to the mobilization of the necessary major funds. The setting up of a World Bank branch for energy could be very useful in this respect. What is furthermore necessary is the setting up of a global energy dialogue. It should organize a comprehensive cooperation between oil-producing and oil-consuming countries which meets the interests of the various participant groups. "

May I wind up by making the following general remark. In view of the challenge caused by the shortage of energy throughout the world all the nations of this world should feel strongly involved to assume responsibility and thus devise long-term effective measures in order to promote the necessary substitution, and economizing effects, in view of the presumably increasing prices of the traditional forms of energy. This requires apart from individual, above all also national and international coordinated and cooperative action and my country is prepared to do so.

V. VOCILKA (Czechoslovakia): We have studied the Conference document concerned, C 81/25, with great attention. I should like to inform the Conference of how this problem of world-wide importance is being faced in Czechoslovakia with special regard to the use of waste from agricultural and food production as renewable sources of energy. Let me first of all say that we have always considered food production waste as the most important raw material for feed production. The same applies to the use of straw and other organic materials which have a low energy yield when directly burnt. The organic waste which has already been used or which cannot be processed into feeds serve for the production of fertilizers or materials for the improvement of the physical properties of the soil and stimulation of humus production, or for an improved fixation of nitrogen from commercial fertilizers. It is only after such utilization that we consider it useful to burn organic residues as fuel.

Now I wish to make some remarks on the use of biogas from the waste of large-scale animal production. After a number of tests and experiments it has been concluded that the process needs too much capital equipment and skilled labour and that some energy must always be taken from the public mains to standardize the process and to keep it going. On the other hand this process secures a regular output from its energy storage and offers numerous end-use possibilities. Experimental use of animal excrement for the production of biogas through digestion of liquid manure together with city sewage has been made in one of our large-scale production fretting houses. For the time being the biogas is used for boilers

and further use is being considered on the basis of ecological factors. This is the disposal and use of excrements. The concentration and specialisation of agricultural large-scale production in the Czechoslovak Social Republic creates good prerequisites for intensive development of biogas production, although economic benefit has been demonstrated to be of secondary importance.

In conclusion I wish to indicate the fields in which our country has achieved some progress within the range of the subjects under discussion here and on which we are able to offer institutional and expert assistance. These are participation in perspective studies and analysis of energy policy of FAO in relation to agriculture, cooperation with groups of experts working on increased efficiency in energy utilization in agriculture in relation to conservation of environment; processing and preservation of plant products; reduction of post-harvest losses; the use of excrements for the production of biogas. The above represents also the sectors to which we shall attach priority in the European Energy Network which was established at the Consultation held in October in Paris this year. We think that this form of international cooperation is most important and look forward to a rapid development of its activities. We thank the Director General of FAO for this new opportunity offered to the European countries to increase cooperation on technical matters which are essential not only for the agricultural sector in Europe but also, as the distinguished delegate from Finland said, for the developing countries themselves. We therefore hope that these countries will soon be given the opportunity to join us in the network.

A. SAISSI (Maroc) : Je dois souligner la qualité du document qui m'est soumis à propos de la question aiguë relative aux énergies nouvelles et renouvelables; nous en remercions le Secrétariat. La question de l'énergie nous préoccupe au Maroc intensément au même titre que les autres pays non producteurs de pétrole et surtout ceux dont le développement de la balance est grevé par les charges de plus en plus lourdes occasionnées par le relèvement du coût de l'énergie.

Au Maroc, la consommation en énergie commerciale est caractérisée par une prédominance des produits pétroliers qui représentent plus de 80 pour cent. Le charbon et l'énergie hydraulique n'interviennent que pour 10 pour cent chacun environ.

Etant appelé à croître sensiblement dans les années à venir, la consommation locale d'énergie se traduira par une dépense encore plus forte du Maroc vis-à-vis de l'extérieur si d'autres ressources nationales ne sont pas exploitées dans l'avenir. La consommation passerait en effet de quelque 5 millions de tonnes équivalent en pétrole à plus de 37 millions en équivalent pétrole en l'an 2000. Même si toutes les possibilités de mobilisation des ressources connues en charbon et énergie hydraulique sont entièrement exploitées de façon intense dans les vingt années à venir, elles ne représenteraient qu'environ six pour cent des besoins totaux. Cette situation se traduirait par un recours croissant des importations de pétrole. Cependant, en plus de ces ressources en eau et en charbon le Maroc dispose de potentialités dans le domaine des schistes bitumeux et des énergies renouvelables, solaires, alfa, bio masse et géothermie. Le Maroc situé dans une zone géographique proche des tropiques bénéficie d'un maximum solaire surtout dans le sud. Il est donc impératif d'exploiter son potentiel en énergie renouvelable. Ce sera là la mission du Centre de développement des énergies renouvelables récemment créé au Maroc. La mission de ce centre consiste à effectuer toutes les études et les recherches destinées à promouvoir les énergies renouvelables et développer leur mise en oeuvre en adoptant les technologies adaptées aux conditions spécifiques du pays. Parmi les objectifs de ce Centre on peut citer notamment l'établissement de l'inventaire des gisements des énergies renouvelables, la mise au point de procédés et des équipements efficaces des sources renouvelables d'énergie, et le suivi de la réalisation de micro-centrales hydrauliques.

A propos du programme de réalisation de ce Centre en matière d'énergies nouvelles et renouvelables, nous pouvons citer: pour l'énergie solaire la réalisation de projets pour le pompage d'eau, de chauffage, d'éclairage et séchage, pour l'énergie éolienne, la réalisation d'unités de pompage, d'eau et la production d'électricité (aérogénérateurs de 4 à 5 kilowatts) pour l'énergie biomassique, la réalisation d'unités pilotes pour la combustion de l'alfa, la fermentation méthanique et la production d'alcool, pour les microcentrales, la production de microcentrales hydrauliques à proximité des montagnes et des régions éloignées du réseau d'électricité dans le but de contribuer à l'électrification des zones rurales. Dans le cadre du développement des sources d'énergie, il est nécessaire d'insister sur la sauvegarde du patrimoine forestier. Le développement du reboisement à grande échelle doit recevoir en effet la priorité dans nos actions de développement et nos stratégies aussi bien nationales qu'internationales. La dégradation des forêts dans le monde, du fait de l'extension de l'urbanisation, de l'insuffisance du rythme de reboisement et la recrudescence de la consommation du bois est telle qu'il est impérieux de programmer, au niveau de nos pays, des actions de promotion forestière ambitieuses et volontaristes susceptibles d'égaliser par leur apport la demande annuelle de bois et les pertes dues aux effets multiplicateurs de la dégradation des forêts: érosion des pertes, pertes de fertilisation etc.

L'un des objectifs de l'action de reboisement est de fournir aux populations rurales le bois de feu nécessaire. Je signale à ce propos que l'économie de l'énergie fossile ne peut passer par le développement de l'utilisation du bois de feu en raison précisément de la dégradation actuelle des forêts, il convient donc d'adopter dans ce domaine une planification et une programmation cohérentes. Il est nécessaire également d'orienter les recherches vers de nouvelles plantations forestières notamment à cycle de rotation court de façon à répondre aux besoins croissants des populations. Indiquons à ce propos que la forêt, par le biais de la cellulose des arbres et d'arbustes peut contribuer à la production de combustible. Par ailleurs la production agricole est confrontée à des coûts de production dont le facteur énergie occupe une part de plus en plus importante, notamment en matière d'engrais et de mécanisation, dans la structure du coût de production.

Ces facteurs à eux deux interviennent pour plus des 4/6èmes du coût de l'énergie commerciale que les pays en voie de développement consomment pour l'agriculture. Nous constatons donc que la modernisation de l'agriculture appelle en principe une augmentation de l'énergie utilisée. Or cette augmentation entraîne un accroissement du coût à la production de l'agriculture, d'où la diminution de la rémunération du producteur, et d'où les problèmes sociaux susceptibles d'être engendrés s'il s'agit d'augmenter le prix à la production. Il est donc impératif de développer de nouveaux moyens de fertilisation et d'économiser l'énergie dans l'utilisation de la mécanisation des travaux des sols. Il est à cet égard nécessaire de développer les procédés de récupération et de recyclage des déchets animaux et des déchets végétaux. Le développement des énergies organiques devra être accompagné par l'introduction de cultures appropriées dans le système d'assolement par la recherche de variétés peu exigeantes, de fertilisants fossiles et par la recherche de technologies à faible coefficient d'utilisation d'énergie commerciale. Ma délégation pense que l'énergie doit dorénavant s'intégrer comme secteur à part entière dans la planification de notre développement économique. Nous pensons également que dans l'état actuel de la technique, la conception et la mise au point d'énergies nouvelles et renouvelables, compte tenu du programme retenu à Nairobi, que nous appuyons fermement est tributaire d'abord de recherches au niveau de tous les pays et en particulier des pays industrialisés et ensuite d'une large coopération internationale permettant aux pays en voie de développement de bénéficier de nouvelles technologies à travers un échange constant des diverses expériences nationales.

E. K. SERWANGA (Uganda): I should like to congratulate the Secretariat on producing C 81/25, which covers practically all types of energy in agriculture for rural development in an excellent way. My delegation agrees with most of the views expressed but would like to make a brief observation about the sub-heading which introduces forestry as the source of energy to rural communities, which is to be found on page 22 and which reads "Forestry for Rural Energy". Looking at the sub-heading from the forestry point of view, it appears rather narrow and unsatisfactory.

When a forester leaves the state forests where he is practising classical forestry, with all its technical language which is mainly unintelligible to many people except himself, and goes to talk to the rural farmer about trees he should mention all the practical benefits which the farmer gets from trees, not only fuelwood and charcoal. The forester should then make every effort to persuade the farmer to plant the trees himself, emphasizing the point that the trees belong to him and his family.

I would therefore suggest, in the context of what I have said above, that the sub-heading should have read "Forestry for Energy and Improved Quality of Life for the Rural Community", or something to that effect. Under this sub-heading, the following points could have been fully covered: trees for fuel; trees for food, including fruit trees introduced from other countries; trees for human recreation; trees for animal feed; trees for timber; trees for medicine; trees for shelterbelts; and trees for building houses and fencing posts. That would give us an excellent opportunity to talk about all these things. All these things should be explained to the farmer in the simplest possible language and, where local internal systems allow, he should be persuaded to plant these trees himself to cater for his household needs in the future.

My delegation would like to make a few remarks about rural community forestry in my country. In Uganda, we have no landless communities: everybody who wants it can have a piece of land and develop it for his family.

We have made careful plans to persuade every household to plant woodlots on its land holding for fuelwood and other purposes. We are also making arrangements to talk to the farmer about fruit trees, short-rotation timber trees, trees for animal fodder, and so on. We hope to help the farmer to plant these trees himself, depending on the degree of his interest.

The overall objective, therefore, is to implement many of the excellent ideas embodied in the Jakarta Declaration, insofar as these ideas are compatible with our local conditions.

Continuing on the need to introduce to the rural farmer trees which benefit him other than those producing only fuelwood, I am very grateful to the delegates of India, Turkey and Nigeria, who have all along emphasized this point, since we started discussing food strategies under agenda item 6. My delegation would therefore be grateful if some sort of arrangement could be made to carry out exchanges of fruit tree seed and other types of tree seed between member countries. This could be done under either FAO or bilateral arrangements.

In conclusion, my delegation would be very grateful if the Secretariat could make arrangements for the foresters to discuss this issue under the tentative sub-heading which I mentioned earlier during their COFO Meeting next May.

H. HAUSER (Austria)(original language German): May I first, on behalf of the Austrian delegation, congratulate the FAO Secretariat on the preparation and presentation of document C 81/25 and the Supplement. These very valuable documents are helping our discussion on this subject. I wish also to thank Assistant Director-General Bommer for his introduction to this topic.

The Austrian delegation expresses its full endorsement and approval of the document, especially pages 20 to 24 where medium-term action is spelled out. Austria is of the opinion that in the matter of energy in agriculture and from agriculture we are dealing with a highly significant problem which, quite rightly, is now being dealt with in our Commission.

One of the most significant features in any development process, and for international economic relations in the 1980s, will be the safeguarding of our energy supplies, and the solution of this problem would be an asset to us and to the viability of the world economy. In this connexion all countries have a very great responsibility to face.

A long-term solution can only be found by way of a constructive dialogue between producers and consumers, most of all within the context of the global negotiations in the United Nations. We feel that a world-wide discussion which did not include energy questions would not be a very meaningful exercise, not only for industrialized countries but also for developing countries. The question of security in energy supply has become one of the most essential elements for further economic development.

The Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, in his statement to the Plenary on 10 November 1981, referred to the precarious situation in the energy markets and particularly welcomed FAO's initiatives towards solutions. In this connexion I would like particularly to refer to the energy network recently set up in Paris by the Agricultural Commission for Europe. We feel this is a highly significant development and should be made available to and benefit the developing countries in the framework of the existing networks of the Agricultural Commission for Europe. In recent years there has been increased and promising cooperation with other regions of the world. These developments are followed and welcomed most strongly by Austria, and we are full of interest in them.

The Austrian delegation, furthermore, welcomes the fact that the work of FAO, together with that of other international organizations such as the International Energy Agency in Paris, has been coordinated and harmonized, because above all this avoids overlapping.

Up to 25 percent of the world's energy requirement in the coming twenty years, according to the United Nations, will have to be found from new and renewable forms of energy. Valuable energy resources should no longer be wasted in industrialized countries. Our country has developed long-term and medium-term solutions.

As regards energy alternatives, we would refer to the International Symposium on Agriculture and Energy held in Paris in 1980. Austria at that time already referred to biomass and biogenic fuels, particularly wood and straw, and other alternative forms of energy. Energy from biomass is without doubt the most significant alternative source of energy in our country.

Moreover, it has an effect of immediacy in the first stages of its use for heating. In rural areas, wood and straw can play a big role in fuel burning activities.

Referring to the search which is now under way in Austria it was found that plant oils, because of their chemical composition, can replace diesel fuels. An initiative was taken by the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry and since 1975, we have been carrying out very promising trials with plant oil/diesel oil mixtures.

Speaking of biogas, I would also like to point out that what we need here is a realistic and practical approach. On the basis of Austrian experience and work, we are concentrating closely on intensive livestock producing holdings. He have a number of installations in Austria which are working satisfactorily.

With respect to energy saving in agriculture and in forestry, we must note that out of our total annual requirements in Austria about 40 percent is used for heating. Therefore, that is a sector where you can most save, and in Austria, in the future, we are embarking on major information campaigns and are paying great attention to energy savings.

With respect to energy strategy, we would like to refer to the following priority areas: firstly, the use of ersatz, replacement energy, and technology-developments should be concentrated on this in the near future. Secondly, national technology research will concentrate on replacement fuels and alternative energy; and lastly, advisory and information work will focus on meaningful and judicious energy utilisation, and we will attempt to raise the energy saving mentality.

The switching over of rural areas to the utilisation of available biomass energy does require selective promotion of appropriate technology and concrete investment in craft and industries sectors. Over and above this it will also be necessary for research aiming at greater use of wind and solar energy. The use of hot effluents from industries will be made greater use of.

Those were a few comments and reactions to the theme which we are now discussing.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): Allow me to congratulate the Secretariat for preparing this useful document presented to us for discussing this agenda item. The views of FAO on energy issues are highly appreciated. We are fully aware of the fact that energy in general, and in agriculture and rural development as well, is one of the most important issues to be tackled by the individual countries whether they are developing or not. The share of agriculture in overall national energy consumption in Hungary has risen in ten years from 4 percent to 9 percent.

The Hungarian delegation agrees with the statement in the document before us, that the agricultural sector itself may be a major contributor to the supply of renewable forms of energy; so it is also a producer of energy, not only of the dietary energy, in the form of food, but of some countries also of fuel in the more conventional sense of the word.

The Hungarian Government considers energy issues as being of very high priority. The National Academy of Science runs a complex programme on finding and utilising both new sources of energy and energy saving technology. For food and agricultural production, the ministry responsible for this-Agriculture and Forestry-universities, etc, do have two programmes on agricultural energy. What is more, state farms and cooperative ones are trying very hard to develop and adopt relevant technology. Even the National Council of Farmers Cooperative in my country which is a non-governmental council representing the interests of cooperatives is working on a programme to encourage member cooperatives to adopt forms and expertise to alleviate energy pressures.

The natural conditions in Hungary are such that by the end of the century almost the total actual plant production could be doubled, provided that social, technical and environmental conditions are favourable. In case of such conditions, in the year 2000, the Hungarian population could be supplied with an adequate nutrition level using agricultural produce from less than half of the land presently available. The yield from the remaining area could be used to increase exports of biological origin or to partially reduce imports, e. g. protein, timber, fuels as sources of energy, etc. At the same time, the complex utilisation and recycling of organic materials will go towards satisfying the growing requirements of the public health service and environmental protection.

Hungary is in a favourable position as regards the production of nutritional raw materials. This advantage needs to be exploited, and sufficient priority must be given to food production to ensure the entire domestic food supply and a significant volume of food exports.

In addition to the world food supply and sources of raw materials, energy-as is well known-is also becoming a more and more serious problem.

In many parts of the world significant results have been achieved and a number of promising research projects have been commenced for the production of bioenergy. Both research and utilisation are likely to increase in this field, because, firstly, as a result of developments in genetics and agro-techniques an annually increased quantity of biological material is being produced. Secondly, a significant proportion of the biomass by-products waste is not currently utilised although it has a considerable "energy" content. Additional justification for the use of this waste is that in many cases it pollutes the environment.

Furthermore, a decisive criterion for each alternative is that the energy utilisation from biomass production should be more rational than at present and should be combined with a certain gain in energy.

It is of fundamental interest to preserve the natural environment. Agricultural production can only be maintained at a high level over a long period if favourable natural conditions are ensured.

The above mentioned facts as well as our deep wish to contribute to cooperative programmes induced my government to join the new European cooperative network on renewable and non-renewable energy sources in agriculture, and furthermore our competent authorities were prompted to undertake the task to coordinate the sub-networks of the said programme. We do hope that this cooperation will not only offer some good results to be utilised by the participating European countries, but that also a good number of non-European countries will benefit freely from these results.

Hungary has undertaken the coordination of the sub-network of direct energy production by agriculture and forestry: utilisation of waste and by-products, transformation of cultivations and biomass outputs, possible energy crops and plantations and fuel wood.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): My delegation welcomes the presence of the energy issue on the agenda of the FAO Conference. Energy and food are closely connected at certain key points, and the effect of their inter-relationship is, I think, worthy of our discussion and of the moves which will follow.

The heart, or the essence, of the world food problem lies mainly in the developing countries and those countries are predominantly in the tropical regions. They are changing the traditional pattern of agriculture to modern capital intensive farming practices, in which high yields are dependent on high inputs. All those inputs-mechanisation, irrigation, fertilisers and so on-are energy intensive.

Increased productivity of tropical agriculture, like that of the temperate zones, will thus continue to largely depend on larger and larger use of commercial energy. Being professionally deformed I would like to mention, as an economist would, that the world's necessity for commercial energy consumption in agriculture is greater than the available resources-meaning that the additional output for which we are calling is going to be a more and more energy-costly business.

If this is the course of events-and the study Agriculture: Toward -2000 has confirmed that-what can we deduce from the experience of use of commercial energy in developed countries?

My delegation congratulates the Secretariat on the document C 81/25: it deserves the compliments which have been given during discussion. It is an excellent document. However, I would agree with the delegates who, while commending the paper before us, said that the document is predominantly descriptive, explaining how things are going on with the use of energy in agriculture, and it is far less analytical or recommendative to the practice.

We need a critical review of existing practices which sometimes is energy wasting. I would like to point out that such an investigation is badly needed especially in the field of economics of energy use. Agriculture in the future will be more and more in a position to compete commercially by paying higher prices for it. The tendency of higher fuel prices which we have had in the past, since the time of cheap energy is past, are quite likely to continue, and the substitution of human and draught animal power in developing countries with machines, a tendency which will continue. The cost benefit ratio should be established in order to avoid this waste of energy use and to give the solution for more efficient use of it.

The same applied to the substitution or supplementing of non-renewable resources by renewable ones. What are the capital costs for solar energy on the farm? Much of those promoted so-called solutions are extremely expensive at the existing state of knowledge, and my delegation would support the cautious views voiced by some delegates in discussion and expressed in paragraphs 68 to 70 which says, "if costs can be sufficiently reduced they could have important application in much use". That is the essence of the substitution of commercial energy with all those new sources which do promise, at the moment, much hope, but at the moment the cost efficiency ratio does not support the mass introduction of those matters in the practice.

Economies in fuel consumptions are badly needed and many aspects of it are still in the exploratory phases. There is not only the minimal tillage which is gaining in popularity which provides rather large savings in fuel but also with the transfer to the more efficient diesel machines, engines, with smaller power unit doing more operations at the same time, and so on.

The same apply to the better utilizations of fertilizer with changing inputs in nitrogen production which is extremely energy costing production. From gas and oil we are coming to the peat and other, until recently, untapped resources. They are all energy-saving devices on which I will say the international policies should be created.

Finally, a small remark concerned with the long-range prospects. Higher fuel prices will force more and more countries to energy-cropping by which a portion of arable land or crops will be devoted to the non-food production. The minimal tillage and similar practices might also bring a temporary decline in yields. Both tendencies might affect the precarious balance between supply and demand on world level, and my delegation would ask FAO to monitor this situation closely.

My delegation would like to give its support to all action on a regional, national and international level aiming at the more efficient use of energy in agriculture and the development of alternative sources of energy. Only international efforts under the auspices of UN and FAO can bring us the so badly needed progress in this vital area of mankind activity.

W. E. ADERO (Kenya): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for producing documents C 81/25, and the Addenda on energy in agriculture and rural development. As has just been mentioned by the delegate of Yugoslavia it is my delegation's view that the days of cheap fossil-fuel for agriculture and other activities are over and other serious efforts will now have to be directed at the development of integrated systems of energy production and utilization with national and global considerations. We must learn from the lessons of the past. We are exactly where we are today because of the extravagant use we made of the bounties of the earth. The present crisis is one of misallocation of resources. Some have plenty and are wasting it, while others have very little or none at all. The approach to this question must, therefore, be in similar dimensions.

Firstly, there must be serious efforts to reduce and eventually eliminate wastage resulting from inefficient and unnecessary usage, misallocation and mistiming of production.

Secondly, there must be serious efforts to develop renewable and other forms of energy, and above all integrated systems for the production and utilization of these new forms of energy in order to circumvent the extravagant practices of the past whose overall effects have not only been the depletion of energy resources, but also the degradation and pollution of the air, land and sea and the perpetuation of inequality and the misery around the world.

Thirdly, research efforts must be undertaken in a global context in order to allow for the immediate and timely application of technology. My delegation agrees fully with document C 81/25 and Addenda and endorses the sentiments therein. We commend the FAO for its past and present efforts on the energy question. We also welcome the intention of UNDP and other donors to strengthen their activities on energy. We also welcome the intention of the World Bank to increase its lending for renewable energy projects particularly fuelwood. We endorse FAO's proposed programme and its emphasis on energy policy planning and information, improved energy utilization in the rural areas, production of commercial energy from agriculture and conservation in fishing and forest harvesting. The harvesting of forestry for energy production and integrated rural energy systems.

My country is one of those most seriously affected by the energy crisis. Firstly, because we have a large development programme with far reaching industrial implications and this requires increasing amounts of energy. Secondly, we also have a robust urban and rural population which requires an increasing amount of energy and above all, food. Thirdly, we have no fossil-fuel resources. Our salvation, therefore, lies entirely in the kinds of programmes outlined in the document.

In Kenya we have initiated action in several directions: 1) a survey has just been completed on fuelwood resources from gazetted woodlands and gazetted forests both natural and planted and the total fuelwood requirements. This emphasis on fuelwood is not misplaced, this is because our population is predominantly rural and this is the kind of fuel that is required right now. Also on the survey are the geothermal, hydro, solar and wind energy resources. 2) We are evaluating plant spaces for energy production, and particularly those that will not compete for land with food or other conventional crops, all those that can be grown in tandem with existing crops with mutual benefit in the cropping system. We are also investigating the possibility of substitution, at least in the part of mineral energy and vegetable-derived fuels, based on plants with high biomass yields. We are also continually viewing our overall food and agricultural production programme in order to develop systems which will ensure increased food production. We are also engaged in evaluating foodfuel, and charcoal burning and ovens with a view to avoid wastage at both industrial and domestic level.

We are grateful for the opportunity we have to host the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Nairobi in August this year. The Conference helped to focus the attention on our population and even more sharply on the energy question, and the various ways in which different nations are attempting to alleviate the problem. The energy exhibits outside the Conference centre were visited by many of our people and assisted the nation in its campaign against energy waste.

We hope that this Conference will take account of the main conclusions of the Conference, particularly those concerning global cooperation. My delegation fully endorses the Director-General's programme of work and budget with all its financial implications, and particularly those related to the Programme on Energy.

N. DIMITRIU (Roumanie): La délégation roumaine a examiné avec attention les trois documents très importants relatifs au problème énergétique dans l'agriculture et dans le milieu rural; elle remercie M. Boerma pour sa brillante introduction en même temps qu'elle apprécie que ce problème soit considéré avec une particulière importance par rapport à la diminution de la consommation des combustibles classiques, afin de trouver des possibilités d'emploi plus intenses, des ressources agricoles et forestières en vue de la production de l'énergie et de son utilisation dans la production agricole et alimentaire des prochaines années.

L'inscription à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence de ce problème est très opportune étant donné son importance dans le contexte de la crise énergétique mondiale.

La délégation roumaine considère positivement les préoccupations de la FAO dans ce domaine et estime qu'à l'avenir les problèmes énergétiques doivent trouver une place très importante dans le Programme de travail de l'Organisation. D'ailleurs, l'annexe du document analysé reflète les points du Programme qui se réfèrent au problème de l'énergie.

Il est vrai que jusqu'à il y a quelques années, nous avons tous cru pouvoir vivre tranquillement en ayant pour principale source d'énergie le pétrole.

Nous voilà dans une situation où la vie nous prouve que cette source n'est pas inépuisable. La hausse rapide du prix du pétrole fait que nous ne pouvons plus l'utiliser dans certains secteurs, ce qui nous amènerait à la hausse des prix de revient des produits agricoles.

C'est pourquoi nous sommes d'accord avec le point de vue selon lequel aujourd'hui plus que jamais nous devons mettre à l'épreuve le génie humain et utiliser d'une manière très étudiée toutes les ressources de l'agriculture, de l'industrie alimentaire et de la sylviculture capables de produire de l'énergie.

Étant donné l'importance vitale de l'alimentation pour l'humanité, nous considérons que la production alimentaire doit jouir de la plus haute priorité dans la répartition des ressources énergétiques par secteur de l'économie nationale. En même temps, nous estimons que l'on doit poursuivre les recherches concernant toutes les possibilités d'utilisation nationale de l'énergie dans la production agricole et alimentaire, ainsi que toutes les possibilités et les voies permettant d'obtenir une quantité aussi grande que possible d'énergie provenant de la production agricole, particulièrement par l'utilisation, dans ce but, de la biomasse considérée comme une production secondaire ou comme un sous-produit agricole et alimentaire.

Il faut adopter en parallèle des mesures de première urgence en vue d'organiser la fabrication d'installations permettant de produire du biogaz à partir des déjections provenant des animaux de ferme et de la biomasse forestière; en vue également de produire l'énergie électrique et tout autre type d'utilisation du vent; le chauffage de l'eau ménagère et la production de miroirs pour l'emploi de l'énergie solaire; l'emploi de l'eau thermale, l'emploi de l'eau chaude provenant de l'industrie pour le chauffage des étables et des habitations de la population rurale, etc.

Nous retenons que parallèlement aux actions proposées par la FAO et par le nouveau réseau récemment créé à Paris, il est nécessaire d'inclure aussi dans les activités présentes et futures de l'Organisation les problèmes mentionnés plus haut.

Je voudrais signaler que de telles préoccupations existent en Roumanie où nous avons organisé des stations pilotes pour la production de l'énergie dans le secteur agricole et rural et nous pensons coopérer encore avec des firmes et des organisations étrangères, éventuellement avec des pays étrangers ayant des possibilités techniques plus avancées en vue de la production d'installations spécifiques permettant de satisfaire avant tout nos besoins et de faire part de notre expérience à d'autres pays qui s'intéresseraient à ce domaine d'activités.

La Roumanie est d'accord avec le document présenté.

G. A. STENEKER (Canada): We have read document C 81/25 dealing with the question of energy in the agriculture sector with interest. The material presented to us seems fairly complete and the possibilities of alternate energy sources and related problems have been covered most adequately.

We appear to be dealing once again with an area of concern which requires integration of effort, both within the agriculture and food sector and with non-food sectors such as forestry.

FAO has an important role in helping member countries who have the primary responsibility for action, to put all the appropriate pieces together and maintain an adequate perspective on energy in agriculture and forestry.

With the question of increasing energy demands, additional pressure is placed upon the soil, which in the final analysis is the resource that we have to maintain and manage on a sustained basis, in order that we may be able to reap continuous benefits from it, whether they be in the form of agricultural products either for food or energy, or wood for energy or timber. Each country will therefore have to set its priorities in the framework of an overall national energy policy, keeping in mind at the same time the optimum carrying capacity of the soil. I believe that the Swedish delegate referred to this item.

Canada's food system uses approximately 15 percent of the total energy usage with only 3 percent going to production activities. The primary forest industry uses another 5 percent of total usage and generates the equivalent of 4 percent of total usage itself.

The primary effort in Canada concerning reduction of energy use is directed to conservation and manufacturers have already reduced consumption by more than 10 percent.

In Canada no government policy has yet been established to promote the production and use of energy crops. Canada is conscious of the competition that could develop between food and energy crops. Canada has only about 4 percent of its land base in arable land with a maximum of 7 to 8 percent in the general agricultural category. Furthermore, only about 3 to 4 percent of wood cut annually is used directly for fuelwood. At the same time, Canada is concerned by the potential additional pressure that could be placed on land by expanding production of fuel crops.

The attraction of fuel crops is clear and inviting in the short term. The longer-term political food cost and environmental implications are not as clear.

In a discussion of the problems associated with energy cropping, the document could pay more attention to the factors which will govern each country's decision concerned on this matter. Each country will allocate its soil resources in the pattern which it feels provides maximum political, social and economic returns. I note that the bulletin on energy cropping has been issued recently by FAO. Perhaps the conclusions of that document should have been appended to document C 81/25.

Canada has recognized the importance that wood, as a source of energy, can play in its total national energy budget. Under a programme called ENFOR, an acronym for Energy from the Forest, the Canadian Forestry Service aims to develop the knowledge and technical competence to facilitate increased contributions from forest biomass to Canada's total energy requirements. Programmes deal with subjects such as inventory, harvesting transport, ecological impact and conversion to energy. The overall objective of the programme is to meet, by the end of the century, 25 percent of the primary energy demands with forest-based raw materials. This percentage will be made up primarily from logging residues and energy plantations will play a relatively minor role.

Recent achievements of ENFOR are an important advance in forest biomass inventory methodology, new techniques and machinery for processing logging residues, development of gasification technology and pioneering work on the production of liquid fuels. In the above areas we would be most interested to share technology with other countries.

The need in many countries for a greatly increased programme of fuelwood plantations is clear. To achieve the objectives suggested at the Nairobi Conference on energy, difficulties to be overcome would seem to lie primarily in the socio-economic field rather than the technical field.

It has been Canada's experience that the nature of land tenure is of the utmost importance. Those responsible for the establishment of plantations should also have the responsibility for their management and final utilisation. This will create the much needed incentives and assure that those individuals who establish and manage the crops will also obtain the direct benefits -from them.

J. B. WARREN (United Kingdom): We thank the Secretariat for preparing document C 81/25. We are aware that its contents have previously been considered by FAO's various technical committees and therefore its main value lies in its attempt to present a complete review of rural energy systems and proposals for an integrated approach to the needs and problems which are identified under energy.

We suggest that these can be conveniently sub-divided into the following categories:

1. Present and future energy needs of agriculture and associated rural populations.
2. Technical options for meeting these needs from within and without the agricultural rural system.
3. Potential of agriculture and forestry as a source of fuels for the urban and industrial sectors.
4. National and international issues related to the evaluation and implementation of technical options including food: fuel competition
5. Identification of the main tasks and their priority to be accomplished during the next 5-10 years including where the main responsibility for execution lies; and finally,
6. An elaboration of tasks appropriate to the FAO and the Agricultural Department in particular, and subsequently to outline ways to promote coordination within FAO and with other UN agencies.

The discussions at the Committee on Agriculture in March covered these basic points very effectively.

We commend FAO action in assembling information on the rural development situation in developing countries and bringing it to world attention; we therefore encourage them to continue to improve the information both in regard to needs and resources available and to the appropriateness of new technologies for their use. The assembly and dissemination of information and perhaps some involvement in training are the most appropriate activities for FAO in this field. The work of the FAO panel of Experts on Forest Genetic Resource is particularly important in regard to genetic resource for fuelwood species of arid and semi-arid zones.

I now turn to the section on energy for agriculture. In paragraph 16 an annual growth rate of 3.7 per cent in developing countries' agricultural production is said to require about an 8 per cent rise in energy use. Although agriculture presently demands only about 3.5 per cent of world commercial energy, it is very unlikely that a four-fold increase in energy will be available in developing countries by 2000 AD. We cannot see these quantities of energy being freely available to the farming sector, more especially as they will be at the end of a long supply chain.

In this respect we agree with the distinguished delegates of the Philippines and the United States that there appears to be a need to encourage a measure of re-distribution of commercial energy towards the agricultural sector in cases where productivity is being retarded by a shortfall of supplies. This having been said there can be no doubt that the conservation of energy use must be a priority since present productivity per unit of energy input is much lower than it ought to be,

In paragraph 22 we fully support the thesis given. There is a tremendous potential for saving energy in agriculture in developing countries. The greatest short-term (say five years) potential is by improving the management of existing equipment whereas in the longer term (say fifteen years) the use of improved cultivation techniques and alternative fuels will become essential. The use of herbicides could reduce machinery inputs for ploughing. We suggest therefore that the use of herbicides should rise and that as a consequence the percentage increase of energy use by farm machinery could be reduced. This leads to a consideration of energy substitution.

Systems to develop more efficient energy use will have little impact in resource-low smallholder agriculture since the use of commercial energy is also low. We agree with the delegates from Turkey and elsewhere who maintain that the greatest saving and the focus of the programme should be on more efficient use of chemical fertilizers. This will naturally necessitate training of extension and research staff. Paragraph 29 mentions the need to change entire farming systems. This is not only a drastic but also an impractical procedure to try to implement, as practitioners of farming systems will know only too well. There may be scope for substituting non-renewable energy by renewable sources, involving changes in farming systems, but it must not be assumed that it is automatically desirable to do this without regard to economic circumstances. Certainly in the United Kingdom we would take the view that renewables should only supplant non-renewables as it becomes economic to do so.

In paragraph 32 reference is made to animal energy systems. We support further work on animal draught as the equipment already available does work, but greater attention should be given to extension work in areas that can utilize oxen. In Britain our National Institute of Agricultural Engineering is looking into the efficient use of animal power in support of the point raised in this paragraph. The emphasis in the future will be on maximising the power available from animals and utilizing it more efficiently rather than developing tools and evaluating them purely from the work produced. In addition, our Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in Edinburgh is also working on the energy available from various animals.

Turning to energy from agriculture we agree with the many speakers who have drawn attention to the overwhelming importance of fuel wood which is by far the largest renewable source of energy at present; the recognition of the fuel wood crisis is probably the most critical international issue, and the repercussions of the fuel wood crisis on crop and livestock production, on the environment and on labour availability in the agricultural sector, as mentioned in paragraph 65, are properly emphasized. We support the general thesis of this section and find the references to more specific papers of considerable value.

Finally, I should like to refer to energy cropping and here we agree with the many speakers who have referred to the dangers of potential competition between food crops and energy crops and we do not wish to elaborate further. However we would like to point out that the British Overseas Development Administration will shortly be publishing a handbook for planners entitled 'Power Alcohol' which will include chapters on Process Technology, Benefits and Justification, Developmental Issues, and other topics which are fully explored.

The meeting rose at 13. 05 hours

La seance est levée à 13 h05

Se levanta la sesión a las 13. 05 horas

conference

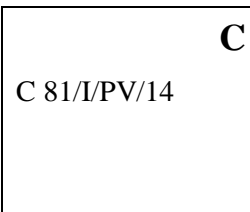
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FOURTEENTH MEETING QUATORZIEME SEANCE 14ª SESION

(19 November 1981)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 14. 50 hours,
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 14. 50 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 8. Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development (continued)
- 8. Energie en agriculture et développement rural (suite)
- 8. La energía en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural (continuación)

NGUEN SRISURAK (Thailand): My delegation is satisfied with the document C 81/25 and supplements. They highlight the need for energy in agriculture and rural development clearly on the basis of all available information. One of the important problems in social and economic development as well as agricultural development today is the problem of shortage of energy and its high price. It affects the economy as a whole and increases the problems of balance of payment of importing countries. In this connection, my country in the past could pay its oil import bill with the return from rice export but now the returns from our six leading exports are required. It is true crop production uses only a small proportion of total consumption of fossil fuel, but marine fish catches make up a very large part of the fuel used. In this context, unfortunately, I wish to inform the Conference that the fuel cost of marine fish catch in Thailand is about 50% of total cost. This has effects on a number of fishermen who are employed on this business substantially. It is not obvious to say that the fuel factor alone reduces a quantity of fish and creates unemployment because many fishermen have given up this business. In this situation, our policy is to find new jobs for those fishermen by introducing coast-aquaculture farms.

As regards more efficient energy use, my delegation welcomes these recommendations but we feel that many of them are a time-consuming process. Some are controversial to increasing food production. Some need an advanced technology and increased costs of operation. Therefore, to follow these recommendations effectively, feasibility studies must be carried out.

In the case of energy substitution, my delegation fully supports the need for energy-intensive power mechanization by draught animal. In the past, fuel prices were low, and farmers tended to use more tractors to plough the land. Now the price of fuel is higher and higher, farmers cannot afford this. Therefore, they have to use draught animals to replace an energy-intensive power mechanization. The problem facing us is that, whether this practice of using draught animals is contrary to agricultural adjustment programmes as well as to food security programmes or not, we must bear in mind that this is a traditional agricultural practice.

As regards energy from agriculture, agriculture in the broad sense is not only a source of basic needs of human beings, but also is a source of energy especially wood crop and livestock residue. Wood for fuel is well-known for rural people. Though Thailand is in a satisfactory situation for fuelwood, one is also afraid that in the future we are in a difficult fuelwood situation, especially for local needs. In this connection, our policy is under way to carry out tree growing for fuel on the farmer's land and other lands not suitable for growing crops. If fuelwood is the fourth fuel after petroleum, oil and natural gas, my delegation requests the Conference to consider a fund for several energy system activities bearing in mind that now it is a second fuel crisis.

The difficult task for developing countries with difficult balance of payments and imported fuel is to find the energy from other sources to replace fossil fuel. One of the alterations is to seek it in energy cropping. Thailand is one of those countries to pay more attention to producing oil from crops. Our attention also has been mainly directed to the distillation of crops rich in sugar and cassava for production of ethanol. This policy may be controversial to the food security programme in general, but to help our poor rural people to have jobs and to increase farmers' income it is necessary to be done, taking the cost into account.

My delegation supports medium term action and welcomes paragraph 102. Finally, in helping poor rural people, my delegation wishes to seem to "do a lot, say little".

B. PALESTINI (Italy): My delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the interesting and exhaustive document C 81/25 on "Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development" and for document C 81/25 Supplement 1 on the UN Nairobi Conference on new and renewable sources of energy, which supply a good basis for fruitful discussions within FAO on the adoption of useful measures to face the energy crisis in agriculture.

Referring to the organic matter released by plants and animals, agriculture produces much more energy than that actually exploited. However, in critical periods also agriculture has an energy shortage. In Italy the annual consumption of liquid fuel in agriculture is around 150 000 tons, corresponding to 120 kilogrammes per hectare of arable land per year.

While the consumption of liquid fuel per unit of area increases, the consumption per unit of production tends to decrease. The sector reporting a major request of energy is agricultural crop production, which absorbs from 50 to 80 percent of the entire energy used in agriculture. Ploughing alone accounts for 40 percent of the whole.

The Italian delegation participates in the concern for the energy crisis and endorses the suggestion contained in the document as regards the need to concentrate effort in two directions: (1) the improvement in the use of conventional energy and (2) applied research in the field of renewable energy.

As for the first point, there are many ways of reducing the consumption of conventional energy. According to the Italian delegation, notable importance should be given to genetics which prepared varieties offering larger outputs and better resistance to fungi and insects. In this way we can limit the consumption of energy necessary to manufacture and employ pesticides. Also, new technologies and modern soil practices can contribute to energy saving.

We wish to stress in this connection the importance of the national use of farm machinery and the energy savings that can be obtained in ploughing, soil breaking, sowing, preparation and distribution of fertilizers, and harvesting etc., if we resort to more efficient machinery as well as to the automation of machines in general and of their respective control units.

As for the second point, applied research in the field of renewable energy, we should not neglect the possibility of utilizing geothermal energy, wind, tides, solar energy, wood, and bio-gas released by farm and city wastes, as well as the utilization of farm bi-products for animal feeding. Farm produced biogas, solar energy and wood are very important, especially for developing countries as substitutes of conventional energy. Water pumping, forage, wheat and rice drying, tobacco treatment, are some of the most important fields of application of the three sources of renewable energy mentioned above.

It is desirable that these new sources of energy substitute and integrators be tested, experimented and improved through a coordinated action between the research centres of the developing countries and those of the industrialized countries. In this perspective we would like to speak of the research Italy is carrying out, together with other countries and especially with its EEC partners, particularly in the wood sector. Studies have been undertaken on the utilization of forest biomass for energetic purposes among which are the processing of biogas wastes, the production of liquid or gas fuel through hydrolysis of cellulose wastes, and the utilization of coppice biomass to produce fuel. In parallel with the processing of forest biomass into energy, studies have also been developed on the assessment of the amounts that can be utilized on the means to collect the biomass and on the distribution of utilizable wastes.

In spite of the fact that wood occupies a modest place among other renewable sources of energy on account of high processing costs, the Italian delegation has dealt with its experience in the forestry research sector insofar as it considers it particularly interesting for the developing countries. The Italian delegation would also like to draw the attention of the Commission on the need of increasing the cultivation of rapid growth plants, so as to avoid degradation of forests through an unreasonable exploitation which takes no account of the ecological aspect and the multiple services forests offer to the rural community.

The above considerations are a proof of the importance that my delegation attaches to the problem of energetic sources in agriculture. In this frame we can place the Italian participation to the FAO initiative for the creation of a new European network on the renewable energy sources in agriculture. My delegation strongly sustains this initiative and renews her offer of cooperation to the FAO Secretariat.

CD. SANCHEZ AVALOS (Argentina): Antes de formular unas breves consideraciones sobre el tema que hoy nos ocupa, mi delegación desea subrayar la importancia, como antecedente ilustrativo, del documento C 81/25, preparado por la Secretaría.

Sabemos, por estimación hecha por la FAO hace un tiempo, que el consumo mundial de energía aumento un 125 por ciento entre 1960 y 1980, y que se triplicará para 1990, continuando así su tendencia a duplicarse cada 10 años.

De dicho consumo, actualmente el 95 por ciento corresponde a recursos, a energías provenientes de recursos naturales no recuperables.

Son datos que permiten confirmar el carácter limitado de los recursos energéticos y la necesidad insoslayable de descubrir o desarrollar fuentes alternativas de energía para permitir el desarrollo de los países a largo plazo.

Dentro del marco global del consumo de energía cabe ubicar por supuesto a la Argentina.

En primar lugar, recordamos que gran parte de los incrementos de producción agrícola obtenidos en las últimas décadas se han debido a la utilización de insumos-fertilizantes, herbicidas, maquinaria, etcétera-que para su fabricación y aplicación requieren grandes cantidades de energía.

En nuestro país se ha tomado conciencia del problema enunciado precedentemente, y estamos de acuerdo con los comentarios y propuestas contenidos en el ya citado documento C 81/25.

Particularmente en la Argentina se han difundido adecuadamente las maneras de uso eficiente de insumos energéticos con miras a un mayor ahorro de combustibles en las distintas etapas y circunstancias de la actividad agropecuaria.

No obstante ello, cabe señalar que en la Argentina la situación de las fuentes de energía presenta la realidad de un autoabastecimiento casi total en hidrocarburos líquidos y total en hidrocarburos gaseosos.

Sin embargo, continuamos ejecutando estudios y experiencias relacionados con temas específicos del sector energético, como son, por ejemplo: aprovechamientos hidráulicos, aplicaciones de la energía nuclear y estudios avanzados sobre el uso de energía solar, geotérmica, oceánica y eólica.

De este modo, Sr. Presidente, nuestro país afronta el desafío que plantea la escasez y las crecientes necesidades de energía para el desarrollo económico en general y agrícola en especial.

M. MARANGOUDAKIS (Greece): First of all, let me compliment the Secretariat on having prepared a comprehensive document on Energy in Agriculture and Rural Development, that is, document C 81/25.

We consider that this item is an important issue for the following reasons: firstly, because it takes place at a time when the international economic situation is at a critical point; secondly, because energy sources in agriculture are given increasing attention by all countries for their potentially significant contribution in facing the agricultural energy problem on a long-term basis. Thirdly, and most important, because in the last eight years, since the first oil crisis, thoughts and ideas have matured on issues such as development strategy, modes of life, international cooperation, national independence, and collective as well as individual responsibility.

Greece being a country with approximately 75 percent of its energy economy depending currently on imported oil, considers as very important the development of new technologies that contribute to oil savings. That is why we have long ago developed an activity for the exploitation of hydro-power and recently we have started to establish the infrastructure for a more systematic exploitation of solar as well as geo-thermal and wind energy for agricultural and other activities of our economy. In this respect the favourable climatic conditions prevailing in Greece have encouraged us to accelerate our studies and research in the following fields.

In the field of solar energy, research projects have been carried out for storing and using it. By 1985 it is estimated that solar energy will cover approximately 2 percent of our total energy requirements in the Greek economy as a whole, while by the year 2000 it is expected that with the application of solar energy approximately 10 percent of our total energy requirements will be derived from the sun. At present three communities in Greece, known as solar village I, solar village II and solar village III, in both rural and urban areas, have been designed to use solar energy for space and water heating.

However, fossil fuels retain a marked cost advantage over large-scale ethanol production from farm crops and no rapid change appears likely. Although paragraph 67 of document C 81/25 mentions New Zealand's active consideration of energy cropping, we would have to comment that on present indications this development is well into the future.

Despite the fifteen-fold rise in oil prices over the period 1973 to 1981, no very marked change in the pattern of energy use has occurred in New Zealand, and remain heavily dependent on diesel fuel as a transport fuel.

H. A. LAM (Mauritanie): En examinant le rapport C 81/25, la délégation mauritanienne a été particulièrement intéressée par le problème du bois de feu et l'exploitation des forêts. Les pays en développement sont doublement touchés par la crise énergétique, la crise mondiale du pétrole, qui rend les engrais et autres produits chimiques destinés à l'agriculture très chers, et la crise énergétique du bois de feu.

La situation est au point critique en Mauritanie. La crise en bois de feu en Mauritanie touche près de 90 pour cent de la population. Les forêts ont pratiquement disparu et les efforts de régénération des espèces ligneuses sont rendus difficiles et parfois impossibles par le manque d'eau.

Le processus de désertification s'intensifie. La crise énergétique du bois de feu est un facteur non négligeable de l'exode rural. Les populations manquant de bois de feu dans les zones rurales se dirigeront vers les centres urbains où elles espèrent trouver une sécurité énergétique.

Des efforts coordonnés doivent être entrepris pour assurer un programme de reboisement suivi et régulier si nous voulons atteindre les objectifs que nous nous sommes fixés pour l'accroissement de la population agricole. Le rôle de la sylviculture est important et en 1979 le voyage d'étude organisé par la FAO en République populaire de Chine a pu montrer aux participants les effets positifs de la foresterie au service de l'agriculture.

Durant ces deux derniers jours, nous avons débattu de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'augmentation de la production. Pour certains pays et particulièrement pour la Mauritanie, le reboisement, qui limite l'ensablement des zones fertiles et fournit du bois de feu aux populations rurales agricoles, ne peut qu'aider à atteindre les objectifs d'augmentation de la production agricole.

Ma délégation appuie les propositions contenues dans le document et celles faites par certains délégués, à savoir l'amélioration de l'énergie du bois de feu pour améliorer la condition de la femme et fixer les populations; l'appui que le PAM doit accorder aux efforts de reboisement villageois; l'élaboration de systèmes communautaires propres à encourager la participation active des populations rurales. C'est aujourd'hui que nous devons commencer.

Vu la pertinence avec laquelle le problème du bois de feu se pose, vu que le bois de feu constitue une des principales sources d'énergie pour plusieurs millions de populations, étant donné que cette crise risque de vider les zones agricoles au profit des villes, compromettant ainsi notre objectif d'augmentation de la production vivrière et rendant difficile un système de sécurité alimentaire, vu toutes ces considérations, je me permettrai de proposer que le problème de la crise du bois de feu dans les pays en développement fasse l'objet d'une résolution au sein du Comité des résolutions.

Ceci nous permettra de sensibiliser davantage l'opinion et d'accélérer ainsi des mesures urgentes dans la recherche d'une solution pratique et rapide.

M. BUENO GOMEZ (Espagne): La delegación española agradece a la Secretaría la excelente labor de síntesis que ha realizado al redactar el documento C 81/25 sobre "La Energía en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural", y agradece en general a la FAO las iniciativas que viene adoptando para abordar este crítico problema.

Países como el nuestro, que carecen prácticamente de combustibles líquidos fósiles y que han tecnificado su agricultura en los últimos años en base a un uso intensivo de esta clase de energía, somos especialmente sensibles al tema que nos ocupa en este momento. De ahí nuestro interés por participar en las iniciativas propuestas en este documento, tanto a nivel nacional como internacional.

En este sentido, permítame, señor Presidente, que le informe brevemente sobre algunas de las recientes medidas adoptadas por nuestro Gobierno. A nivel nacional, en el presente año mediante los textos le gales correspondientes, se ha incorporado, entre las ayudas a los programas de modernización de las explotaciones agrarias, aquellas medidas que supongan ahorro de energía, o bien el uso de energías alternativas complementarias. La respuesta de los agricultores a esta iniciativa del Gobierno, ha puesto de manifiesto el alto interés de nuestra población rural por el problema energético. A nivel internacional, estamos en principio conformes con participar en la red cooperativa europea para el desarrollo de energías rurales renovables, como manifestamos en la reunión de París durante el pasado mes de octubre. Así podremos integrarnos en algunas de las subredes previstas, para lo cual España, por razones de sus experiencias en curso, puede aportar a la Comunidad Internacional de manera rápida y eficaz el resultado de sus esfuerzos.

P. N. RANA (Nepal): As my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, allow me to congratulate you and the Vice Chairman on your election to this Commission.

The document prepared by the FAO Secretariat is commendable. The problem of energy, which is getting insurmountable, has been very well dealt with. The energy crisis is the burning topic of the time. This crisis is being experienced all over the world and more so in developing countries with very meagre resources of commercial energies like ours.

Nepal, with no alternative sources of energy besides forests to date, has been very badly hit due to this energy crisis. Fertilizers for increased agricultural production are becoming significantly negative once we calculate the cost benefit value. However, the increased agricultural production that has become a necessity to feed the growing population has compelled us to forego other development works to meet the rising cost of fertilizers, though some efforts are being made to use animal waste, compost and green manuring.

Nepal abounds in water resources and the generation of energy required has a great scope in our country. Furthermore, Nepal used to be quite rich in forest until the last decades and the fuel energy requirement was adequately met. However, these last decades have been crucial because of the depletion of the forest wealth of the country.

Nepal has very lately adopted an afforestation programme but we are afraid that that programme alone will not be sufficient in meeting the fuel energy requirements of the growing population.

Biogas, one of the possible sources of energy in our country, has taken some impetus and we hope this may supplement the energy requirement of the country to some extent, though it may be of small value.

Hydro energy, which could supply the major part of the energy requirement, as hydro power and irrigation for the development of agriculture in my country, is still to be exploited, for which we are looking for international assistance. The assistance we seek could also provide energy to our neighbours which would finally help in reducing the magnitude of our energy crisis to a great extent.

Nepal, due to past experience, has constituted an Energy Commission as a priority to look after the energy problems of the country and advise His Majesty's Government on the energy situation.

M. C. DIALLO (Guinée): A la suite de l'examen des documents qui nous ont été soumis par le Secrétariat de la Conférence sur les problèmes de l'énergie en liaison avec le développement rural, ma délégation voudrait faire quelques observations sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Nous avons tous conscience du fait que tous les actes de production exigent de l'énergie, mais jusqu'à ces dernières années on s'est très peu préoccupé de son utilisation rationnelle. Il a fallu attendre la flambée des prix du pétrole pour que l'on prenne conscience de la crise générale qui menace l'humanité et pour que l'intelligence des hommes se mette en mouvement pour parer aux conséquences catastrophiques de cette crise. Malheureusement, ce sont encore les pays en voie de développement qui risquent de faire les frais d'une telle situation et nous n'en voulons pour preuve que les programmes de production d'éthanol envisagés par certains pays exportateurs ou potentiellement exportateurs des denrées agricoles qui risquent d'avoir des répercussions désastreuses sur les disponibilités alimentaires mondiales.

A ce propos, les perspectives décrites aux paragraphes 58, 59 et 60 du document C 81/25 sont suffisamment éloquents. Face aux pressions exercées sur les prix des intrants agricoles susceptibles de développer rapidement la production agricole dans les pays en voie de développement, par le prix du pétrole et face à la crise aiguë que connaît la principale source d'énergie de ces pays qu'est le bois de feu, il est important d'envisager des mesures énergiques et urgentes. Sur le plan international la Conférence devrait donner mandat au Directeur général de la FAO pour qu'il intensifie son action en vue de la conclusion d'un accord international garantissant que les exportations des produits alimentaires, l'exécution des engagements d'aide alimentaire et le maintien des réserves de sécurité alimentaire ne seront pas affectés par les programmes envisagés de production d'énergie à partir des plantes à usage alimentaire. L'ensemble des Etats Membres devrait appuyer cette action car cet aspect du problème est à notre avis le plus grave. Par ailleurs, il faut souhaiter que les pays industrialisés apportent une assistance de grande ampleur aux programmes que la FAO devrait entreprendre d'urgence pour remédier à la pénurie de bois de feu qui, si elle n'est pas jugulée, pourrait avoir en plus des effets néfastes directs sur diverses populations des zones rurales, des conséquences graves sur la conservation des eaux et des sols et sur la possibilité d'accroissement de la production agricole en général et l'accroissement de la production alimentaire en particulier.

Ce point particulier qu'est la mise en oeuvre de programmes de plantations d'essences forestières à croissance rapide devrait être encouragé par une assistance technique et financière conséquente. Pour que la FAO puisse s'acquitter de sa tâche dans cette perspective il faudrait évidemment que les ressources affectées au département des forêts soient conséquentes parce qu'en ce moment on a l'impression que ce département dépérit faute de moyens. La multiplication par cinq des efforts de plantation de forêts de bois de feu suggérée au paragraphe 43 du document C 81/25 devrait entraîner la multiplication des ressources du département des forêts par un coefficient en relation avec l'effort suggéré. Sur ce point je voudrais dire que ma délégation apportera son appui aux deux propositions de résolutions faites ou qui seront présentées par les délégués de la Zambie et de la Mauritanie, l'une concernant le problème forestier et l'autre relative à la mise d'un accent sur le problème de la production du bois de feu dans les pays en développement.

En ce qui concerne les autres sources potentielles d'énergie, ma délégation voudrait suggérer que l'action de la FAO soit renforcée non seulement pour explorer les possibilités qui existent mais pour mettre en oeuvre, entre autres avec les Etats Membres qui le désirent, des projets permettant de faciliter leur emploi; à ce point de mon intervention permettez-moi d'insister sur les sources potentielles d'énergies renouvelables que le Gouvernement guinéen explore pour faire face aux répercussions des problèmes énergétiques sur les secteurs agricoles de notre pays. Avec la FAO, nous avons expérimenté la production de biogaz à partir de déchets d'animaux et végétaux avec des digesteurs de petite taille. Nous pensons que cette voie est plus intéressante que la combustion directe des déchets car elle préserve le pouvoir fertilisant de ceux-ci qui peuvent être utilisés sur les exploitations agricoles pour réduire la consommation des engrais minéraux. Il va de soi que la diffusion de ces techniques exigera de la part des pays qui veulent les adopter le redéploiement des services agricoles en faisant résider les techniciens du développement en milieu rural.

Compte tenu de l'importance et de la distribution des ressources en eau en Guinée, le gouvernement donne une grande importance à l'édification d'un grand nombre de petits barrages hydrauliques pour, entre autres usages, la production d'énergie à partir de microcentrales hydro-électriques, de puissance allant de quelques Kw à un millier de Kw. Sur cet aspect, au stade actuel de l'exécution du plan directeur d'aménagement des ressources en eau, que nous conduisons avec l'aide du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, nous avons déjà identifié 153 sites parmi lesquels une dizaine peuvent faire l'objet d'aménagements très simples.

Cet aspect du problème devrait obtenir le soutien de la FAO dans tous les pays qui offrent de telles possibilités par une assistance dans le domaine de la technologie, de la construction, de la fourniture de matériel de terrassement et d'équipement des ouvrages. Ma délégation voudrait espérer que la rapidité avec laquelle le paragraphe 69 du document C 81/25, qui aborde les problèmes de l'utilisation de l'énergie éolienne, de la construction de petites installations hydro-électriques, de l'utilisation de l'énergie solaire et d'autre part la production d'énergie par la pyrolyse du bois, n'est pas une marque de peu d'intérêt de la part de la FAO pour ces sources d'énergie.

A notre avis tous ces domaines doivent être explorés d'autant plus que leur technologie robuste est connue et n'exigera pas de recherches importantes. Il va de soi que dans certains cas des mesures d'accompagnement seront nécessaires à l'exploitation du gazogène qui devrait, en particulier, donner la préférence aux petits systèmes décentralisés pour éviter une trop grande pression sur le manque de ressources en bois de feu et être réalisés en liaison avec des plans d'action pour assurer l'approvisionnement en bois de ces unités gazogènes. Pour une meilleure utilisation des sources d'énergie disponibles en vue de réduire les besoins en énergie commerciale, ma délégation soutient les orientations proposées ici tendant à améliorer les conditions d'utilisation des techniques de culture à traction

animale dont le développement peut avoir des effets favorables sur la production d'énergie elle-même et la production de l'exploitation par la fourniture d'engrais organiques. En conclusion nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour avoir pu nous faire toucher du doigt les problèmes de l'énergie en liaison avec le développement rural grâce aux documents bien préparés qui nous ont été soumis.

H. MOHAMADI BATAIK (Soudan)(Original language Arabie): At the outset I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity and please permit me to commend the FAO Secretariat for this excellent document concerning energy in agriculture and rural development. The energy crisis has its negative repercussions, particularly in the poor countries, on food and agricultural production, on the environment and on the rural development in general. In the agricultural areas that are being irrigated by pumps in the Sudan there has been a clear fluctuation in the cultivated areas and thus in their productivity. As for heavy rainy areas that depend on wells for drinkable water for man and animals, we find that the cultivated areas have contracted in some regions and a large number of animals have died in pasture areas. We also find that animals are being concentrated in the areas surrounding guaranteed water resources, thus resulting in over-grazing around the resources, leading in turn to a deterioration of the plantation cover as well as the soil. The energy crisis has had its negative repercussions on transportation and in the technical and social services extended in rural areas, which led to a rural exodus to urban areas and cities.

The increase in prices of fossil fuel has also led to a steady increase in the surfaces of natural forestry that are being cut off annually without any discrimination in order to meet the local needs of fuel wood and charcoal which of course does not cope with natural multiplication and the potentialities of artificial afforestation. This represents a real and serious danger to renewable sources of energy and even to food production itself for the present and coming generations.

Many decisive measures have been taken in my country to organize and rationalize energy consumption and utilization, particularly in the agricultural sector. A special body concerned solely with energy has been established. However, energy costs and high prices of agriculture equipment and machinery are among the major obstacles hampering the expansion of land reclamation and the cultivation of new agricultural lands, not only to increase agricultural production as a whole and to adopt appropriate outlets but also to increase the potentialities of small traditional farmers and increase their income, to raise their living standard and consequently to limit the rural exodus and feudalism.

The high cost of raising the dams existing along the rivers or the construction of new dams is a new obstacle hampering the transfer of pump irrigation and the increase of electric energy generated therefrom.

In general, we hope that the international community will be able to implement the resolutions adopted by the International Conference on Energy Resources, so as to allocate sufficient resources and techniques to develop new and renewable sources of energy in the developing countries, in accordance with the International Development Strategy on Energy.

The Sudanese Delegation fully supports the suggestion made by the Director-General to increase the emphasis on energy in FAO programmes in order to encourage new and alternative sources of energy. We are fully hopeful that FAO will increase its interest in the question as it relates to forestry in the developing countries, as mentioned by the Mauritanian Delegation, as being an important part of the survey of natural resources, to which we made reference yesterday, and prepare studies on the economics of energy production from agricultural production wastes, in cooperation with the organizations concerned, as we in the Sudan have hundreds of tons of cotton stalks and peanut pulp being burned annually.

We also support what is stated in paragraph 87 of the document concerning the policy of cultivating energy-generating crops and in respect of food aid commitments, and the more vigilant observation of the whole situation by the bodies concerned.

J. PIÑA ARMENDARIZ (México): Nuestra delegación ha estudiado con detenimiento el interesante documento C 81/25 preparado por la Secretaría, el cual describe por un lado el impacto de los crecientes precios de la energía comercial sobre las economías de los países en desarrollo y sus respectivos sistemas agrícolas, aunado a la dramática reducción de las reservas energéticas derivadas de la madera, y por otro lado expresa la preocupación creciente de la FAO tanto en lo que atañe a la definición misma de los problemas, a través de estudios completos y detallados, como en lo que se refiere a la solución de los mismos en forma de numerosas recomendaciones, proposiciones y trabajos de campo.

Estima esta delegación importante aprovechar la oportunidad de esta máxima reunión para llamar una vez más la atención sobre las peligrosas tendencias que ensombrecen el futuro de la humanidad en estos dos vitales campos: la energía y la alimentación, e invitar a los países miembros a asignar la máxima prioridad a las recomendaciones surgidas del análisis permanente de la influencia, de la problemática mundial de la energía sobre las economías agrícolas de los países menos desarrollados.

Con muchos matices, los problemas serios relativos a la energía en los medios rurales de muchos países ya están frente a nosotros ahora. Incluso en países en desarrollo que cuentan con importantes reservas de hidrocarburos se tienen serios problemas para contener la explotación irracional de la madera para usos energéticos.

Según el modelo normativo, a nuestro juicio conservador, de la FAO, de "la Agricultura hacia el año 2000", para finales de siglo la utilización de energía comercial en la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo se verá multiplicada por cuatro.

Por otro lado, el cuadro referente al consumo mundial de leña es muy ilustrativo. En 1972 el conjunto de países en desarrollo consumió en leña el equivalente de 313 millones de toneladas de petróleo (2 000 millones de personas la utilizan como fuente principal de energía).

Las tendencias en este punto son verdaderamente alarmantes. Para finales de siglo los déficits serán catastróficos, sobre todo pensando en el valor de las facturas de la energía comercial con que los países se tendrán que compensar.

La energía comercial es cada vez más importante como costo en la compensación del precio de los productos agrícolas básicos que compran los países en desarrollo, así como en la de los fletes necesarios para transportarlos.

Algunos países desarrollados, grandes productores y exportadores de granos y cereales se verán obligados incluso a adoptar medidas a corto plazo tendientes a la conservación de los suelos, agotados ya por la práctica reiterada de la agricultura intensiva.

Esto incidirá necesariamente en los precios y en la disponibilidad de granos y cereales, que hasta ahora, no sin dificultad, han venido adquiriendo los países menos desarrollados para satisfacer las mínimas necesidades alimentarias de sus pueblos.

Con respecto a los avances tecnológicos encaminados a la utilización de nuevas formas de energía, nos encontramos con los mismos problemas que para revertir las tendencias negativas en la actual utilización de los recursos ahora existentes.

El camino de la introducción, adaptación y puesta en marcha de nuevas formas de producción es muy largo. Sin embargo, estas acciones no tienen que esperar a nadie ni a nada para ponerse en práctica: dependen en gran medida de la voluntad y la capacidad organizativa de cada uno de nuestros pueblos y que deberán ser consideradas en todos los proyectos nacionales de autosuficiencia alimentaria.

En otro orden de cosas, compartimos la preocupación que el documento que nos ocupa manifiesta con respecto a los cultivos energéticos, pues, de acuerdo con la información de que disponemos, esta tendencia amenazaría la posibilidad de obtener y de conservar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Entre otras cosas introducen o convalidan formas de utilización y tenencias de la tierra que no tienen nada que ver con las realidades estructurales agrarias de buen número de países en desarrollo.

En muchos de nuestros países la tierra es el más importante de los recursos y no podemos darnos el lujo de sobreutilizarlo por razones comerciales coyunturales.

La formulación de una política energética y rural dentro del marco de las políticas energéticas nacionales e internacionales propuestas en el documento C 81/25 es muy urgente, si no deseamos ver la creación de estructuras paralelas encargadas de encarar y resolver el mismo problema.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, quisiera invitar a las delegaciones aquí presentes a reflexionar sobre lo siguiente: la crisis alimentaria y la crisis energética forman parte de una sola gran crisis. Evidentemente no se concibe la solución a fondo de los problemas de la energía y la alimentación sin cambios importantes en el orden económico internacional.

Insistimos en que aquellas acciones posibles en estos momentos y en estas circunstancias deben realizarse sin dilación.

Entre otras cosas, creemos que se debería incrementar sustancialmente el volumen y la velocidad de la cooperación técnica en todas sus formas y posibilidades, así como la difusión profunda de la información que esta Organización acopia y produce.

Buen número de las soluciones que se proponen en el documento que examinamos están al alcance de nuestras posibilidades reales. Tomemos y hagamos tomar conciencia de que en vista de los indicativos a nuestra disposición, la situación tiene características de emergencia permanente.

S. SABER (Iraq)(Original language Arabic): We appreciate all the effort that has been put into the preparation of the document now before us, emphasizing how important this topic is. There are one or two points we would like to make on this document on energy in agriculture and rural development.

The document shows that agriculture accounts for 3.5 percent of commercial energy used, and much of that energy goes into the purchase of irrigation equipment, pesticides and fertilizers and other necessary equipment. But even though agriculture accounts for a high percentage of this energy, agriculture in turn generates energy, in the form of food, for example. This is an aspect of the situation which needs to be given its due importance. Many countries rely on fuelwood and agricultural wastes such as animal excrement for their energy supplies, particularly in the rural areas. This leads us to emphasize our concern for forestry protection and optimization and the increase of forests wherever possible. This is a feature of our 1981-85 Five-Year Plan.

Unfortunately, very often rural areas find that they have to cut down their trees, often in a very arbitrary way, thereby decreasing their possibilities for enjoying those forests. We are therefore in favour of emphasizing the importance of forestry and maintaining forests. We feel we have to strive for the better use of this energy in agriculture. We support the Organization's efforts in this field and all its related activities, because FAO has put some very important proposals to us.

We feel that efforts should be made to find new energy sources. Energy is a world problem, and a number of questions are inter-related. There is the question of fossil energy, but also there is the fuel problem, as set out in paragraph 41 of the document, which states that there are about 100 million people in rural areas who are short of fuelwood. This is a problem which looms very large for developing countries. Some way should be found of finding and maintaining energy sources in rural areas and making better use of existing ones.

FAO could play a very important role here, helping those countries which so desire to make better use of, say, existing waste. I would not want to fail to say one thing in this connexion. Many parts of the world have very variable climatic conditions. There are countries which have a lot of sunshine and can therefore make use of solar energy. It should be possible for those countries to formalize plans enabling them to optimize the use of solar energy.

Indeed, a Solar Energy Centre has been created, which I think indicates the importance which we attach to that source of energy.

Many countries in the world suffer from malnutrition if not famine, and that is why we want to support all the inputs which could be used as a food humanity-oil, seeds, potatoes, maize, and so on. All these crops can be used to feed man, and need not be used for fuel. We feel that we must pay greater attention to this issue, particularly from the economic point of view.

Although we are an oil producing country, preparing plans to increase oil production and supply oil to countries which need it, we nevertheless support the document which invites all countries to use energy carefully and to reserve some energy for food production.

J. A. GUEVARA MORAN (El Salvador): En primer lugar, Sr. Presidente, deseamos felicitar a la Secretaría por los excelentes documentos que nos ha presentado en relación con el tema que nos ocupa.

Estima nuestra delegación que, en relación con el tema de la energía en la agricultura y en el desarrollo rural, hay un aspecto de gran importancia, el cual no ha sido debidamente considerado y atendido en muchos países en desarrollo.

Este asunto se refiere a la importancia de los bosques y la silvicultura en el desarrollo rural integral e integrado.

En mi país recientemente se terminó un estudio sobre balance energético y se determinó que el combustible mayor es la leña, la cual contribuye con un 59 por ciento a la energía que se consume; pero el problema radica en que este suministro de leña no se hace basado en planes de ordenación forestal ni en planes de reforestación masiva, sino que, por el contrario, la tala de bosques ha sido y sigue siendo realizada en forma tal que esta situación ha conducido a un alto deterioro de los recursos naturales renovables y del medio ambiente en general.

Lo anterior refleja que es urgente el establecimiento de programas de desarrollo rural integrado en los cuales la parte forestal constituye uno de los elementos más importantes, dada su contribución en los siguientes aspectos: primero, la producción de energía en forma de leña; segundo, para el caso de países similares al nuestro, una alta absorción de mano de obra rural; tercero, generación de muchos productos madereros, que resultan como materias primas de importantes industrias forestales; y cuarto, su contribución en la conservación de los recursos naturales renovables y del medio ambiente en general.

Por lo anteriormente expuesto, se desprende que es importante que esta Conferencia recomiende a todos los gobiernos que aún no lo hayan hecho que presten la debida importancia a los aspectos forestales en todos sus planes y programas de desarrollo rural, de tal manera que permitan un manejo agrosilva-pastoral en todas sus cuencas hidrográficas y que se vaya en el más breve plazo a usar los recursos del bosque como un elemento de desarrollo positivo para nuestra economías.

LE PRESIDENT : La liste des delegues inscrits est terminée; je signale que le Bénin nous a transmis sa déclaration et qu'elle sera insérée dans le compte rendu.

E. DANHOUNSI (Bénin): Le problème de l'énergie que nous abordons dans les documents C 81/25 et C 81/25-Sup. 1 vient tout naturellement dans la suite logique des problèmes que soulève l'alimentation sans à-coup des pays développés et de ceux en développement.

L'agriculture traditionnelle était basée à l'origine des temps sur la force musculaire. Un léger progrès a été ensuite réalisé grâce à l'introduction de la roue dentée dans l'agriculture, ainsi que de l'énergie provenant de la traction animale. Cette agriculture traditionnelle, archaïque d'abord, améliorée par la suite, était en équilibre avec le niveau des besoins énergétiques à satisfaire. La pression sur les terres était alors faible et la régénération des sols se faisait à la faveur de longues jachères.

Mais au fil des temps, la productivité faible de cette agriculture n'a pas pu s'adapter à la poussée démographique et arrivait à peine avec l'évolution à satisfaire un niveau minimum de subsistance.

On a assisté alors à une pression de plus en plus forte exercée par l'homme sur les terres à la recherche de produits alimentaires nécessaires à sa survie. Cela n'a d'ailleurs pas toujours été possible et dépendait étroitement des densités de populations et de l'occupation de terres. Il faut alors recourir à une intensification de l'agriculture si l'on veut parvenir à satisfaire les besoins de l'homme.

En ce moment, nous allons assister à l'entrée, dans l'agriculture tropicale de type traditionnel, des facteurs de production dont la mise au point dépend à l'étape actuelle de la mise en oeuvre de l'énergie commerciale. Et de fait, les progrès réalisés dans nos pays depuis une quinzaine d'années sont essentiellement dus à la vulgarisation des engrais, notamment d'engrais azotés dérivés pour l'essentiel du gaz naturel, détenue aux mains des puissances d'argent et dont les prix ne font que monter en flèche. L'importation de ces engrais, moyennant des sorties importantes de devises, vient encore grever la balance commerciale déjà déséquilibrée de nos pays respectifs.

L'utilisation des engrais ne suffit pas à elle seule pour résoudre à terme le problème de l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Nos pays se sont lancés dans de vastes programmes de mécanisation. Il convient de noter que le choix du type de mécanisation, au lieu de s'adapter aux conditions édaphoclimatiques locales, se fait en liaison avec les marchés qui s'ouvrent à nos pays et souvent c'est à grand frais que nous importons des tracteurs, des moissonneuses-batteuses et autres bulldozers qui, après avoir sacqué nos sols, se retrouvent immobilisés après quelques centaines d'heures d'utilisation faute de pièces de rechange ou de personnel formé pour la maintenance ou faute de centres de maintenance conçus à cette fin.

La consommation d'énergie de ces machines est hors de proportions avec le niveau de rendement que nous pouvons espérer de nos cultures.

Lorsque nous faisons appel à l'irrigation, nous assistons aussi à une utilisation exagérée d'énergie parce que le type d'irrigation choisi, au lieu d'épouser les contraintes des sols, n'est que le transfert d'un modèle qui a conduit au succès ailleurs.

Dans l'un ou l'autre cas, nous faisons de l'agriculture avec de l'argent et non de l'argent avec l'agriculture.

Les solutions à cette situation ne sont pas évidentes, vous vous en doutez. Elles passent par :

- l'information des producteurs qui doivent travailler à associer la fumure organique et la fumure minérale aux fins de réduire la consommation de cette dernière,
- l'utilisation de meilleures techniques culturales,
- la mise à contribution de la lutte intégrée contre les prédateurs,
- le choix de technologies à niveau énergétique raisonnable,
- le choix, par les gouvernements, d'une mécanisation progressive et sélective en fonction des contraintes de sols et de climats.

Mon pays, le Bénin, est conscient des données contingentes du développement de l'agriculture à long terme et a choisi de s'appuyer sur la coopérativisation. Le mouvement de coopérativisation ne saurait s'étendre et se développer que lorsqu'il aura démontré sa supériorité sur les exploitations individuelles prises dans le contexte national.

A cet effet, des fermes de polycultures ont été financées par l'Etat et ont été chargées de sélectionner les techniques de production efficaces susceptibles d'être proposées aux coopératives. L'assistance que la FAO pourrait apporter à ces fermes dans leurs travaux de recherche d'accompagnement serait fortement appréciée par mon pays.

S'agissant des sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables, il convient de mentionner que des efforts soutenus doivent être développés pour que des solutions soient proposées aux générations futures à la place de l'énergie fossile qu'est le pétrole.

La Conférence des Nations Unies sur les sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables, tenue au mois d'août 1981 à Nairobi, a suffisamment mis l'accent sur la nécessité pour la communauté internationale de s'atteler à la tâche si elle veut véritablement aboutir à des résultats qui brisent le spectre de la famine énergétique.

Nous nous réjouissons de la volonté de la communauté internationale de créer une filiale Energie à la Banque mondiale. Ce faisant, nous avons l'espoir que des sources de financement pourront être trouvées pour assister les projets de reforestation et de reboisement mis au point dans nos pays.

Mon pays a déclenché une vaste campagne de lutte contre les destructeurs de nos ressources naturelles renouvelables. Il a par ailleurs proposé des moyens à ras du sol pour économiser l'énergie. Ainsi, et notamment dans les grands centres, un petit four a été vulgarisé en vue de l'utilisation des copeaux et sciure de bois qui autrefois étaient jetés. Cette initiative a donné de très bons résultats et a fait lever momentanément la pression qui s'exerçait sur le bois de feu et le charbon de bois.

S'agissant de la production d'énergie à partir des produits agricoles, mon pays n'est pas en mesure d'adopter, à l'étape actuelle, cette possibilité de solution à la crise énergétique car les produits auxquels il est fait référence constituent des matières premières pour alimenter des agro-industries en pleine expansion ou des produits agricoles entrant dans l'alimentation humaine.*

G. VASTA (Observateur pour l'OCDE): Je vous remercie d'avoir bien voulu me donner la parole et je profite de cette occasion pour vous féliciter de la façon agréable et complète avec laquelle vous-même et les deux vice-présidents conduisez les travaux. Vos capacités de synthèse sont extraordinaires. Je remercie M. Bommer pour son introduction si intéressante et je félicite le Secrétariat pour ses documents excellents.

Je voudrais mettre en évidence que la direction de l'agriculture de l'OCDE a suivi régulièrement les travaux de la FAO en matière d'énergie et qu'elle-même s'est occupée et s'occupe de ce problème. Une étude a été réalisée et elle porte le titre: "Les secteurs agro-alimentaires face au problème de l'énergie".

L'étude souligne le fait que les choix d'ordre politique visant à orienter le secteur agro-alimentaire face aux difficultés de la situation énergétique sont rendus très difficiles par le caractère mouvant et incertain d'un grand nombre d'éléments.

La complexité de l'évolution attendue rend nécessaire l'approche systématique et l'élaboration d'un scénario considéré comme le plus probable et d'où découlent une stratégie et des mesures. On estime que la période actuelle est une période de transition avant la solution définitive du problème de l'énergie avec l'énergie solaire, la fusion thermo-nucléaire et l'utilisation de l'hydrogène. Mais il n'est pas indifférent que cette période dure dix ans et même plus pour l'importance et la nature des programmes d'ajustement à mettre en oeuvre dans le secteur.

* Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

La bio-industrie représente un potentiel de changement considérable mais dont il est difficile de fixer les étapes.

Dans un tel contexte, les décisions politiques devront réaliser un difficile arbitrage entre la souplesse permettant de s'adapter à une situation mouvante et la détermination nécessaire pour obtenir des agents économiques qu'ils modifient leur processus de production et qu'ils investissent en conséquence.

Plus que jamais une concertation internationale sera indispensable pour éviter les conséquences des politiques nationales divergentes sur les échanges internationaux et sur l'économie mondiale.

La direction de l'agriculture de l'OCDE est en train également de mettre au point le programme d'une autre étude sur les implications économiques et politiques découlant de la production d'énergie en partant de la biomasse.

L'OCDE, comme par le passé, ne manquera pas de tenir la FAO au courant de ses travaux sur l'énergie et cela toujours dans un esprit de coopération et de solidarité pour éviter des doubles emplois.

D. F. R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I understand that this opportunity to comment on and answer some of the questions which have been raised during the debate is extended to both my colleague, Mr. Flores Rodas as head of the Forestry Department, and myself as head of the Agriculture Department. We are actually missing a third and fourth party here because the Fisheries Department and the Economic and Social Department were also involved in this issue, but we two have to carry the weight of this programme for FAO which has been discussed.

First of all I would like to express the sincere gratitude of the Director-General for the support which has been given to the general outline of this paper and to the trust which has been placed in the medium term programme which is guiding the Programme of Work and Budget, and from that to the additional activities which are being proposed for the reorientation of FAO's programme, with strong emphasis on energy questions.

I shall first speak on the agricultural part and if you will allow it, Mr. Flores Rodas will take up the forestry side.

I wanted to say first that I have the feeling that I must apologize for being an agriculturist, because there was such a strong debate on questions of forestry. We felt it was a very stimulating discussion and we are very grateful for the information provided during the discussion on various national efforts and programmes and priorities, for the advice given to us and for the collaboration offered to the Organization and certainly to other Member nations, for sharing experiences in new technology development and application.

We could not agree more than with the statement of the US delegation in saying that the whole question of energy and agriculture has to be seen in an integrated way together with the uses of other resources such as soil and water, and certainly the human resource. The intention in presenting this paper as part of our programme was certainly absolutely on these lines. As we see it, there is very strong integration of agriculture and forestry in general land use and this comes, I think, clearly out of the debate—that this whole question can be seen only within the total land use policy of a country, and, in addition, as we expressed here, as part of the national energy policy, which must have a clear linking and understanding with the agricultural policy. This is certainly the most important point which I would like to bring out at the beginning. Preparing such a document certainly, we are ever always clear that we cannot satisfy all the wishes of all delegations so I understand the comments made from those delegations which felt on the one side the Paper should be more analytical and on the other side it should talk only of a few priorities, as this was meant as certainly a follow-up documentation. We might prepare and go deeper into these issues, but this was meant only as a synopsis to introduce in the medium-term and in the actual Programme of the Organization.

In the debate it was very gratifying to hear the report of the various countries and their experiences and we would certainly like to pay specific tribute to those countries who have pioneered and are pioneering in various ways the development of new and renewable sources of energy and we should pay specific tribute to the tremendous work going on in this field in which we have already considerably participated. This tremendous work which is on the one side certainly unique for this country because there are very few countries having such resources to have the various alternatives open for such energy development.

Coming now to more specific questions which have been raised the distinguished lady delegate from the Philippines actually asked for more detailed description of the Programme of FAO. Now, I don't want to unnecessarily prolong the discussion here by presenting a list, I just wanted to refer the distinguished delegate to the Paper in which on pages 20 and 21 the ongoing work is briefly described in specific activities certainly to the medium term on the following pages, and finally to the Annex of this document which provides the reference to each sub-Programme where energy activities are being performed and which form in total the energy Programme of the Organization. At the same time this gives me the possibility to answer to the UK delegation how we are coordinating this activity in FAO. On the one right side Dr. Dudal is Chairman of the Inter-Departmental Working Group of Environment and Energy and through his hands and his fellows working with him the co-ordination through a co-op in the house is fully assured to have a total energy policy withing the FAO's Programme.

In single activities, I don't want to give you a full list but I just want to mention here that it is certainly in various different spheres. First of all referring at the same time to those delegations who have asked for the priorities, we see our major trust in two priority areas. One, certainly, has to do with the fuel wood emergency situation and fuel wood programme in the policy department and the other one is very much based on the more efficient use in the saving of energy for agricultural production and in agriculture in general, including certainly, marketing processing and this has relevance now to various elements of this and therefore, the balance of these activities is being performed within the other technical programmes so specifically, as so many delegations have referred to, the more efficient use of fertilizers, this programme is geared even stronger than in the past to both aspects, which is the increase of energy based inputs fertilizer, which is absolutely necessary as this meeting has confirmed, to increase agricultural production and at the same time to oblige us in the most efficient way, making use as far as possible of the various forms of on-farm availability or on-village availability of plant nutrients to be applied in the form of organic recycling combined with biogas production in the form of fertilizer and nitrogen fixation and various others which I don't need to mention here in detail. So, this in-the-field programme in the demonstration to the farmer and this fertilizer programme spear-heading, discussed in other parts of your deliberations during the Conference, has traditionally this very close contact in demonstrating to the farmer in the time of extension these possible methods. This is accompanied by various publications and the same is certainly relevant in other areas.

As we perform this in possible savings in Aqua industries in primary processing of agricultural products making better use of solar energy and various other means. We have in this field established already regional collaboration and we will make full use, for instance, of the regional network which has been established in Asia and the Pacific on organic recycling and biogas production to be further extended to other forms of renewable energy in rural development.

We have heard various references, and we are grateful for this, to those from European countries on the network which European countries intend to establish, or have established for collaboration in new developments for new and renewable energies in agriculture specifically to be tested in farm situations and, what is more important, to test new innovations in economic feasibility and this will provide us with a considerable contribution to better-advised countries on economically feasible solutions in rural energy development, and we hope to either expand this in a similar form in regional networks in other Continents or to link up this European network with countries of interest in the developing regions. We still have to see what is the resource situation, we had various discussions with the UNDP already on this point, but under the present resource situation the UNDP's and regional IPF's, it is not easy, at least, at the rapid start of such collaboration.

I would like to mention here it is very clear at the beginning and we make full use of this, we are not going to duplicate anybody's work, we want full collaboration as we do this already with ISCAP and other organizations which have been mentioned just a minute ago. But we wish that the agricultural focus even in collaboration which is developed by other organizations, say UNIDO, is fully taken care of and not being lost sight of, and the same is our role in the Energy Conference and will be our role for follow-up to this Energy Conference, even if we take responsibility for major subjects like fuelwood or draught animals, both have been mentioned but we will be strongly engaged in the biomass programme, and in the new technology developments as far as they are being used for agriculture. I hope this might be enough. I should mention that we will have very soon a meeting for instance on alternative fuels for attractive power in agriculture in which we will have participation from experts from all over the world. These are measures to always concentrate and clarify new progress made in various areas and to have better information available for member countries. The same will be true certainly when we further expand this work in the agricultural and planning field for instance, in which we have, as you know quite a number of planning teams assisting various countries. This aspect of the energy side within agricultural planning and link up with national energy planning is fully taken care of.

I have only a few specific questions left. The delegate of Finland rightly pointed out that peat was not mentioned and I have to apologize, that we didn't, because it is certainly very specific in a few countries but it is not a widespread resource, although his country is very rich in this peat and we are interested to learn about the newest development and would like to mention certainly that countries having low land peats, these areas are very often used in tropical countries for rice production. There is not very much energy to be taken out, whereas your country dealing with the upland peat which is only used in few other countries, but we agree it is an important resource to be mentioned.

Last but not least the comments from the delegate from Cyprus referred to first of all the priorities as he sees it from his country's point of view. We did not end up this paper with such a clear-cut priority ranking because in each country this priority ranking will be different depending on the resources, depending on the situation and depending on the specific energy mix. You can recognize in your energy planning, but he made an interesting comment on the right side, saying he feels there is some over-emphasis on nitrogen fixation. I partly agree with him, partly in this way that it is usual if in science or technology a new field becomes a new interest it sounds like over-emphasis, everyone jumps on the bandwagon. If we say everyone talks about it, there are numerous meetings and a lot of hopes are being created. On the other side new scientific development, as you know, certainly brings out possibilities which not clearly up till now if successful would have considerable change in our total agricultural technology. We agree fully with you that nitrogen fixation at the present must be taken fully into consideration in farming systems in our efforts in saving energy of commercial fertilizers for example, but not over-emphasizing that this is an overall solution for our total energy nitrogen needs in agricultural fertilizer systems. But it needs to be re-emphasized because we have in the past, as you know, much stronger programmes all over the world and it was somewhat neglected and forgotten because of the way a cheap nitrogen fertilizer that was available. Now the picture has changed, and New Zealand is certainly one of the leading countries demonstrating as any grazing system. For instance, you can have even a whole animal production system shaped to nitrogen fixation of clovers in use would make full use of it. But certainly in New Zealand there are special conditions and very fortunate conditions from this point of view.

Now, I think it is the turn of my colleague Mr. Rodas Flores to comment on the forestry side.

M. A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Distinguidos delegados, mi colega el Dr. Bommer se ha referido en general al problema de la energía y específicamente al relacionado con la agricultura. Me queda agregar la parte puramente forestal y tendría en algunos puntos que duplicar algunos énfasis dados por el Dr. Bommer y precisamente en lo que se refiere al problema en general de la energía y la participación de los diversos sectores en la solución del mismo.

En el caso específico forestal se habla de una serie de contribuciones del recurso forestal, principalmente en el caso de la leña, en la solución de los problemas del pobre rural y el pobre urbano; sin embargo, también una cantidad de países han mencionado el caso del problema de la leña y de la energía, basado en el sector forestal, desde el punto de vista nacional, y su impacto sobre otros sectores de la economía nacional.

Expresamente se mencionó la relación estrecha que existe entre el recurso forestal y su mala administración con respecto a los impactos sobre el medio ambiente y la producción misma de alimentos para la población rural.

Se habló de la importancia y la participación del sector forestal en la producción de energía rural, basada en industrias apropiadas y en la protección del suelo, del agua y del medio ambiente en general, como mencioné anteriormente; el problema de la producción de biomasa, el problema de la producción de viviendas para la población rural en la balanza energética nacional y en la balanza hidrológica nacional y la capacidad de los suelos en la producción de alimentos.

La afirmación casi universal de esta Asamblea sobre el programa de la FAO en términos de energía específicamente en la parte forestal, es muy importante y por supuesto apoya y alienta a la Organización a seguir adelante, con el consejo de ustedes sobre este punto muy importante.

También, señor Presidente, se ha hablado del uso de la energía como carbón de leña, a los mismos propósitos del efecto en el desarrollo forestal general, en la balanza energética de las naciones. Específicamente se habló de las prioridades necesarias sobre la investigación en métodos alternativos de uso de la energía forestal, no sólo como leña, sino también en el uso de la leña misma en la mejora de estufas y sistemas de recolección y distribución del carbón vegetal y su localización e implementación para las soluciones de emergencia de la leña. Sin embargo, también se hizo énfasis en que la solución de esos problemas de emergencia energéticos no deben oscurecer la vista hacia el futuro y considerar la energía también como un factor de desarrollo nacional y la participación por supuesto del recurso forestal en tales soluciones.

Señor Presidente, quiero contestar algunas preguntas que se hicieron aquí sobre la probable incorporación en el Comité de Montes, en su sesión del próximo año, de algunos elementos relacionados con la participación del sector forestal en el campo de la energía.

El distinguido delegado de Noruega solicitó la incorporación del balance mundial de la madera a largo, plazo y del uso en el sector forestal para desarrollo rural. En este mismo sentido se pronunció el distinguido delegado de Uganda.

También quisiera decir, señor Presidente, que en la agenda propuesta ya por el Sr. Director General, el próximo año están incluidos estos dos elementos como base fundamental de discusión en el Comité de Montes, que se llevará a cabo probablemente en mayo de 1982.

Creo que esto es lo único que tengo que decir ahora, señor Presidente, en lo discutido sobre el sector forestal y estoy listo para contestar siempre a cualquier pregunta referente a ello.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il n'y a plus de questions à poser; je vais donc garder la parole pour pouvoir dire que nous nous approchons maintenant du terme des délibérations de notre Commission avec cette présentation du résumé des débats sur cette importante question de l'énergie et du développement agricole.

Le débat consacré à ce point de l'ordre du jour a été vaste et constructif. Y ont participé 50 délégués, et un observateur. La façon dont le Secrétariat a présenté les problèmes et signalé les directions dans lesquelles une action devrait être engagée, a été généralement appréciée. La Commission a reconnu que si l'emploi de l'énergie commerciale dans l'agriculture est pour le moment relativement limité, il n'en revêt pas moins une importance capitale. En outre, il est probable que si l'on veut que la production agricole et animale des pays en développement atteigne les taux de croissance souhaitables, il faudra accroître considérablement l'utilisation de l'énergie commerciale et des facteurs de production à fort coefficient énergétique. Il a été reconnu également que pendant plusieurs années encore la croissance de la production agricole dépendra dans une grande mesure d'une utilisation plus vaste et plus intense de techniques à fort coefficient d'énergie. On a fait observer que le renchérissement des sources d'énergie fossile et la hausse des coûts d'autres facteurs de production essentiels qui l'accompagnent, tels que les engrais et pesticides, rendent difficile la situation des nouvelles techniques agricoles dans les pays en voie de développement. La Commission a donc insisté sur la nécessité d'encourager une utilisation plus efficace de l'énergie. A cet égard on a particulièrement mis l'accent sur la possibilité de conserver l'économie commerciale par une amélioration de la gestion et des pratiques agricoles et par une meilleure méthode d'application des engrais. Cependant, il ne suffit pas d'utiliser plus efficacement les énergies fossiles, il faut aussi intensifier l'utilisation des sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables. A ce propos le programme d'action sur les sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables, adopté récemment à la Conférence de Nairobi, a reçu un soutien général de nombreuses délégations pour informer la mission des programmes lancés dans leur pays, pour promouvoir l'utilisation des sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables. Beaucoup de pays consacrent un effort particulier au bois de feu, à la biomasse, à l'énergie solaire, à l'énergie éolienne et à l'énergie géothermique, dans le but d'exploiter les ressources d'énergie multiple. Plusieurs délégués ont informé la Commission des programmes entrepris dans leur pays pour mettre au point et pour promouvoir l'utilisation du biogaz, produit à partir des excréments animaux, des déchets et des sous-produits agricoles et ont offert de partager les expériences faites dans ce domaine avec d'autres pays en développement. De nombreux délégués ont rappelé qu'il faut augmenter les disponibilités en bois de feu et en charbon de bois surtout en milieu rural et ont particulièrement insisté sur le rôle des forêts à cet égard. La nécessité d'intensifier l'utilisation des engrais organiques a également été soulignée. Il faudra intensifier la recherche de sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables. Plusieurs délégués ont suggéré que la FAO pourrait aider les pays en développement par le biais de programmes régionaux et nationaux dans ce domaine. L'accent a été mis sur le bois de feu, la meilleure utilisation des engrais et la fixation biologique de l'azote. Des délégués de plusieurs pays développés ont informé la Commission sur les progrès accomplis dans le domaine du développement des sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables et se sont montrés disposés à faire part de leur expérience et de leurs progrès technologiques accomplis aux pays en voie de développement. Plusieurs délégations ont souligné les possibilités sur les cultures énergétiques en agriculture et quelques délégués ont informé la Commission de leurs programmes et de leur expérience dans ces cultures. Cependant il a été généralement reconnu que l'expansion des cultures énergétiques en agriculture devrait être abordée avec précaution afin de ne pas mettre en danger les cultures vivrières ni contrarier le commerce international et national. Tout devra être mis en oeuvre afin d'éviter une stratégie défavorable sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. A cet égard on a reconnu les nécessités pour la FAO de surveiller cette évolution et veiller à ce que les terres servant à la production des cultures vivrières ne soient pas sacrifiées au profit

des cultures énergétiques. Il a été reconnu que chaque pays devrait adopter une approche sélective en ce qui concerne le développement des sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables en rapport avec la situation et les besoins. La création d'une filiale d'énergie au sein de la Banque mondiale a été appuyée par plusieurs délégués. Plusieurs délégués ont souligné que la FAO devrait jouer un rôle très important dans la collecte et la diffusion d'informations sur les politiques et les besoins énergétiques ainsi que dans la fourniture d'assistance technique aux pays en développement dans le cadre du développement des sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables. Il a été aussi suggéré que la FAO établisse des priorités pour son action d'aide aux pays en développement dans ce domaine. Le besoin de la conservation de l'environnement a été reconnu pour le long terme, c'est-à-dire qu'il a été noté que les considérations de court terme ne doivent en aucun cas faire oublier les besoins du long terme. Le réseau de recherches européen pour l'énergie rurale a été salué et il a été suggéré qu'il serve non seulement à cette région mais également aux pays en développement. Tels sont les principaux points qui ressortent des discussions que nous avons eues ici. Comme à l'ordinaire, le Secrétariat les développera, avec d'autres points importants qui n'ont pas été mentionnés ici, dans le projet de rapport qui sera examiné par le Comité de rédaction. Puisque nous sommes à la fin de notre séance d'aujourd'hui, je voudrais rappeler au Comité de rédaction qu'il doit se réunir à 17 h 15 dans la salle de l'Allemagne. Notre Commission quant à elle, se retrouve demain à 9 h 30 pour examiner le document C 81/LIM/30 sur la résolution concernant le FIDA.

The meeting rose at 16. 45 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 16. 45 horas

conference

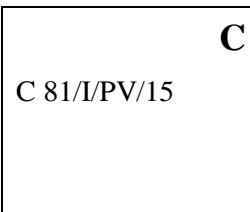
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FIFTEENTH MEETING QUINZIEME SEANCE 15ª SESION

(20 November 1981)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 9. 55 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 9 h 55, sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 9. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
7. World Food and Agricultural Development Strategy, including:
7. Stratégie mondiale de développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment:
7. Estrategia mundial para el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, en particular:
7. 1 UN International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade (continued)
7. 1 Stratégie internationale du développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le
développement, (suite)
7. 1 Estrategia internacional de desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el
Desarrollo (continuación)
- Draft Resolution of the Replenishment of IFAD Resources
- Projet de résolution sur la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA
- Proyecto de Resolución sobre la Reposición de los recursos del FIDA

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): At this stage we would like to propose to postpone discussion on this Draft Resolution on the Replenishment of IFAD Resources. I make this proposal on behalf of my delegation as drafter and sponsor. I also would like to inform you that there are some other countries who would like to join sponsorship of this resolution, and we need some more consultations. So would you kindly accept consideration of proposal to defer discussion on this resolution to Monday.

H. WETZEL (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): The statement we have just heard from the representative of Yugoslavia is quite a surprise to us as we wanted to thank him for having drafted this Resolution and to tell him that we fully support his intentions. Now he has told us that we should defer our discussion of the Resolution. I must say that I am extremely surprised that he should do this without giving us any reason and without telling us what has led him to make such a decision. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like the delegate of Yugoslavia to give an answer to my question; I would like further elucidation.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Ma délégation prend la parole pour indiquer que nous désirons être co-auteurs de cette résolution, mais je précise toutefois qu'en étant co-auteurs de cette résolution, il s'agit d'apporter en outre notre appui au projet tel qu'il est actuellement, c'est-à-dire une résolution spécifique sur la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA telle qu'elle est présentée.

Nous comprenons que le délégué de la Yougoslavie nous ait demandé tout à l'heure de reporter la discussion à plus tard, compte tenu du fait que d'autres pays demandent à être co-auteurs. Mais il s'agit bien pour nous de cette résolution spécifique et si celle-ci devait être éventuellement remaniée-je ne sais pas si c'est exact, mais je l'ai entendu dire-pour être intégrée dans une résolution plus large concernant les autres organisations internationales à vocation financière, à ce moment-là notre position pourrait être revue.

Donc, notre patronnage est valable pour le texte que nous avons sous les yeux.

Mme. G. ROSSI-PEROTTI (Italie): Je voudrais dire que ma délégation est tout à fait dans la ligne de la délégation française. Nous aussi également, nous voulons être considérés comme co-auteurs de cette résolution telle qu'elle est.

Telle qu'elle est, elle a le complet appui de mon gouvernement qui est le pays hôte du FIDA. Il est donc particulièrement intéressé et a fait des efforts tout particuliers en faveur du FIDA et nous appuyons donc cette résolution telle qu'elle est présentée ici.

J. O. ALABI (Nigeria): My delegation strongly supports this Resolution and would like to be associated as co-sponsor. We are aware of the good work being done by IFAD since its establishment in the field of food production and we are greatly worried that the replenishment exercise has not yet been concluded, and this is one year behind schedule. We are happy to note the cooperation which exists between FAO and the Fund, and we are pleased with this collaboration between this Organisation and the Fund in the area of identification. This should continue.

In order to ensure continuity of the operation of the Fund we appeal to member states to take urgent action to complete the replenishment exercise, and that before the end of this year.

Our support is irrespective of whatever may be said by other commissions, because I understand that there is a mention of IFAD in another commission in respect of increasing the funds made available to investment in agriculture. I do not think that mention should affect this Resolution, which we consider to be a very good one and fully support it.

M. EL-HAMOUD (Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): Briefly I should like to state that one of the most important decisions of the United Nations and its specialized Agencies concerns the setting up of IFAD. Since its establishment, IFAD has been funding important essential projects in the developing countries, and we are fully aware of the importance of this Fund of its great achievements in financing agricultural projects in the developing world. Hence, we would like to state here and now that Saudi Arabia has been instrumental from the outset in the funding of IFAD, and we have also increased our participation and therefore we fully support this draft resolution.

S. F. MUKERJI (India): India is deeply involved in agricultural development and feels that IFAD is one of the most effective instruments in the hands of the FAO and other world organisations to promote agricultural development in developing countries.

India fully supports this particular Resolution with all the emphasis at its command. India has been going along with IFAD's programmes and, considering the fact that FAO itself is taking up projects to be financed by IFAD and is getting more and more involved in those projects, India fully supports this Resolution and suggests that consideration of it is not deferred.

K. E. NORRMAN (Sweden): The Nordic countries fully endorse this Resolution. We are strong supporters of IFAD as an effective instrument for agricultural and rural development with particular focus on the very poorest sections of the populations. Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden would therefore like to co-sponsor this Resolution as it now stands, and we take it that any postponement will have as its only purpose to allow as many as possible to co-sponsor it.

A. RACHMAN (Indonesia) : My delegation feels that this is one of the most important Resolutions and that it will be instrumental in assisting agricultural development and increasing food production in developing countries. Therefore, my delegation fully endorses the Resolution as presented and sees no reason for deferring discussion.

A. A. MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation libanaise estime qu'il est nécessaire de renvoyer l'examen de cette résolution afin d'étudier une résolution similaire qui sera présentée prochainement.

A. P. BIGGS (Australia): Australia supported the establishment of IFAD and regards it as an important element of the global efforts to improve agricultural development and food production and we certainly support the Resolution in its present form.

ESHETU DEBABU (Ethiopia): We are also very surprised that the delegate of Yugoslavia has asked to postpone consideration of Resolution on the replenishment of IFAD resources. We would like him to explain why he wishes to consider amending it. IFAD is an institution which is very important for our development and replenishment is an issue which we strongly support. My delegation wishes not only to support the Resolution but to co-sponsor it as it stands now.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I thank the delegation of Yugoslavia for preparing this draft Resolution. While this delegation fully supports it, if the delegation of Yugoslavia wishes discussion to be postponed I do not think we can do anything else. For the time being, they are the only sponsors of it and even if there are other countries which would like to be co-sponsored, as, for instance, my own, it is a Yugoslav proposal and we have to do what the Yugoslav sponsor proposes.

Perhaps there is something lacking in the whole Resolution. Nothing is said about the present state of replenishment of IFAD resources, which, as far as I know, is not in such a bad situation as would appear from the Resolution. If it is to be redrafted, I would like to ask the Yugoslav delegation to give a little explanation about the present state of the replenishment of IFAD resources.

J. HEIDSMA (Netherlands): My delegation had understood that the proposal of the delegation of Yugoslavia was inspired merely by the fact that he wanted to find as many co-sponsors for this excellent resolution as possible. My delegation would hasten to add our name as co-sponsor to this text. I wonder however in view of the fact that so many delegations have supported this resolution it would not be opportune to deal with it here and now instead of postponing it much longer. I feel that somehow this overwhelming support can be reflected in the text as it stands now and in view of that I wonder whether it is necessary to postpone it any more.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): I have to answer four questions. First, the present state of replenishment has been explained by the distinguished observer from IFAD, I think, in Commission II, not in this Commission, but I think that most of the delegates in Commission I are aware and informed about the present situation. The second question is on other resolutions. My delegation feels that IFAD, due to its activity, purpose and importance in international support for agriculture and rural development in developing countries, deserves a particular and specific resolution so whatever may appear in other resolutions does not require any changes in our attitude and even strengthens our position and our feelings that one resolution on IFAD replenishment is needed as such.

Thirdly, I am very thankful to the distinguished delegate of the Netherlands. He has explained exactly what we had in mind because we wanted to get more sponsors for this resolution in such a way as to express the kind of consensus and unity of views of this Commission and the full Conference.

The facts being such as they are, I beg your indulgence for making the first proposal and I also thank you for giving us the opportunity to make public consultations instead of private ones. This discussion has served the purpose of postponement and I withdraw my proposal to postpone the adoption or discussion of this resolution until Monday.

SYED HASSAN AHMED (Bangladesh) : We are happy that this difference has been resolved because IFAD is one of the most important organizations instrumental in helping poor countries to increase their food production. Bangladesh is at the moment engaged in what we call the green revolution and we need the full support of such institutions to make our efforts successful. We strongly believe that IFAD's resources need immediate replenishment and we very strongly endorse the resolution.

DATUK AHMAD YUNUS (Malaysia): In view of the clarification given by the distinguished delegate of Yugoslavia the Malaysian delegation joins the other delegations in expressing its support for the draft resolution on the replenishment of IFAD resources as it stands, in view of the important role that IFAD has been playing until now.

WU TIAN XI (China): (Original language Chinese): The replenishment of the fund of IFAD would certainly be beneficial for rural development and agricultural production in developing countries. Therefore this delegation would like to express our support for this draft resolution.

A. B. RAMADAN (Libya) (Original language Arabic): As you know Libya is one of the OPEC countries amongst the OPEC countries which has contributed to IFAD and in fact the OPEC countries have always taken a positive stand in negotiations and vis-à-vis IFAD activities. We are intent upon seeing the fund continue to be active. Negotiations are currently under way and we hope that positive results will be obtained in the near future. Therefore, we are convinced that this resolution will help us achieve a positive result.

S. MURTZA (Pakistan): Now that the delegation of Yugoslavia has let us know their final views we consider that we should support this resolution which we do, as we consider IFAD the only effective world funding organization which exclusively supports agricultural development and as such it needs all the support that we can provide to it, so that its resources are replenished and it can continue in its particular aims.

G. M. AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): We are convinced that IFAD plays a very important part in rural development and agriculture in developing countries as we also believe that it shall play a vital role in implementing our future programmes. Sudan firmly supports the constructive and meaningful draft resolution submitted by Yugoslavia in its present form. We also wish to thank the Yugoslav delegation for withdrawing its proposal to postpone the discussion of this item.

R. GARCELL (Cuba) : Una vez aclarada por la distinguida delegación de Yugoslavia cuál era la causa de su inicial propuesta, nuestra delegación desea expresar su más firme apoyo a esta resolución en favor de la reposición de los recursos del FIDA.

El FIDA en sus pocos años de vida ha demostrado ser un importante organismo financiero de las Naciones Unidas en favor de nuestros países. El FIDA ha demostrado también ser capaz de poder continuar adelante para alcanzar sus objetivos y ello lo demuestra el gran numero de proyectos aprobados en solamente tres años y la amplia esfera que ellos abarcan.

Ante esta situación, es necesario el máximo esfuerzo para lograr la continuidad del Fondo y para garantizar sus recursos financieros por un nuevo período.

P. S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): As the United Kingdom is the convener of the Category I members of IFAD may I be permitted to say that we greatly welcome and support the resolution now before us. Category I has taken a positive and constructive role throughout the discussions which have taken place on the replenishment of IFAD resources since the resolution was adopted at the last meeting of the IFAD Governing Council. We also recognize and appreciate the cooperative spirit in which the members of Category II have also approached the replenishment, as was evidenced most recently by the discussions which took place between representatives of both categories towards the end of September. We also appreciate the increasing number of Category III members who are contributing to the resources of the Fund. Thus we in Category I have confidence that the steps new needed to reach a common agreement on the replenishment will be taken in the near future and that the procedures then necessary to give legal effect to the replenishment will follow thereafter as soon as possible so that IFAD can continue its important work in the fields of agriculture and rural development.

A. M. S. AL NAKIB (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic): The delegation of Kuwait approves the replenishment of the Fund resources because this Fund plays a very important part in respect of agricultural development, especially in regard to developing countries.

M. MARANGOUDAKIS (Greece): After the explanations which have been given by the delegate of Yugoslavia my delegation supports the resolution of replenishment and would like to remind the Conference that my country has supported the resolution for the replenishment of IFAD from the very beginning-that was during the Conference which took place in Athens in September 1980.

Miss R. C. ELARD (Syria)(Original language Arabic): Given the importance of the IFAD-supported projects and the importance of the rural sector, which has been specifically assisted by IFAD and which is a particular sector in the developing countries, I should like strongly to support the draft Resolution dealing with the replenishment of IFAD resources.

A. SAISSI (Maroc): Maintenant que le débat est ouvert sur cette question, après que le délégué de la Yougoslavie a retiré sa remarque, ma délégation considère que la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA est opportune, nécessaire et urgente, en raison de l'intérêt, de la valeur et de la portée des interventions intrinsèques de cet important organisme qu'est le FIDA dans le domaine du développement rural et agricole.

Nous savons que cet organisme de financement est le seul organisme du système des Nations Unies à se consacrer entièrement au financement des actions de développement agricole et rural et nous savons combien les pays en développement notamment ont besoin de ressources de financement pour amorcer la relance de leur développement. Nous nous réjouissons aussi de l'étroite collaboration entre la FAO et le FIDA. Nous ne pouvons donc que soutenir fermement la résolution qui nous est soumise et nous nous permettons d'ajouter notre nom à la liste des co-auteurs de cette résolution.

H. A. LAM (Mauritanie): La Mauritanie appuie fermement la résolution sur la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA. La Mauritanie ne peut qu'appuyer toute résolution tendant à renforcer la capacité financière du FIDA car le FIDA a apporté une contribution appréciable au financement des projets agricoles en Mauritanie. Renforcer la capacité financière du FIDA signifie pour nous avoir un support solide pour la production agricole et la stratégie de développement dans le secteur rural.

J. P. WARNIMONT (Belgique): Ma délégation souhaite appuyer le projet de résolution qui nous est présenté sous ce point de l'Ordre du jour. Mon pays est en effet d'avis qu'il importe d'agir d'urgence pour arriver à un accord définitif et rapide sur la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA,

M. C. DIALLO (Guinée): Comme le précise le par. 3 du projet de résolution, le FIDA est le seul organisme de financement du système des Nations Unies entièrement destiné à aider au financement de projets de développement agricole et rural et la souplesse de son intervention a pu être constatée au cours des quelques années de son activité. Ma délégation se demande comment nous pourrions réaliser tous les programmes que nous nous préparons à adopter à la fin des travaux de notre Conférence si nous devons laisser cette institution sans ressources. La coopération qui existe entre le FIDA et la FAO est un garant de l'expérience des interventions correctes de cette institution dans les programmes de développement des pays en voie de développement. C'est pour toutes ces raisons que nous nous associons aux autres délégations pour soutenir fermement le projet de résolution qui nous a été présenté sur la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA.

A. L. MACHADO DE MORAES (Brazil):The Brazilian delegation fully supports this draft Resolution. We are glad to note that IFAD is working in cooperation with FAO and we believe this cooperation should increase. My delegation is glad to announce that it not only supports this draft Resolution but also that my country is taking an active part in the effort to replenish the IFAD resources.

M. S. CUADRA (Nicaragua): La delegación de Nicaragua desea expresar aquí su apoyo al proyecto de resolución presentado por el distinguido representante de Yugoslavia.

En relación con este tema, me complace en manifestar que los dos años de lucha por el desarrollo agropecuario que lleva nuestra revolución se han visto apoyados decididamente por la acción del FIDA, y precisamente una misión de este organismo acaba de regresar de nuestro país.

Por consiguiente, consideramos de suma importancia sostener este Fondo. Y repito, por tanto, que el proyecto de resolución, así como el FIDA en sí mismo, contara siempre con el más firme apoyo de nuestro país.

A. A. MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je ne voudrais pas que l'on comprenne que le Liban s'oppose à cette résolution.

Néanmoins nous pensions remettre à plus tard la discussion de ce projet de résolution dans l'espoir de parvenir à une résolution similaire. Mais étant donné que la majorité des délégations appuie le projet de résolution, la délégation du Liban ne voit pas d'objection à l'appuyer également.

I. OUMAROU (Niger): Mon pays ne peut qu'appuyer fermement une telle résolution. Le rôle du FIDA est connu et apprécié de nous tous, je souhaite simplement que cette résolution ait une suite rapide et ne soit pas lettre morte comme beaucoup de résolutions adoptées auparavant.

O. M. SELIKANE (Lesotho): We wholeheartedly support the draft Resolution.

A. K. OSUBAN (Uganda): I just want to put it on record that the Uganda delegation supports this draft Resolution wholeheartedly.

H. HAMMAD (Jordan) (original language-Arabic): The Fund we are now discussing is one of the corner stones of the advancement of rural and agricultural development in many countries. That is why we should like to support the draft Resolution on the replenishment of IFAD resources, so that IFAD can assure the important role of rural and agricultural development in developing countries.

W. E. ADERO (Kenya): Considering the important role, as stated in the draft Resolution, that IFAD plays in food production and rural development, my delegation also supports the draft Resolution.

Ms. G. F. OLUWASANMI (Nigeria): We are co-sponsors of the draft Resolution, so of course we wholeheartedly support it.

SAAD NASRI (Algérie): Je voudrais dire également que ma délégation soutient pleinement et fermement le projet de résolution qui est soumis à notre examen et portant reconstitution des ressources du Fonds international pour le développement agricole.

H. HAUSER (Austria) (original language-German): My delegation knows how important IFAD is for financing agricultural development and food production in developing countries and how important it is to invest capital for agriculture. We have noted with great satisfaction that even closer cooperation between FAO and IFAD is planned. The Austrian delegation, like many other delegations, is able to support the draft Resolution of Yugoslavia concerning the replenishment of IFAD resources.

A. KOUKA (Congo): La République populaire du Congo apporte son soutien au projet de résolution sur la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA. En effet, cet organisme s'est révélé dès ses premières années comme l'une des institutions les plus efficaces dans le concours qu'il apporte aux pays en développement dans la solution du problème alimentaire des pays déficitaires; c'est pourquoi non seulement nous appuyons cette résolution mais demandons à en être co-auteur.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): I am afraid I am bothering this body too much with my interventions, but that is life. I would like to inform the Commission that one of the four original co-sponsors has announced that it is not in a position to remain a co-sponsor of the draft Resolution, and that, among other reasons, was why I asked for postponement of this discussion, since Venezuela does not wish to appear as a co-sponsor, although they inform us that they fully support the draft Resolution.

W. R. D. NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka): The Sri Lanka delegation, too, wishes to join other delegations in strongly supporting this draft Resolution. Our country has embarked on several agricultural development programmes and the replenishment of the IFAD resources will certainly strengthen the agricultural programmes of the developing countries.

M. NANGUY (Cote-d'Ivoire): Le développement agricole a besoin de soutien financier; le rôle du FIDA à ce sujet est très important et évident. La délégation de la Côte-d'Ivoire ne peut que soutenir cette résolution.

J. J. PEREIRA REIS, Jr. (Portugal): Ma délégation appuie cette résolution sur la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA qui joue un rôle important dans l'aide au financement des projets de développement agricole et qui permettra d'appuyer les efforts en vue d'obtenir l'amélioration de la production alimentaire en collaboration avec la FAO.

P. N. RANA (Nepal): My delegation would like to wholeheartedly support the draft resolution dealing with the replenishment of IFAD resources. We do so, bearing in mind especially the Small Farmers Project in our country. These small farmers form the majority, and any assistance given to them is very important.

LE PRESIDENT: Ainsi se termine ma liste des intervenants. Compte tenu de tout ce que s'est dit au cours de cette discussion, de ces débats, il se dégage nettement que notre Commission appuie entièrement la résolution telle qu'elle est présentée ici.

Si vous êtes d'accord, nous pouvons considérer que cette résolution est adoptée . . . Oui? . . .

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Je crois qu'avec ce point, puisque nous n'avons qu'un point à l'ordre du jour, nous pouvons considérer que notre réunion de ce jour est terminée. Je voudrais signaler que nous nous retrouverons ici lundi matin à 9 h 30 pour adopter notre rapport et également pour considérer la seconde résolution qui concerne les projets forestiers. Ensuite, je dois signaler à l'intention des membres du Comité de rédaction que ce Comité se réunit immédiatement après cette séance pour poursuivre ses travaux dans la Salle de l'Allemagne.

The meeting rose at 10. 45 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 10. 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 81/I/PV/16

Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SIXTEENTH MEETING SEIZIEME SEANCE 16ª SESION

(23 November 1981)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 10. 05 hours,
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La seizième seance est ouverte à 10 h 05, sous
la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 16ª sesión a las 10. 05 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET QUESTIONS DE POLITIQUE EN
MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y
LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)
- 8. Energy in agriculture and rural development (continued)
- 8. Energie en agriculture et développement rural (suite)
- 8. La energía en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural (continuación)
- Draft resolution Key Role of Forestry in Rural Development and its Long-term Aspects
- Projet de résolution sur le rôle décisif de la foresterie dans le développement rural dans l'immédiat et à long terme
- Proyecto de resolución sobre la importancia esencial de la silvicultura para el desarrollo rural y sus aspectos a largo plazo

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons commencer par la résolution. Il s'agit de la résolution sur le rôle décisif de la forêt dans le développement rural dans l'immédiat et à long terme. Cette résolution nous est présentée sous la cote C 81/LIM/32. Cette résolution a été présentée par les délégations du Canada, de la Côte-d'Ivoire, de l'Indonésie, de la Norvège, des Pays-Bas et de la Zambie. Elle est soumise à la Commission afin d'être discutée. Le débat est ouvert sur cette résolution et nous donnerons la parole à qui la demandera.

H. K. SEIP (Norway): During the debate on energy questions last week Zambia announced that the resolution on the role of forestry was coming up. As Zambia is not present here at the moment, Norway would like, as one of the sponsors, to present to you a proposal for a resolution on the key role of forestry in rural development and its long-term aspects. A group of interested delegates, mainly foresters, found that more emphasis had been put on forestry in this Conference than before, and thought that this interest should be marked by a resolution. The text before you is the result of that discussion and it is my hope that there will be consensus about a text along these lines.

D. R. SHARMA (Nepal): The resolution in front of us we feel is very timely and my delegation feels that this is of very considerable importance, especially in the context of the developing countries with better forest potentialities. We in Nepal have a saying that the green forest of Nepal is the wealth of our nation, which was very true till the last decade. Because of the ever growing population and other factors the forest wealth is being lost and its effect is very strongly felt. If I may be allowed to say so nowhere else in the world is forestry more important than in Nepal. The world's largest forestry area, the Himalayas are in Nepal needing protection against ecological and environmental damage. We also have a predominantly rural population dependent on the forest for food, for timber, for raw materials, for smaller household industry, fuelwood and what have you. The twofold emphasis in the resolution on environmental aspects and on forestry for rural development is well placed. These should be the cornerstones of any forestry policy. Therefore the Nepal Delegation fully supports the resolution on the key role of forestry in rural development and its long-term aspects.

H. MAURIA (Finland): During this Conference all the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland and Norway, who just introduced the resolution, and Sweden have noted with satisfaction that the significance of forests for development, particularly for rural development has been widely recognized by a great number of delegates in their statements. As far as we can see forestry has never before in an FAO Conference met with such strong support as during this Conference. As traditional forestry countries, and having experience since long ago of the potentialities of the forests when building up the national economic and social welfare, the Nordic countries welcome sincerely the fundamental approval forestry has received at this Conference. We consider it an indication of the key role of forestry in rural development.

The implementation of the political will in member countries regarding the various functions of the forests so that forestry can be taken into account as an integral part of national and rural development activities is a complex task.

We want to draw attention here to only one particular forestry aspect which should be understood by the respective decision makers at governmental and rural administrative levels, namely, the need for long-term planning and management of forestry. This aspect is duly brought into the draft resolution.

On behalf of the Nordic countries I wish to confirm our full support for the draft Resolution.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): Our delegation is in general support of this draft Resolution. We would, however, like to suggest some minor modifications which we think would lend clarity and improve the present form of the draft Resolution.

Our suggestion is that in the last preambular paragraph, which starts "Recognizing the leading role of FAO. . . ", we should add the words "within the United Nations system".

We would also suggest that there might be introduced in the same line, after the words "in forestry", the words "and primary forestry industries", indicating the relationship between forestry and the employment potential of forestry for rural development. The paragraph would then read:

"Recognizing the leading role of FAO within the United Nations system in forestry and primary forest industries and rural development. "

Our second suggestion relates to operative paragraph 1 which "calls upon governments to take into account the key role of forestry. . . ". We would agree with the election of the words within brackets and the acceptance of the phrase which is underlined. That is not so much a change as an indication of agreement with the proposal in the draft Resolution as we understand it.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que vous avez noté la suggestion des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, il s'agit du dernier "Reconnaissant", après "Reconnaissant le rôle pilote qui incombe à la FAO", les Etats-Unis proposent qu'on ajoute: ". . . dans le système des Etats-Unis", et pour le mot "foresterie" ils proposent qu'on le remplace par: "industries forestières primaires". Ce sont là des suggestions. Les délégués qui veulent intervenir pourront dire s'ils sont d'accord ou non.

S. P. MUKERJI (India): My delegation fully supports the draft resolution on forestry in rural development. Our Prime Minister is particularly keen on the protection and conservation of forests in our country, which, unfortunately, today accounts for less than the fifty per cent of the geographical area of ecology and agriculture. You will be glad to know that the Central Government in India has put a ban on the conversion of forest areas to non-forest purposes except with the permission of the Central Government, because we feel that with the increasing pressure of population on land there is a tendency on the part of the various State and Provincial Governments to take the soft option of cutting down the forests and increasing the area under cultivation. Instead of trying to do multiple croppings and increasing the yield per hectare, the general tendency is to enclose the forest area and do cultivation.

We also have recognized very deeply that afforestation has a very important role to play so far as soil conservation is concerned and with deforestation going on in the Himalayan region the frequency of floods in the riparian basins has increased.

We have also recognized that forests provide a habitat for a number of species of animals and birds, and it will be a sad day if forests are lost and the habitats of these important species is lost along with them. The primary importance of afforestation is in the supply of fuel wood and it is said that there may come a time, if we are not careful, when we will have enough food after cultivation but no fuel to cook that food; therefore the primary importance of social forestry in the rural setting is being recognized and extended with all the vigour and energy at our command in our country and social forestry has become one of the main plans of rural development. My delegation is very glad that the involvement of the rural population in afforestation has been indicated in this draft Resolution.

My delegation fully agrees with the delegate of the United States that in the first substantive paragraph the portion which is underlined should be substituted for the phrase within brackets so that the paragraph would read:

"Calls upon Governments to take into account the key role of forestry in rural development and to devise and pursue policies to preserve the environmental and ecological heritage, so that the resources of nature are handed down to posterity;"

We fully agree with the United States that the underlined portion should be retained and as regards the other suggestion by the United States we have no objection to the sentence being amplified by adding "within the United Nations system".

As regards forestry industries, I thought "forestry" was a comprehensive term and that industries based on forestry could easily be included within the existing wording.

J. SCHERER (Federal Republic of Germany) (Original language German): My delegation shares the opinion expressed that forestry is of great importance for rural development. The German delegation has already stated in Plenary that there is a serious danger if the destruction of forests continues without reafforestation. That might entail a sort of general desertification. Furthermore, that could have the effect of considerably disturbing the ecological balance.

The Federal Republic of Germany is ready to give more substantial development aid in the field of forestry. My delegation therefore supports the text with the deletion of the words within brackets.

Furthermore, my delegation has no difficulty in accepting the suggestions made by the delegation of the United States.

Mrs. G. SOTO (Cuba): La delegación cubana apoya la Resolución sobre la importancia esencial de la silvicultura para el desarrollo rural y sus aspectos a corto y largo plazo.

El gobierno de Cuba tiene muy en cuenta la importancia esencial de la silvicultura para la ordenación de las zonas rurales y, en general, para el desarrollo rural analizado de manera integral, y está desarrollando políticas nacionales destinadas a conservar el patrimonio ambiental y ecológico, especialmente a través de la conservación de los bosques. En esta tarea tan importante contamos también con la ayuda de la FAO.

Teniendo en cuenta la importancia que tiene el desarrollo de la silvicultura para todos los países subdesarrollados, especialmente para las comunidades que se ven afectadas por la falta de los grandes beneficios que proporcionan los bosques tanto desde el punto de vista socioeconómico como del desarrollo rural en general, mi delegación considera muy pertinente la aprobación de la Resolución que analizamos en el documento C 81/LIM/32. Sin embargo, Sr. Presidente, tengo una duda con relación a algunos planteamientos que se han hecho en el debate.

En realidad, yo no soy especialista en silvicultura, y quisiera que se me aclarara si las industrias primarias quedan comprendidas dentro de la silvicultura en general. Por lo demás, mi delegación repito apoya la resolución que estamos analizando.

R. ROSE (Canada): As you know, Mr. Chairman, Canada is one of the sponsors of this draft resolution. The Canadian delegation very much supports the philosophy behind the draft resolution and the change in the first operative paragraph proposed by the Resolutions Committee. One of the objectives of the draft resolution is to integrate the role of forestry more closely into the rural development process in all its aspects, recognising the job-creation role, the infrastructural development that results from forestry activities, and so on. We therefore also support the proposed changes suggested by the delegation of the United States of America.

S. SUNAGA (Japan): My delegation, like the previous speakers, fully supports this resolution as modified by the delegate of the United States.

J. ROWINSKI (Poland): This is a very fine resolution, of importance not only for the developing countries but also for the developed ones. Poland would be very glad to have an opportunity to co-sponsor this resolution.

We think that the amendments proposed by the delegate of the United States clarify the text, and also that, in the first operational paragraph, the text in brackets should be deleted.

S. HEIDSMA (Netherlands): As one of the co-sponsors of this resolution, we can fully support the text. The improvements made by the resolutions Committee seem to make the text much clearer. As far as the amendments proposed by the delegate of the United States are concerned, we can support them although we feel that the addition of the phrase "primary forest industries" does not seem to be absolutely necessary. We do not however object to it.

I. OUMAROU (Niger): Cette résolution vient à point nommé car le problème de foresterie se pose avec acuité dans mon pays à telle enseigne que le bois de chauffe devient un problème. Avec la sécheresse que connaît le Sahel, la désertification menace le Niger. Le texte souligne bien les problèmes. La délégation du Niger donne son appui ferme à cette résolution et accepte la proposition des Etats-Unis.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): La délégation congolaise s'associe aux autres délégations qui ont bien voulu soutenir le projet de résolution sur le rôle décisif de la foresterie dans le développement rural dans l'immédiat et a long terme.

La République populaire du Congo, dont 60 pour cent de sa superficie est occupée par les forêts, estime que les dispositions prises dans cette résolution rencontrent en plusieurs points notre politique d'exploitation des ressources forestières.

Quant aux amendements de la délégation américaine, nous disons qu'ils sont exacts mais il faut en outre noter que ceux-ci n'influent pas sur le fond de la résolution.

S. SABER (Iraq)(Original language Arabic): The northern area of Iraq has been known for a long time as an area covered by forests. This was a rural part of the country, which represented important resources in terms of livestock and rich soil. This area also supplied the country with fuel wood, and that is why the 1981/85 Plan accorded great importance to the question of forestry conservation. We therefore firmly support this Resolution, and also the suggestion that we should delete the words in brackets in paragraph 1.

Srta. Z. KARAM DUAI (Venezuela): Señor Presidente: mi delegación apoya el texto del proyecto de resolución sobre la silvicultura para el desarrollo rural y propondría una modificación en la última frase del punto 1, si es posible ya a estas alturas. Donde dice "que los recursos de la naturaleza", en ese mismo párrafo diríamos "que los recursos naturales puedan ser utilizados sabiamente por la generación actual", a fin de que se transmitan a la posteridad". Creo que es una redacción un poco más apropiada.

H. MOHAMADI BATAIK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): My delegation has emphasized the importance of forestry for the agricultural and integrated rural development, and also the need to survey forestry resources and the distribution of the different types and species of trees. My delegation would like to stress the need of prohibiting the excessive use of trees for fuel wood because this is incompatible with natural and industrial afforestation. Therefore my delegation has requested the FAO and the other bodies concerned to help the Sudan and other developing countries in order to survey forests and the ecosystem in order to provide food for this generation and future generations. Thus my delegation fully supports this draft Resolution with the amendment which has been suggested by the delegate of the United States. At the same time, my delegation supports the drafting amendment submitted by the delegate of Venezuela.

M. S. CUADRA (Nicaragua): Señor Presidente: Nuestro país es un país con grandes recursos forestales, que durante más de 40 años de dominación fueron saqueados por compañías que jamás se preocuparon por su conservación y renovación, causando esto un gran daño a nuestra economía. Nuestro Gobierno revolucionario, teniendo como una de sus principales metas racionales la explotación de nuestros recursos naturales en beneficio de nuestro pueblo, se ha impuesto la tarea de impulsar los programas que permitan lograr los objetivos antes mencionados.

Reconocemos la enorme importancia de la silvicultura para el desarrollo rural, así como el papel que la FAO ha jugado en esta área. La delegación de Nicaragua desea, por tanto, apoyar la resolución que hoy discutimos y no tiene ningún inconveniente en adoptar la enmienda propuesta por la delegación de Venezuela.

W. E. ADERO (Kenya): My delegation supports the Resolution on the key role of forestry in rural development and its long-term aspects. My delegation also agrees with the Drafting Committee's suggestion that the words contained in brackets be deleted, and we have no difficulty in supporting the amendment suggested by the delegate of the United States.

M. MARANGOUDAKIS (Greece): My delegation, recognizing the key role of forestry in rural development and its long-term aspects, fully supports this Resolution. My delegation further agrees with the other delegations concerning the deletion of the words contained in the square brackets, and accepts the amendment proposed by the delegate of the United States.

Miss N. RAYEL (Ireland): My delegation joins with other delegations in supporting this Resolution, together with the amendments proposed by the delegates of the United States and Venezuela-although I do wonder at the necessity of including the phrase "primary forest industries":surely the word "forestry" covers all forestry industries.

J. DUBE (Swaziland): Recognizing the importance of forestry in Swaziland and in the Third World as a whole, my delegation attaches very great importance of adopting this Resolution before us. My delegation also has no problem in accepting the amendment suggested by the delegate of the United States, except that we also do not see much necessity for the addition of the last change involving the words "primary forest industries". We also accept the suggestion of the delegate of Venezuela.

J. B. JACKMAN (New Zealand): My delegation supports the general theme of this Resolution, and supports the amendment proposed by the delegate of the United States. We particularly support the inclusion of the words "primary forest industries", which has been questioned by some delegations, on the grounds that it has the added value that accrues at the later stages of processing, which is a very large proportion of the eventual value of forest products which go into manufacturing uses. For this reason we think it would be a very good idea to retain that particular component, because it focuses on this aspect of forestry.

Referring to the very first paragraph of this Resolution, we also think it would be perhaps advantageous to give it a little bit more weight by specifying some more of the functions which forests fulfill. These include such things as shelter, land stabilization, water quality enhancement-and are also of course forest ecological reserves. We feel that this particular key paragraph in the Resolution would have more impact on the people at whom it is directed if there was a broadening of the functions which are specified here.

Therefore I would propose the addition, after "building materials", of the words "shelter, land stabilization, water quality enhancement, and forest ecological reserves".

LE PRESIDENT: Avec l'intervention du délégué de la Nouvelle-Zélande s'achève ma liste des intervenants sur cette question. Je crois qu'il y a un certain nombre de décisions que nous pourrions obtenir du Sous-directeur général, chef du Département de la foresterie, notamment des précisions concernant "l'industrie forestière primaire" à côté de "foresterie". Je crois que cette question étant technique, nous pouvons faire confiance à M. Rodas pour nous éclairer à ce sujet; il y a également un certain nombre de précisions qui ont été apportées et sur lesquelles, me semble-t-il, tout le monde ici est d'accord.

M. A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Señor Presidente: El distinguido delegado de Nueva Zelandia creo que dio una definición clara de la idea de por qué la importancia de incluir el término "industrias forestales primarias". Además, yo quisiera agregar que, dentro de lo que se habla del papel de líder que tiene la FAO dentro de la familia de Naciones Unidas, es impor tante mencionar "industrias forestales primarias", ya que existe otra Organización de Naciones Unidas que tiene que ver con la llamada industria forestal secundaria; es decir, fabricación de muebles, elementos de construcción, etc. etc. Pero el objetivo principal, aunque dentro del término general de la ciencia forestal, que incluye por definición la industria forestal, no necesariamente debe incluirse en los conceptos en general de uso diario. Por esta razón y considerando, como decía la distinguida delegada de Nueva Zelandia, que la industria primaria es aquella que tiene relaciones, primero, directas sobre el recurso forestal y su ordenación y persistencia; y segundo, que es la que tiene importancia directa sobre el desarrollo rural en las industrias rurales y cualquier otro tipo de industria que aplique directamente al recurso forestal.

Creo que al momento de aislarse y resaltar la capacidad de la industria primaria como fuente básica de empleo y fuente básica de producción de beneficio del recurso a la industria, estamos aceptando la definición y el concepto dado por la distinguida delegada de Venezuela en el uso sabio y correcto del recurso en beneficio de las generaciones futuras.

De otra parte, señor Presidente, si no se incluyeran las industrias primarias, volveríamos al punto de qué va a vivir la gente rural. No existiría fundamento alguno de rentas y empleo para las personas rurales del bosque y produciría, por lo tanto, la desaparición del bosque al momento de que éste no signifique ninguna renta para ellos mismos.

No sé si con esto, señor Presidente, he aclarado un poco las dudas de la distinguida representante de Venezuela.

LE PRESIDENT : M. Rodas, le spécialiste, nous a éclairés sur ces différents points et je pense effectivement que, compte tenu du fait qu'il n'y a pas eu d'opposition systématique sur ces termes, -mais ceux qui avaient posé la question l'avaient posée pour obtenir une clarification-nous pouvons donc considérer que cela a été adopté. Tous les ajouts ont été faits ici dans l'esprit de clarifier notre texte et nous pouvons admettre que le texte corrigé de cette manière peut maintenant être adopté au niveau de notre Commission.

S'il n'y pas d'objection, nous pouvons considérer que notre résolution est adoptée.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

LE PRESIDENT : Après l'adoption de cette résolution nous arrivons donc à d'autres points de notre ordre du jour concernant l'adoption de notre rapport.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Thank you for giving me the floor. As you all realize the Drafting Committee comprises the following countries: Malaysia, Australia, France, India, Lesotho, Mexico, Trinidad, Tobago, USA, Venezuela, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia. The Drafting Committee under my tuition, began work on the 17 November and completed our work at 7. 30 p. m. on Friday, 20 November. Although there have been intense discussions on several points and issues we have never theless come to a consensus on almost all points as reflected in the report. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Drafting Committee for their cooperation and hard work and understanding, and also to thank the Secretariat for their assistance throughout the deliberations of the Drafting Committee. The Draft Report of Commission I C 81/I/REP/1, C 81/I/REP/2 and C 81/I/REP/3 in which the Drafting Committee reflects the deliberations and the opinions of the Commission this year presents this to you for its consideration and approval.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais inviter les membres de la Commission à prendre le REP/1. Nous allons le passer en revue paragraphe par paragraphe.

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I-PART 1

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I-PARTIE 1

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I-PARTE 1

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 33

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 33

PARRAFOS 1 a 33

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba):Párrafo 3: posiblemente se trate de una cuestión del idioma español. La última oración comienza: "Los países de bajos ingresos, . . . en particular tenían capacidad limitada para enfrentar esos problemas". Y dice "así es que eran más vulnerables". A nosotros nos parece que quedaría más elegante en español diciendo: "siendo por consiguiente más vulnerables".

LE PRESIDENT:C'est un petit amendement. Je pense que le Secretariat l'a noté. Il s'agit seulement du texte espagnol. Y a-t-il d'autres interventions? Bien. Ce paragraphe est adopté avec un léger amendement concernant le texte espagnol.

J. DUBE (Swaziland): I am going to comment a little bit on paragraph 4. I think it is a typographical error on the second line of paragraph 4, where it says "equally be" it should be "by".

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba):Del párrafo 5, la última oración, que comienza:"Diversos miembros señalaron la gran cantidad de alimentos que se perdían, etc. , etc. " A nosotros nos parece que sería más real si se dijera: "Se señaló la gran cantidad . . . ", que nos da una idea un poco más de amplitud. O sea que la propia Comisión señalola gran cantidad de alimentos que se perdían después de la cosecha. ¿Está claro?

LE PRESIDENT:Vous avez entendu l'amendement de Mme le délégué de Cuba. Y a-t-il d'autres objections?

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): En el párrafo 6, sin embargo, se nos dice que la Conferencia expresó su satisfacción por la importancia de la cumbre de Cancún. En realidad, según las notas que yo tengo, fueron algunos delegados los que expresaron su satisfacción por la importancia, etc. , etc. , de la cumbre en Cancún. Otros delegados, inclusive en la Plenaria, calificaron la cumbre de Cancún como un rotundo fracaso. Yo no tengo preparado texto alguno, pero me preocupa que este párrafo en realidad no refleje bien lo que sucedió en la Comisión.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres façons de voir le problème? Pas d'interventions?

R. E. STENSHOLT (Australia): When we were discussing paragraph 6 in the Drafting Committee I do recall, as does my Cuban colleague, that there were various views put on the results of the summit, but I cannot remember anyone saying about the importance attached to the measures regarding world agricultural development and world food security given in that summit or anyone expressing disagreement with that. In fact, I think the opposite was the case. Again and again people referred to the paragraphs in the co-Chairman's summary and said how important they were.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, yo solamente quería que se analizara un poco más el párrafo y que reflejara exactamente lo que sucedió en el Plenario. Esa era mi preocupación. Por lo demás estoy de acuerdo.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat a pris note et va améliorer le texte du paragraphe 6 pour en rendre fidèlement compte. Etes-vous d'accord?

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Yo podría estar de acuerdo, si ese párrafo expresara mejor lo que exactamente sucedió. Repito que no tengo ahora un texto que ofrecer; pero desde luego tenemos plena confianza en lo que sucedió en el Comité de Redacción y reconocemos su competencia. No tenemos pues ninguna objeción que hacer con el trabajo de ese Comité.

LE PRESIDENT: Donc paragraphe 6 est approuvé.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): El párrafo 7, que en realidad es un párrafo muy corto, dice: "Se lamentó en general la persistente falta, etc. , etc. " Nosotros propondríamos se dijera: "La Conferencia lamentó la persistente falta, etc. , etc. "

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): This subject as well was discussed at considerable length in the Drafting Committee. The present wording, we believe, reflects both the tenor of the discussion in the plenary sessions of Commission I and the results of the Drafting Committee's consideration of this particular subject and we would very much prefer to leave the wording as it is drafted.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Yo creo que la discusión ésta no es un problema de preferencias. Creo mejor que es un problema de expresar en realidad lo que sucedió y por otra parte que este documento sea un documento fuerte, que no sea un documento inferior a otros documentos de Conferencias de la FAO celebradas en períodos anteriores.

En realidad, yo repito que admiro el trabajo del Comité de Redacción, sé que es un trabajo arduo el que tiene, un trabajo de muchas horas, inclusive para ponerse de acuerdo en una sola palabra; pero, si vamos a hablar de preferencias, mi delegación preferiría que se dijera: "La Conferencia lamentó la persistente falta, etc. , etc. ".

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would also like to say that the general feeling of the Drafting Committee was to be more indirect. It is the expression "The continuing absence of a consensus" which was the Conference itself. It was the feeling of the Drafting Committee. Now if there is a different view this would have to be discussed further.

LE PRESIDENT: Puisqu'il n'y a pas d'autres avis, je vais demander à Mme le délégué de Cuba si nous pouvons avancer avec ce texte et en terminer?

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Sí, señor Presidente; si el deseo de la Comisión es seguir adelante con ese texto, podemos continuar. Pero repito que mi delegación preferiría se dijera: "La Conferencia . . . "; pero no vamos a hacer de esto un gran problema.

LE PRESIDENT: Adopté. Paragraphe 8:

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I suggest that in line 7 (of the English text) in the sentence which starts "In some countries this may call for review of strategies, plans and programmes for food production. . . " the following words should be added: "economic and population policies". I believe this is a question of the economic policy, the general framework of an economic policy of a given country, and for that reason, I would insert those two words "economic and population policies" and the text should then follow as it is.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des observations à ajouter? Adopté.

Paragraphe 9: Adopté.

Paragraphe 10: Adopté.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Sobre el párrafo 11, en el texto español me parece que se repite "tomo en cono cimiento el descenso considerable". Me parece que el texto en español se podría mejorar un poco más. No es cuestión de contenido, sino simplemente de forma de expresión; por lo que yo me ofrezco para pasar una nota al respecto.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat prendra note de votre nouveau texte. Y a-t-il d'autres interventions?

R. ROSE (Canada): My concern lies with the last sentence of paragraph 11. During the Commission I believe that many delegates spoke in support of the need certainly to support fertilizer requirements for the developing countries, not only through the IFS but also bilaterally. I would suggest that we insert a phrase following the word "support" so that the sentence would read: "It urged donors to support" then add: "fertilizer requirements in the developing countries, either bilaterally or in" then we would continue "the IFS. " This would recognize that donor countries have the option of either bilateral support or multilateral through the IFS.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a une proposition qui vient d'être faite par le délégué du Canada. Y a-t-il des objections? . .

G. SOTO (Cuba): El párrafo 12, Sr. Presidente, se refiere específicamente al mandato de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, y comienza diciendo "Muchos miembros hicieron hincapié". . .

Nosotros entendemos que debe decirse "La Conferencia hizo hincapié". . .

La palabra "paliar", en español no es apropiada en este caso. Puede entenderse por "aliviar", no por "eliminar". Por eso estimamos que el párrafo debe quedar en la siguiente forma: "La Conferencia hizo hincapié en el mandato de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural de eliminar la pobreza", etcétera. El resto del párrafo igual. El variar "hizo" en vez de "hicieron" es simplemente cuestión de concordancia.

En realidad, Sr. Presidente, se trata de un problema de traducción.

LE PRESIDENT: En effet, ce n'est pas un problème de traduction parce que dans le texte français c'est "soulager".

Pas d'objections? . .

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): To take them in order, paragraph 12. The Drafting Committee's version of this particular paragraph again I believe reflects the tenor of the discussion in the Commission itself better than the amendments proposed by the distinguished Delegate of Cuba. We should also take note of the extensive discussion of the subject in Commission II but we believe that it is accurate to say that many members emphasized the WCARRD mandate, not the Conference, and that it is entirely appropriate to use the words "alleviating poverty", since we do not find it within the WCARRD mandate to eliminate poverty. Thus we support paragraph 12 as it was drafted and approved by the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a deux avis, il convient à la Commission de les départager.

O. M. SELIKANE (Lesotho): We also would prefer that it should remain as it is because it does reflect the discussions. It was not everyone who emphasized, it was many members.

R. ROSE (Canada): I would agree with the intervention from Lesotho. I recall the discussions in the Conference and do not believe that it was at all a unanimous concern. I would support the paragraph as it was drafted by the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a un petit litige, faut-il mettre "la Conférence"? Je pense qu'on peut laisser "De nombreux membres", à moins que nous prenions une forme impersonnelle pour rendre cette phrase. Je vais passer la parole au président du Comité de rédaction.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : Maybe there is a way to wriggle out of this very small impasse. Maybe we could start the paragraph something like this: "Emphasis was generally placed on the WCARRD mandate in alleviating poverty" etc.

LE PRESIDENT: Que pensez-vous de cette proposition? . .

V. VOCILKA (Czechoslovakia): I would suggest that we leave, in the first sentence of paragraph 13, the word "some" because it would more reflect the discussion in our Commission and also in Commission TT. because it was limited here by the word "some". The first sentence "in some developing countries" not the developing countries in general leaving out the word "some".

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a une suggestion, qu'en pensent les autres membres de la Commission?

G. SOTO (Cuba): Estoy de acuerdo con la propuesta de Checoslovaquia, Sr. Presidente.

M. C. DIALLO (Guinée): Je n'étais pas au Comité de rédaction, mais je voudrais défendre le point de vue exprimé ici, c'est que nous sommes souvent noyés dans ces problèmes de réforme agraire et de développement rural; or il existe des pays en voie de développement, particulièrement dans la zone africaine ou le problème de la réforme agraire, dans le sens dans lequel il est posé en Asie et en Amérique latine, n'existe pas du tout. Maintenant je n'ai pas d'objection à ce qu'on l'étende, mais je pense que c'est dans cet esprit que la restriction a été faite.

J. NGOULOU (Congo): C'est un problème de terminologie; en effet dans les politiques de réforme agraire il est très souvent inclus les termes de "distribution des terres", or il s'agit ici dans le paragraphe 13 des termes "distribution des terres et la réforme agraire", est-ce que ce terme "distribution des terres" n'entre pas dans la terminologie de "réforme agraire"? C'est un point d'interrogation que je pose à la Commission.

CD. SANCHEZ-AVALOS (Argentina): Simplemente desearía proponer que se mantenga la redacción que fue elaborada por el Comité de Redacción. En primer término, porque es verdad que no todos los países en desarrollo requieren las medidas que se especifican a los efectos de aumentar la producción agrícola. Y, en segundo término, porque entre las decisiones que se adoptaron oportunamente en la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, la distribución de tierras tampoco fue considerada como una medida genérica y necesaria para la totalidad de los países en desarrollo.

C. de MELO (Brasil): Solamente para decir que mi delegación está de acuerdo con lo que ha dicho Argentina.

S. P. MUKERJI (India): My suggestions for this opening sentence are as follows. I would suggest that instead of the words "Land distribution and agrarian reform" the words "Agrarian and land reforms" would be a happier reflection of the general feelings in the various countries, especially when we are trying to make this formula inclusive of all developing countries. I think it would not be very proper to include the words "Land distribution" as a specific panacea for all developing countries because in certain developing countries where the pressure of population on land may not be very high it is not merely land distribution that is very germane but proper utilization of land and giving the right of cultivation to the land tiller would be more important than a blind distribution of all the land to all the people because there may be some people who do not have sufficient resources for cultivating the land given to them and as a result of that it is possible that in certain developing countries because of lack of resources the land may remain unutilized and production may suffer. In order to comprehend the problems of land-intensive areas as well as population-intensive areas it would be better to use the words "Agrarian and land reforms" instead of "Land distribution and agrarian reform". I feel "Land distribution" is too specific a focus which may not be relevant to all the developing countries so my suggestion would be that for the words "Land distribution and agrarian reform" the words "Agrarian and land reforms" should be inserted, which would comprehend all aspects including land distribution if that is valid in a certain area.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le délégué de l'Inde peut nous donner toute la phrase, la phrase complète de sa proposition?

S. P. MUKERJI (India): The sentence will read like this: "Agrarian and land reforms were seen as major vehicles for increasing agricultural production in the developing countries".

O. M. SELIKANE (Lesotho): What my colleague from India says is not the same as was said in the Drafting Committee but we do seem to recall that "distribution" was the one that was being used in the Committee during discussion and we would suggest that the sentence be left as it is after the explanation given by my colleague from Guinée and others.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Me disculpo porque en realidad tengo muy mala memoria. No estoy muy segura de si la palabra "utilización" también fue manejada aquí por varias delegaciones.

Tal vez sea preferible hacer mención no sólo a la distribución de la tierra sino también a su utilización debida, como planteaba el delegado de la India.

Me remitiría a los colegas que tienen mejor memoria: al Presidente de la Comisión de Redacción, al Presidente de la Comisión, al Sr. Islam, etcétera, a ver si efectivamente el párrafo debiera quedar como ha sugerido el delegado de la India.

ESHETU DEBABU (Ethiopia): We would also support retaining the paragraph as it is.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): En realidad, dentro de los países que no necesitan que esta Comisión les recomiende hacer la reforma agraria, está mi país; o sea, que desde el punto de vista particular no tendría ningún inconveniente en que quedara "para algunos países en desarrollo" o "en aquellos que necesiten hacer la reforma agraria"; porque nosotros, afortunadamente, ya la hemos hecho.

En cuanto a la utilización de vida de las tierras, sí nos parece que es un elemento importante porque, efectivamente, no basta con distribuir la tierra, no basta con que se les entregue un pedazo de tierra a los pequeños agricultores si esa tierra no es bien utilizada después.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense effectivement que les termes qui sont utilisés dans le texte tel qu'il est présenté ont été utilisés au cours de nos débats et je crois également que ce n'est pas applicable dans tous les pays en développement. Par conséquent, le terme "certains" peut être maintenu. Qu'en, pensent les délégués de la Tchécoslovaquie et de Cuba?

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I would suggest that in the second sentence of paragraph 14 four words should be added. It says: "A number of delegates drew attention to the problems posed in balancing rapid population growth with food supply; it was necessary to consider . . .". In the view of my delegation, it should be "and its raising incomes" with the food supply, since it is not only population growth Which has effects but also the raising of the incomes of the population, so in my view these words are needed in order to have a balance. On the other hand, the last sentence seems not to be drafted in a perfectly clear manner so probably some "scissoring" will be needed, which I leave in the hands of people who can express it much better in English than I can to find the proper words.

LE PRESIDENT: Il n'y a aucun inconvénient à inclure l'idée de la déléguée de Cuba pour la bonne utilisation des terres, je crois que cela a été exprimé au cours de nos débats et nous pouvons retenir cette idée-là. S'il n'y a plus d'interventions, nous pouvons considérer le paragraphe 13 comme adopté.

O. M. SELIKANE (Lesotho): Could the delegate of Yugoslavia read his amendment again, please?

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué de la Yougoslavie s'en remet en fait au Secrétariat pour proposer un texte.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): The second sentence would read:

"A number of delegates drew attention to the problems posed in balancing rapid population growth and its raising incomes with the food supply;"

The last sentence should be "scissored" in such a way as to make it clearer than it is now in expressing the view of this Commission. I leave that in the hands of the drafting Secretariat.

O. M. SELIKANE (Lesotho): I am now clear, thank you.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons considérer ce paragraphe 14 comme adopté avec l'amendement de la Yougoslavie. Le Secrétariat verra la meilleure forme à donner à ce texte.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Señor Presidente: Me parece que en realidad este Comité de Redacción ha sido muy estricto en cuanto a mencionar "decisiones de la Conferencia", cuando no han sido todos, absolutamente todos los delegados los que se han expresado, ya que me parece ridículo que se diga aquí "varios miembros" y no se diga "que la Conferencia destacó el Día Mundial de la Alimentación", cuando ésta en realidad es una reafirmación de una resolución de la Conferencia anterior. O sea, que mi propuesta concreta, la propuesta de mi delegación, es que se diga "la Conferencia destacó el Día Mundial de la Alimentación etc. , etc. ", aunque no hayan sido el cien por cien los delegados los que se expresaron con relación a este aspecto.

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): The delegate of Cuba is absolutely correct in pointing out that the Drafting Committee did seek to reflect the character of the discussion in the draft that it prepared. However, in view of the fact that it is my understanding that there is a corresponding Draft Resolution before Commission II regarding endorsement of World Food Day, it might be appropriate simply to delete this paragraph and substitute a paragraph that will emerge from Commission II after that Draft Resolution has been considered in that body and appropriately voted up or down,

M. C DIALLO (Guinée): Compte tenu de l'accord exprimé par le délégué des Etats-Unis à la déléguée de Cuba, j'estime que nous devrions accorder de l'importance à la suggestion qu'elle nous a faite. En fait, dans ce texte on a souvent tendance à faire des restrictions. Or, on ne peut pas affirmer, même au niveau de notre Commission, qu'il y ait eu consensus sur quelque programme que ce soit parce qu'il y a eu pendant nos débats des délégations absentes. Donc, comme nous le disons ici, ce serait "certains délégués", mais j'estime que les délégués qui ont pris la parole ici, sont intéressés au problème dont ils ont débattu et, dans le cas précis de ce paragraphe, je soutiens la délégation de Cuba disant qu'il faut mentionner "la Conférence", d'autant que nous traitons d'un problème qui a fait l'objet d'une résolution dans une autre Commission. Il s'agit donc de la Conférence.

LA XUAN DINH (Viet Nam): Je suis d'accord avec l'idée exprimée par la déléguée de Cuba parce que si nous nous le rappelons, le Directeur général nous a bien annoncé que 120 pays avaient déjà célébré la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Cela souligne bien que tous les pays du monde attachent une importance primordiale à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. C'est pourquoi on peut dire ici "La Conférence a été d'avis que la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation a été un moyen . . ." comme c'est indiqué dans le projet de rapport.

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): Although we have no great wish to prolong this discussion unnecessarily, my suggestion was that we delete the reference to World Food Day in the report of this Commission and substitute the text of the draft Resolution which may be adopted in Commission II which will specifically address the subject of World Food Day. We would point out that paragraph 15 as it is drafted reflects accurately, we believe, the discussions and the number of interventions which addressed the subject of World Food Day.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): There seems to be nobody objecting to "the Conference singling out". It is my opinion that there is no harm therefore in saying "World Food Day was singled out by the Conference . . .". Nobody in this room objects to the Conference singling out. . . may be that not everyone was there when the subject was discussed, but I think this expresses the view of the Conference.

SAID A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): I tend to be unhappy with the words "singled out". I think the best way would be to say "World Food Day was accepted", since there was a Resolution that there should be a World Food Day and many countries celebrated that day. In this Conference we are reflecting what happened and how useful World Food Day could be, therefore we accept that it is an important day but we do not single it out. "Singled out" in what sense?

J. M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): On a point of clarification, does the United States proposal mean that this paragraph in Commission I's report would be substituted by a paragraph, presumably saying something the same, in Commission II's report, or would the paragraph in Commission II's report be combined with this paragraph in some way?

Srta. Z. KARAM DUJAI (Venezuela): Señor Presidente: Nosotros fuimos participantes del Comité de Redacción y este punto se consideró en el ámbito del mismo. Mi delegación considera y cree firmemente que se debe mantener el párrafo en cuestión, destacando el hecho de que los miembros o la Conferencia -porque realmente fue así- sí destacó el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, esto independientemente de que se refleje en los otros proyectos finales de los otros Comités. Independiente mente. Creo que debemos reflejarlo así en nuestro proyecto porque se discutió aquí, en la Comisión, este hecho.

LE PRESIDENT : Je pense que tout le monde est d'accord pour reconnaître qu'au lieu de mettre "un certain nombre de membres", il convient de mettre "la Conférence". Quant au problème du double emploi qui semble être posé par les Etats-Unis, je ne pense pas qu'à ce stade cela soit nuisible. Je pense que nous pouvons retenir, puisque le Comité de rédaction l'a retenu, le paragraphe 15 en notant "la Conférence", au lieu de "un certain nombre de membres". Je vais passer la parole au président du Comité de rédaction pour donner le texte exact retenu par la Commission.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Paragraph 15 will now read:

"World Food Day was acknowledged by the Conference as a useful means of focussing attention to world food problems. "

LE PRESIDENT : Je crois que, rédigé de cette manière, nous pouvons considérer le paragraphe 15 comme adopté.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Señor Presidente: El párrafo 16 dice "que la Conferencia tomó nota de que en general los suministros de alimentos" (el texto español dice "eran suficientes"). Yo creo que más bien la Conferencia no tomó nota, sino que lamentó que en general los suministros mundiales de alimentos no eran suficientes, (no eran suficientes), para mantener un nivel razonable, etc. etc. "

Me parece, señor Presidente, que no tomó nota, porque tomar nota en realidad no nos dice nada. Yo pienso que más bien la Conferencia se lamentó "de que en general los suministros mundiales de alimentos no eran suficientes para mantener un nivel razonable de nutrición para todo el mundo".

S. P. MUKERJI (India): My delegation would support the delegate of Cuba in the suggested modification, that food supplies should be taken to be "not adequate" instead of "adequate". Concerning the second sentence of this paragraph, which reads "While it seemed both unreasonable and unlikely that the use of food as livestock feed would significantly decline, research should be undertaken to find alternative methods of feeding livestock and feed substitutes. " Although I was not present at the meeting of the Drafting Committee, any reader of this paragraph would be a little surprised that the Conference as a whole should think at this stage, when millions of people are on the verge of starvation or starving, that it is "unreasonable"-and I repeat the word "unreasonable"- "and unlikely that the use of food as livestock feed would significantly decline . . . ". I would strongly suggest that this sentence must be modified. If it is to reflect the feelings of some members who thought it was unreasonable, we should say that while some members thought it both unreasonable and unlikely that the use of food as livestock feed would significantly decline, it was felt that research should be undertaken, etc Alternatively, we should completely delete the first part of this sentence which says "While it seemed both unreasonable and unlikely that the use of food as livestock feed would significantly decline. . . ". It appears to me that the second part and the first part do not go together. If it is "unreasonable", then why undertake research at all?

To say, at this stage of mankind's problems with food, that it is unreasonable to think in terms of having a substitute cattle feed, and to say further on that it is the feeling of the entire Conference, and not to speak of a view of all members --- my country at least would not like to subscribe to this particular feeling expressed here. I was not present when this was discussed in the Commission, but I am sure that it is impossible that all the developing countries should think that it is unreasonable to have a substitute for cattle feed.

Therefore, I have two options to suggest: either we delete the first part of the sentence to say that the Conference thought-or suggested-that research should be undertaken to find alternative methods; or, if some members still urge that this sentence should be retained in some form, I would suggest that this sentence should read: "While some members thought it unreasonable and unlikely. "

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): En realidad, nosotros nos habíamos referido solamente a la primera parte de este párrafo y teníamos una idea que no se si será factible, que es unir la primera parte: "Se lamentó en general que los suministros mundiales de alimentos no eran. . . , etc. , etc. " y el último párrafo, donde se dice: "Los Gobiernos tendrían que prestar mayor atención . Y así hacer un nuevo párrafo que se refiriera a los alimentos, etc. , con las sugerencias propuestas por el delegado de la India.

No sé si me explico bien, señor Presidente. O sea: hacer un nuevo párrafo que se refiera solamente a este aspecto de los piensos para el ganado y las investigaciones para hallar métodos alternativos. En definitiva, que se unieran la primera y última parte del párrafo 16, con las enmiendas que había propuesto mi delegación.

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): We have noted the interventions by the delegate of Cuba and others with respect to the first sentence. We think that the sentence as drafted certainly reflects the tenor of the discussion during the Commission; what is more, it is our impression that it certainly reflects the thrust of the material prepared for us, particularly in document C 81/2/S up. I. The point that has been made there is that in the world, taken as a whole, food supplies are adequate, but there are problems with the distribution of that food, as the paragraph indicates, both between and within countries. Therefore we strongly believe that this particular sentence should remain as it is here.

With respect to the discussion on the use of food as livestock feed, we see some merit in the suggestion that it be separated and, if it is necessary to retain this thought at all, that it could be done as a separate paragraph.

With respect to the third sentence, we believe that thought most appropriately follows that in the first sentence which, as there are a number of modifications now proposed, could read as follows: "Increased attention should be paid to the distribution aspects of food and to policies aimed to increase the purchasing power of the poor and so reduce malnutrition. " That would come directly after the first sentence.

J. SCHERER (Federal Republic of Germany)(Original language German): Just a comment about the first paragraph: My delegation is also of the view that this sentence should remain as it was-in other words, that the food supplies are sufficient, are adequate, viewed globally and by and large-otherwise the second phrase about equitable distribution would have no meaning. In order to make the matter even clearer, we could add "theoretically" before "adequate to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition for everyone".

SAID A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): It really makes no difference to us whether the first sentence reads as suggested by the delegate of Cuba, or as suggested by the delegate of the United States.

In the second sentence, we are talking about two different things. I do not understand "the use of food as livestock feed. " Surely, when you talk of food, you mean food in its entirety: here I think we mean the use of cereals. What do we mean by "food"? "Food" should contain both carbohydrates and proteins. Therefore I think that here we are talking of cereals, not "food".

R. E. STENSHOLT (Australia): I think, as other speakers, that we would best leave what is already here, if there is a large degree of agreement. On the first sentence, my preference is to leave it as it is, as reflecting the discussion. Similarly, with the third sentence I think there is general appeal for the American amendment, it is O. K. by me but I have no desire to change too much and be here all day with various amendments.

The second sentence, as has been pointed out so ably, seems to be inappropriate here. My suggestion is that we take the arguments offered by my colleague from India regarding the first half of the sentence and delete them and all the words "in particular" before "research" and transfer it following the last sentence of paragraph 9 or make an entirely new paragraph about research. So, a new paragraph 9, 9 bis if you like, would be consistent with the current last sentence of paragraph 9. "The Conference, drew attention to the need for intensified research to promote more efficient and economical use of inputs. . . etc". We add on to that "in particular, research should be undertaken to find alternative methods of feeding livestock and feed substitutes. " There, we have all the research together and all the distribution together.

LE PRESIDENT : La situation est assez compliquée. Je crois que je vais pouvoir donner la parole au président du Comité de rédaction et j'espère qu'il arrivera à y voir clair.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am beginning to see things rather cloudily. When you are transferring ideas from one paragraph to another one tends to get into the clouds. I just want to refresh my recollection, as I recall the discussion on this paragraph centres round a balance of noting. There is adequate food, but the problem of distribution was the point in the first sentence. Definitely there are two ideas created in this paragraph 16 and, personally, I have no objection to transferring the idea of the second sentence to the bottom of paragraph 9. But, the other observation where it is regretted not only food, or inadequate food, I think this is a matter I need not pursue further.

LE PRESIDENT : Nous repassons la parole au Comité de rédaction. Je pense qu'il a tiré une conclusion, de concert avec le Secrétariat, et qu'il va nous la livrer.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I managed to get out of the clouds, I am beginning to see clearly. Sometimes, hunger may not let me see very clearly although it is only twelve o'clock. Let me try this, we could start paragraph 16 with this : "The Conference noted that" or you could even have "regretted" if you want, anyway, "The Conference noted that although by and large world food supplies were statistically adequate to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition for everyone, there was an unequal distribution of available food supplies both between and within countries. " Now, after that, we retain the last sentence of paragraph 16, as it is. At the same time we transfer the idea in the second sentence of that paragraph as suggested by my brilliant Australian colleague, to the bottom of paragraph 9, or, as a new paragraph. Australia will definitely agree to volunteer the necessary paragraph, I hope, even at this time of day. That is my humble submission.

LE PRESIDENT : Je pense qu'effectivement nous sortons des nuages et que cette proposition pourrait recueillir l'unanimité. N'est-ce pas ?

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): Just to indicate that we can accept the proposal noted by, and given to us by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, with the use of the words that "The Conference noted". With respect to the last sentence I would just point out that the elimination of the words "Governments would have to pay" was aimed at improving the text so as to promote additional scope in this area of international organizations, and others to pay increased attention to the distribution aspects of food. However, if it is the consensus of this group that we would prefer to retain the original formulation, the United States will certainly not block consensus on that.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Señor Presidente: no es la primera vez que nosotros nos dirigimos a los distinguidos representantes de los Comités de Redacción para preguntales qué se entiende por "tomar nota", "la Conferencia tomo nota". ¿Qué significa eso de "tomar nota"? ¿Que la puso en el bolsillo y basta? "Tomar nota" me parece que es una cosa muy ambigua. Creo que podríamos buscar para ello un calificativo más adecuado. Que la Conferencia se reúna y tome nota solamente es para preguntarse: ¿para qué hemos venido de nuestros países? ¿Para tomar nota simplemente?

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman Drafting Committee): Of course, without going into semantics, there are many kinds of "noting", my distinguished colleague, Madame from Cuba. One is a positive "noting" and the other is a negative "noting". Let us choose which end of the scale we are, since we all spend a lot of money coming here, we all tend to go for the negative "noting". We could say "acknowledge with regret", "acknowledge with concern". We have all the kinds of combinations, I think this is where the problem is. It is not just "noting" or "taking note of" it is to what degree is it on the positive or negative side? If it is a case of shortage of food definitely, you cannot "note with glee" or "note with happiness", you have to "note with great regret" because hunger is not on the decline. Somewhere along the line we put "acknowledge with concern" or "noted with concern", that is my view about the whole thing.

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): In our view the use of the word "noted" in this context is entirely appropriate. We have two statements in this. One fact is positive, that "by and large world food supplies are statistically adequate to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition". On the other hand, there is the negative factor that there is unequal distribution between and within countries, thus it certainly is not appropriate to "note with regret that world food supplies are adequate", not at all although it may be appropriate to "note with regret that there is unequal distribution". Similarly, it is inappropriate to "note with satisfaction" that world food supplies were adequate but it is not appropriate to "note with satisfaction that there is unequal distribution".

The language that we have there seems entirely appropriate for the situation that we have.

Md. IRSHADUL HAQ (Bangladesh): In the second sentence, I want to point out one thing, that despite "the statistically adequate availability of food supplies the availability of distribution between and within countries", is due to two factors. One is the maldistribution, the other is the diversion of cereals for use as feed to animals. So, what I suggest is that instead of taking over the second sentence to paragraph 9 it should be at the end of paragraph 16 that "in particular, research should be undertaken to find alternative methods of feeding livestock and food substitutes in order to reduce the use of cereals as livestock feed". Because, if we really recognize that there is a statistical adequacy of food supplies, and that the adequacy is disturbed because of two reasons, one is the maldistribution and the other is the diversion of cereals for use of food for livestock, if research is to be emphasized it should be emphasized in this very paragraph.

S. P. MUKERJI (India): Taking the clue from the delegate of the United States, I would like to suggest a slight improvement in the last sentence of this paragraph because, as it is, it exhorts the government of various countries to reduce disparities to income within the countries but it is silent in so far as international responsibility is concerned, especially in the context of what we have said earlier in the first sentence, that food is inequitably distributed both between and within countries. The last sentence should cover the national problem, the international problem and the inter-country problem also. Therefore, I suggest for consideration and it is subject to other improvement—that this sentence should read as follows :

"Governments would have to pay increased attention"—and I add the words "nationally and Internationally"—"to the distribution aspects of food and to adopt policies aimed to increase the purchasing power of the poor and the poor countries and to reduce poverty. "

R. ROSE (Canada) : It seemed we had reached a point about ten minutes ago when the clouds and the fog had cleared, when we were close to accepting perhaps a compromise statement that did in fact reflect what was said at the Commission's discussions. We now seem to be getting into a discussion of what we wish we had said, or perhaps what we should have said, but certainly not a reflection of what actually was said by delegates during the discussion on this topic.

I propose that we go back to the wording that was suggested by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee about ten minutes ago and accept it and move on to further paragraphs.

B. PALESTINI (Italy) : I support the version given by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee in the sense that the first phrase would read : "The Conference noted that etc. etc. " whilst in the second sentence I suggest deleting the words "both unreasonable" and it would read like this : "While it seemed unlikely. . . " etc and as regards the last sentence I think that "Governments" could stand because it is the governments which adopt policies. It would give better sense to the phrase.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Nuestra delegación casi estaba de acuerdo con lo que había propuesto el Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Sin embargo, me interesa aclarar que esta delegación no insiste en estas cuestiones por el hecho de que en este momento quisiera decir lo que no se dijo oportunamente en esta Comisión. Y voy a leer exactamente lo que, referente a este asunto, mi delegación manifestó.

Fue lo siguiente: "Mi delegación considera que, a pesar de que el documento C 81/2 Supl. 1, plantea que la situación inmediata de la alimentación mundial revela alguna mejora, en términos generales se mantiene vigente el planteamiento que aparece en el párrafo 1) del documento C 81/2, en el cual se califica al período 1980-81 "como uno de los más difíciles de la postguerra".

Esto fue lo que dijo mi delegación en esta misma Comisión refiriéndose a un texto que nos había ofrecido la Secretaría.

Acerca de este particular, nosotros estimamos que, si bien como decía el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, estadísticamente los suministros mundiales de alimentos eran suficientes, la solución no estaba resuelta y entendemos que uno de los problemas es precisamente la distribución.

Por eso, nosotros proponíamos un texto diciendo: "La Conferencia se lamentó de que, si bien en general los suministros mundiales de alimentos eran estadísticamente suficientes para mantener un nivel razonable de nutrición para todo el mundo, y de que los alimentos estaban distribuidos de manera no equitativa dentro de ellos".

Posteriormente, pasar a la última creación de este párrafo 16), y respecto de la frase intermedia, ya hemos quedado de acuerdo con Australia en que la va a redactar como más bonita le quede.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As you know, every cloud has a silver lining; maybe this is it. This will take care of both the views, the positive and the "regretting" side. I will read it at dictation speed.

"Although by and large world food supplies were statistically adequate to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition for everyone, the Conference noted with concern/regret (we will make the choice before lunch, I hope) that there was unequal distribution of available food supplies both between and within countries. . . "

Now taking care of another idea by the Indian delegation, we have this. Continue:

"Governments would have to pay increased attention nationally and internationally to increase the purchasing power of the poor and to reduce poverty".

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez entendu la phrase du président du Comité de rédaction, y a-t-il encore des objections?

R. E. STENSHOLT (Australia): Could we just have the last sentence again please, not necessarily at dictation speed.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee):

"Governments should have to pay increased attention nationally and internationally to the distribution aspects of food and to policies to increase the purchasing power of the poor and to reduce poverty".

LE PRESIDENT : Cette fois je pense que tout le monde a bien noté et compris, y compris le délégué de l'Australie je crois. Y a-t-il encore des remarques sur ce point ? Il semble que tout le monde soit d'accord maintenant sur le texte, nous pouvons donc considérer le paragraphe 16 comme adopté avec ces deux phrases.

Nous avons une troisième phrase que l'on propose d'ajouter au paragraphe 9. Je vais donner la parole au Secrétariat pour vous dire comment il propose d'ajouter cette dernière phrase au paragraphe 9.

B. P. DUTIA (Secretary, Commission I). As suggested by the distinguished delegate of Australia which seems to have met with the approval of the Commission, the second sentence of paragraph 16 will be shifted to become a part of the existing paragraph 9, although then the existing paragraph 9 will be divided into two paragraphs. If you go back to paragraph 9 the suggestion is that it will now consist of the first two sentences only, ending with "were noted with concern". Then a new paragraph, 9 bis, will begin which will read "The Conference drew attention" which will be the last sentence of the existing paragraph 9 "the Conference drew attention to the need for intensifying research to promote more efficient and economical use of inputs and energy in food and agricultural production" and then it will continue "In particular research should be undertaken to find alternative methods of feeding livestock and feed substitutes in order to reduce the use of cereals as livestock feed. " This is taking the suggestion made by the Distinguished Delegate of Bangladesh also into account.

LE PRESIDENT : Je pense que la proposition du Secrétariat a été fidèlement notée. Est-ce qu'il y a des objections sur cette question?

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Señor Presidente: No es una intervención, sino simplemente una aclaración, si la Secretaría fuera tan amable; porque aquí miramos en este párrafo, que hemos trasladado al párrafo 9 que, se habla de "empleo de alimentos para el ganado" y se habla de que "deberían realizarse investigaciones para hallar métodos alternativos de alimentar al ganado y sucedáneos de los piensos". Pero en este nuevo párrafo, en esta parte, (yo por lo menos lo veo así), no hay nada que se refiera a este aspecto. No sé si entendimos mal o es que sencillamente hemos eliminado la cuestión esta referente a la alimentación del ganado.

LE PRESIDENT: On va repasser la parole au Secrétariat pour qu'il puisse relire la phrase: veuillez écouter attentivement.

B. P. DUTIA (Secretary, Commission I): The last sentence of the new paragraph 9 bis would read as follows: "In particular research should be undertaken to find alternative methods of feeding livestock and feed substitutes in order to reduce the use of cereals as livestock feed. "

LE PRESIDENT: Madame le déléguée Cuba est-elle satisfaite ? . . . O. K.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I am somewhat concerned that we are seeking to develop a number of very complex ideas in the process of seeking some minor modifications in the language of one or two paragraphs. The concept which we are now concerned with is indeed complex and I am not at all sure that this is the particular time and place for attempting to put together the kind of concept which we are now talking about. I would submit that this should not be included at this stage unless we wish at this stage to consider the much larger discussion on this kind of complex subject.

LE PRESIDENT : Nous aurions souhaité que le délégué des Etats-Unis nous fasse une proposition concrète à ce sujet.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I am not sure that my Delegation is prepared to set forth the various aspects of this particular problem but it would seem to me that we wanted research on feeding of livestock and to promote that kind of research, let us say just that leaving our options open as to the ways in which we can develop the means of feeding livestock more efficiently. Livestock in many countries are an important source of foodstuffs where they cannot grow some of the other kinds of crops that we are familiar with and hence our concern should be with all research which would enhance the means of growing or raising livestock as appropriate to individual countries, something as general as that rather than at this stage determining what it is we want the research to come up with in this respect.

LE PRESIDENT: Compte tenu de l'objection des Etats-Unis sur cette phrase qui lui semble peut-être trop précise, je vais demander au Secrétariat de faire un amendement à la première phrase proposée.

B. P. DUTIA (Secretary, Commission I): In view of what the distinguished delegate of the U. S. A. has now suggested, the last sentence of the new paragraph 9 bis could be modified to read as follows: "In particular research should be undertaken to find alternative methods of feeding livestock and feed substitutes. "

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que cette phrase doit satisfaire tout le monde ?

SAID A. MADALLALI (Tanzania): I am just wondering whether that sentence makes any sense at all. I think that we start off with "Research should be undertaken on methods of feeding livestock". We should stop there. The words "feed substitutes" are really additional. It has no meaning because if you do research to find alternative methods of feeding livestock then you are finding feed substitutes instead of using many cereals. I cannot understand. Those words "feed substitutes" really do not mean anything because whatever you find out your research will give you those feed substitutes to substitute for cereals. Then why do we have to put it there? That is the intention of the research and it is mentioned.

LE PRESIDENT : On va peut-être encore raccourcir cette phrase.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America) : We were about to suggest that too and following the suggestion of the distinguished delegate from Tanzania to simply put the period after "alternative methods of feeding livestock".

LE PRESIDENT : Cette fois c'est bien la fin. Je vais demander au Secrétariat de relire cette phrase pour que tout le monde soit bien d'accord.

B. P. DUTIA (Secretary, Commission I): The last sentence of paragraph 9 bis will read as follows: "In particular research should be undertaken to find alternative means of feeding livestock".

LE PRESIDENT : Il n'y a pas eu de traduction française. Pas d'objections? Nous disons que les paragraphes 9 et 9 bis sont adoptés ainsi que le paragraphe 16.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Señor Presidente: No está en mi ánimo entablar una polémica; simplemente me parece que el comienzo de este párrafo, donde dice "durante el debate", sobra, está de más, porque er, realidad ¿en qué otro lugar se desarrollo? Me parece que pudiéramos comenzar con "se hizo referencia" y sobra "el debate", porque todo lo hicimos durante el debate.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This is one of those occasions where we do want to place on record how the discussion went. Nevertheless it is stating facts. If you don't want it you could easily delete the first three words in the English text and go directly on to the substance of it.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que le paragraphe 20 peut être adopté avec l'amendement de Cuba.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I would suggest that a few words could be omitted in the third sentence of this paragraph. This sentence starts with: "It noted that food aid was covering a declining proportion of the cereal import needs of low-income countries" and I would suggest omitting the following words: "reflecting temporary and specific problems affecting some countries. " We do not know at the moment how temporary are those phenomena and what are the specific problems, so I would only state the fact that food aid was covering a declining proportion of the cereal import needs of low-income countries. That is my suggestion.

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): This phrase was discussed at some length during the work of the commission and during the Drafting Committee in which Yugoslavia participated to a very considerable extent. If the representative here from Yugoslavia is not familiar with the context in which that statement was placed perhaps his colleague who represented Yugoslavia on the Drafting Committee would go into it in rather more detail. We think this should remain as drafted.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): I withdraw my amendment.

LE PRESIDENT: Puisque l'amendement est retiré, le texte est adopté tel quel.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This is a paragraph over which a lot of beverages and energy were consumed, at least on my part. We really were kept awake over this and in advance I crave the indulgence of this body that we shall not be kept all night, anyway, through the wisdom of the Chair. However, this morning the parties concerned suddenly woke up to the fact and there were considerable consultations, beginning at 9 o'clock, and I am happy to report here that the square brackets might easily be deleted and we could use some words of wisdom in the English language which I have before me. I shall read them to you and I think this might satisfy all parties.

Paragraph 26 would begin:

"The reason for this slowing down of agricultural trade which had affected some developed countries as well, was primarily depressed demand because of continuing economic recession, particularly for agricultural raw materials and tropical beverages. "

After consultation the following wording is proposed to follow that sentence:

"Concern was expressed that the increasing prevalence of protectionist policies and/or measures, with livestock products and sugar receiving particular attention, had seriously impeded on a number of occasions, and might similarly impede in the future, the expansion of trade in these commodities. "

There have been these amendments through consultations and I sincerely hope that these minor, but, significant changes could be accepted.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que vous venez de donner tous les amendements qui ont été apportés au texte original. Je demande à ceux qui veulent intervenir de le faire.

V. STIPETIC (Yugoslavia): Yugoslavia would support the wording just read out by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

N. CARRAS CO-S AULNIER (France): Pourriez-vous nous relire une seconde fois le texte pour que nous en prenions note.

ABU BAKAR bin MAHMUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : I will read again the passage in which amendments have been made. It is the second sentence:

"Concern was expressed that the increasing prevalence of protectionist policies and/or measures, with livestock products and sugar receiving particular attention, had seriously impeded on a number of occasions, and might similarly impede in the future, the expansion of trade in these commodities. "

N, CARRASCO-SAULNIER (France): En ce qui concerne la traduction de "on a number of occasions", cette phrase devrait être traduite par "en certaines occasions" et non pas "à de multiples reprises". C'est un détail.

LE PRESIDENT : Bien, le texte français doit être amendé comme ceci : non pas "multiples" mais "certaines".

S. P. MUKERJI (India): Reminding ourselves of the unanimous support given to the draft Resolution on forestry this morning, I suppose it would be very appropriate if in this paragraph instead of "several members" we could say "the Conference pointed out the vital need to preserve and protect. . .", because there can be no two opinions about this. There is no harm, but I think there would be gain, if we put the whole strength of the Conference behind this statement.

LE PRESIDENT : Je crois que c'est normal. La proposition faite par la déléguée de Cuba est acceptable. Ceci est adopté avec les deux amendements.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Sobre el párrafo 30, yo estoy de acuerdo con la propuesta hecha por el delegado de la India. Pero, después del punto y seguido, tendríamos que decir "asimismo", en vez de "la Conferencia. . ."

LE PRESIDENT : Nous venons de terminer l'adoption de ce premier rapport. Nous en avons encore deux. Nous reprendrons nos travaux cet après-midi à 14 h 30 pour pouvoir suivre l'adoption de la totalité du rapport.

Paragraphs to 33, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 33, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 33, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part I, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, 1ère partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 13. 05 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 13. 05 horas

conference

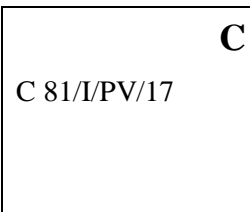
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-first Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt et unième session
COMMISSION I

21° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SEVENTEENTH MEETING DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE 17ª SESION

(23 November 1981)

The Seventeenth Meeting was opened at 14. 55 hours,
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dix-septième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55, sous la présidence de
Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 17ª sesión a las 14. 55 horas, bajo la presidencia de
Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión I

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons maintenant reprendre la seconde partie de notre rapport, c'est-à-dire le REP/2 que nous étudierons paragraphe par paragraphe.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I-PART 2

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I-PARTIE 2

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I-PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 11

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 11

PÁRRAFOS 1 a 11

Sra G. SOTO (Cuba): Señor Presidente : Me parece que hay una oración que repite un poco una idea que ya ha sido expresada en el párrafo 4. El párrafo en realidad dice que "El hecho de que la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia haya alcanzado en 1981, por primera vez desde que fue instituida, el objetivo que le fue asignado de 500 mil toneladas de cereales, gracias a las contribuciones hechas por los donantes tradicionales y, más recientemente, a las nuevas contribuciones, etc. etc. ".

Posteriormente hay una oración completa que se vuelve a referir a que fue hecha "gracias a los aumentos de las contribuciones de donantes, tanto nuevos como tradicionales".

No sabemos si es que se quiere resaltar este aspecto o es que, efectivamente, hay una duplicidad en el párrafo, en el cual se dice dos veces la misma cuestión.

LE PRESIDENT : Compte tenu de l'intervention. de Mme le délégué de Cuba, je crois qu'il faut reconnaître qu'il y a effectivement une répétition et que l'on peut facilement reprendre cette phrase en disant ceci ". . . de l'Australie et du Fonds spécial de l'OPEP représente aussi un grand pas en avant, qui a été apprécié par la Conférence". Puis on met un point final là et on supprime le reste.

Cela satisfait-il Mme le délégué de Cuba ? Oui.

LE PRESIDENT : Les paragraphes 5, 6, 7 et 8 sont approuvés. Le paragraphe 9?

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba) : En el párrafo 9, señor Presidente : A mediados del mismo se habla de distintas Organizaciones, que es la Organización Árabe para el Desarrollo Agrícola. Diría el Comité Económico del Caribe, la Comisión Económica y Social para Asia y el Pacífico, y el Sistema Económico Latinoamericano, que no es lo mismo que Comisión para América Latina.

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): If my memory serves me correctly, there is a typographical error in this paragraph by inserting a comma between "Caribbean" and "Economic". It should be "Caribbean Economic Community".

CD. SANCHEZ-AVALOS (Argentina): Señor Presidente: Es una simple duda que surge luego de la observación formulada por la distinguida delegada de Cuba. La Comisión Económica para América Latina es una entidad que existe y que, efectivamente, se preocupa de hacer estudios o análisis de problemas de carácter económico, problemas a que nos estamos refiriendo, y es un Organismo diferenciado totalmente y distinto al sistema Económico Latinoamericano. Tengo una duda, que ruego a la Secretaría me aclare: a qué Organismo se refiere efectivamente el Documento.

LE PRESIDENT : Je crois que pour le Secrétariat, il s'agit bien du système. Bien. Le paragraphe 9 est amendé. Le paragraphe 10 . . .

J. M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): Just two small points in line 7 or para 10. Instead of "A few members", "Several members disagreed with this last view", not just "this view". "This view" refers to the whole succeeding paragraph whereas we are referring to national stock policies. Therefore we suggest "Several members agreed with this last view".

S. P. MUKERJI (India) : This point was fairly elaborately considered in the Drafting Committee. I recall that it spent quite some time on the phrasing of this, whether it should be "A few" or "Several" and so on. After there was a great deal of very detailed discussion with reference to what has transpired in the Commission earlier on and a consensus was reached that "A few" would be the correct representation. That is why we have put in the words "A few".

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): As the delegate of India has just reminded us, this was discussed at great length in the Drafting Committee and as a result of that discussion we can go along with "A few" or with "Several" as the consensus should emerge. But we believe that the comment by the delegate of the United Kingdom is that it should be "this last view". We think this is a good one because it qualifies what people were having trouble with and we think that that should be inserted.

M. SANKARANARAYANAN (India): I would like to thank the delegate of the United States of America for confirming what I had said earlier in the light of the very elaborate discussion which had taken place on this matter and considering also that in the Commission earlier we were of the view that "A few" would be the most favourable reflection in the presentation of the disagreement which was mentioned in this report. The words "A few" would be much more appropriate than the word "Several".

LE PRESIDENT : Nous pouvons donc considérer le paragraphe 10 comme approuvé en ajoutant les mots "dernier point".

Paragraphs 1 to 11, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 11, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 11, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 12 approved

Le paragraphe 12 est approuvé

El párrafo 12 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 13 to 21

PARAGRAPHERS 13 à 21

PARRAFOS 13 a 21

R. W. M. JOHNSON (New Zealand) : Mr. Chairman, in paragraph 16, the sixth line, that third sentence still does not make sense. It talks about "the terms of trade of many agricultural commodities continue to be unfavourable, especially in recent years, to the trade of many developing countries". It does not make good economic sense. Perhaps Mr. Leeks could explain what it means.

S. P. MUKERJI (India) : My recollection is that the preposition was "in" and not "to".

B. R. FURNESS (United States of America): My notes from the Drafting Committee indicate that it should read "to many developing countries". That may clarify the situation somewhat.

LE PRESIDENT : On va reprendre cette phrase qui se lira comme ceci : "les termes de l'échange de nombreux produits agricoles sont restés peu favorables, spécialement ces dernières années, pour un trop grand nombre de pays en développement". . . excusez-moi, "pour de nombreux pays en développement".

R. ROSE (Canada) : Just looking at the last line of paragraph 17 where we mention that the target for food aid should be met or preferably exceeded, I assume here that we are suggesting that it was the decision of the Conference that this should take place. I am not so sure that there was unanimous agreement during the discussions of this Commission that the target should be preferably exceeded. I think some people made the comment that yes, we have targets, and we should certainly meet them. I think other members mentioned that it was the ramifications that would result from exceeding these targets that we are not quite sure of.

Just to continue along with that, I would suggest that perhaps the sentence could be amended by saying "The target for food aid should be met or"-and we insert-"some members felt preferably exceeded".

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une proposition concrète. Pas d'objections ?

R. E. STENSHOLT (Australia): I have no objection to my learned colleague from Canada but I believe somewhere deep in the recesses of my own past experience that in the IDS it was said that the target of food aid should be met or if possible exceeded and perhaps if my Canadian colleague would accept the words "if possible" we will be able to satisfy everybody and avoid having a disjointed sentence.

LE PRESIDENT : Je pense donc qu'il est préférable que nous retenions "si possible". "Si possible dépassé". Je crois que tout le monde est d'accord.

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba) : Párrafo 19 : nosotros teníamos una pequeña enmienda que en realidad no es una cuestión de mucho fondo. Donde se dice "la Conferencia reafirmo que consideraba las orientaciones del reajuste agrícola internacional como un marco de referencia. . . ", podríamos añadir: marco de referencia "apropiado", en un mundo donde la interdependencia, etc. , etc.

M. SANKARANARAYANAN (India): We would support the addition proposed by the distinguished delegate from Cuba.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres propositions? Puisqu'il n'y a pas d'autres objections, les paragraphes 19, 20 et 21 sont approuvés.

Ainsi nous en avons terminé avec la seconde partie de notre rapport.

Paragraphs 13 to 21, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 21, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, part 2, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, partie 2, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 2, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I-PART 3

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I-PARTIE 3

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I-PARTE 3

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 24

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 24

PARRAFOS 1 a 24

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Sobre el párrafo 4, no sé, señor Presidente, si esta última oración en realidad le agrega algo sustantivo al párrafo. Me parece que está un poco como insertada ahí y que en realidad no le agrega nada de sustancial. Creo que podría quedar en "El incremento del crecimiento económico de los países en desarrollo".

LE PRESIDENT: Puisqu'il n'y a pas d'objections, l'amendement de la déléguée de Cuba est approuvé.

J. SCHERER (Federal Republic of Germany): Paragraph 5; There is a typing error in the seventh line of the English text. It says, "... a strong commitment on the part of the international commodity". I think this should be, "on the part of the international community".

LE PRESIDENT: C'est exact. Il s'agit bien de la "Communauté". C'est dans le texte anglais, il me semble.

R. W. M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): Paragraph 10: I have been asked by several island countries who cannot be here and who were not represented on the Drafting Committee to make some small alterations to the second sentence of paragraph 10 and I will read out what is suggested. The first sentence stays the same. The second sentence stays the same right to the end of the second line of the sentence and then in front of "geographical" they wish to insert "special". Then in the beginning of the next line, instead of "as other constraints" they wish to insert "and economical constraints" and instead of "such" they suggest "as well as" so that the second half of the sentence would read "due to special geographical and economic constraints as well as frequency of natural disasters".

LE PRESIDENT: Paragraphes 11 et 12, approuvés. Le paragraphe 13 . . .

J. ROWINSKI (Poland): Paragraph 13: I think that in the second to last line the word "other" should be omitted before "tick-borne".

LE PRESIDENT: Le paragraphe 13 est approuvé avec l'amendement proposé par le délégué de la Pologne. Les paragraphes 14, 15, 16 . . .

Sra. G. SOTO (Cuba): Respecto a la última oración del párrafo 16 del documento que examinamos, que dice: "Las estrategias a largo plazo para el desarrollo tendrían que incluir también, cuando fuese conveniente, proyectos de riego en gran escala, a pesar de los considerables capitales que requieren".

A mí me parece que, al menos en español, suena mejor decir: "a pesar de las considerables inversiones que ello requiere". Así utilizaríamos un lenguaje más universal, me parece.

LE PRESIDENT : Le paragraphe 16 est adopté avec l'amendement proposé par Mme le délégué de Cuba. Les paragraphes 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 sont approuvés. Le paragraphe 24, approuvé, avec bien entendu la résolution.

Paragraphs 1 to 23, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 23, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 23, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 24, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 24, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 24, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 25 to 38

PARAGRAPHERS 25 à 38

PÁRRAFOS 25 a 38

Je passe la parole au Secrétariat qui a un rajout à faire sur le paragraphe 38.

B. P. DUTIA (Secretary, Commission I): This is after consultation with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee as well as several members of the Drafting Committee. It is necessary to change the last sentence of paragraph 38 which, as the members of the Drafting Committee will recall, was the subject of quite lengthy discussion. It is suggested that in order to reflect the correct position from the factual standpoint the last sentence should be amended to read as follows:

"The Conference recommended that, within the framework of the Nairobi Programme of Action, FAO take a lead in identifying needs and problems and in promoting appropriate action related to rural energy. "

LE PRESIDENT: Sur le paragraphe 38, y a-t-il d'autres observations ? S'il n'y a pas d'observations, il est donc adopté tel qu'amendé par le Secrétariat.

Paragraphs 25 to 38, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 25 à 38, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 38, así enmendados, son aprobados

Il faut considérer qu'il y a un paragraphe 39 pour l'adoption de notre seconde résolution concernant la foresterie. On lirait ce paragraphe: "La Conférence adopte la résolution ci-après on mettrait la résolution sous ce paragraphe, il s'agit de la résolution que nous avons adoptée ce matin, je pense qu'il n'y a pas de commentaires autres à faire, nous pouvons donc la considérer comme adoptée.

Paragraph 39, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 39, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 39, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 3, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, partie 3, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

Ainsi nous terminons les travaux de notre Commission. Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, avant de clore nos travaux, je voudrais vous remercier tous pour le concours que vous nous avez apporté dans la conduite de ces débats pendant les dix derniers jours. Grâce à vous, nous avons eu des débats francs et constructifs, ce qui nous a permis de terminer dans la limite du temps qui nous était imparti.

Malgré quelques appréciations et quelques rares aspects différents je peux dire que vous avez tous contribué de manière positive aux travaux de notre Commission. Il reste pour nous à les défendre au niveau de la plénière, je suis sûr que grâce à l'unanimité qui a prévalu dans l'adoption de nos rapports nous n'aurons guère de difficultés à ce niveau.

Je remercie également le Secrétariat, notamment M. Dutiaqui a, tout au long des débats, agi discrètement mais efficacement pour le déroulement de nos débats. Mes remerciements vont également aux Sous-directeurs généraux M. Rodas et M. Bommer et au professeur Islam qui nous ont amplement aidés grâce aux exposés clairs et limpides qu'ils nous ont faits au cours des présentations des différents documents.

Quant aux interprètes, ils ne se sont pas départis de leur efficacité habituelle en mettant à la disposition des membres de la Commission une interprétation fidèle qui leur a permis de suivre correctement les débats dans la clarté; au nom de la Commission, je leur adresse mes sincères félicitations. Je n'oublie pas nos charmantes "messengers" dont le rôle inestimable n'a pas toujours été complètement perçu et pourtant elles ont été tout le long de nos débats très efficaces pour assurer le succès de nos travaux.

Avec ces mots de remerciement, nous clôturons nos travaux. Il reste à nous retrouver au niveau de la plénière. Je vous remercie. Les travaux sont clos.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

S. P. MUKERJI (India): Mr. Chairman, I should have been a little quicker in putting my flag up but, speaking on behalf of my delegation and of all the delegations in the Commission, I would like to express our very deep appreciation of the manner in which you have conducted the deliberations of this Commission. We admire, if I might say so, the monumental patience with which you have reconciled the several differing standpoints expressed during our discussions here. So, on behalf of all delegations gathered here, as well as my own, I would like to convey our deep and very sincere and warm appreciation of the magnificent manner in which you have presided over the deliberations of this Commission.

Making use of this medium and this opportunity, we would like to thank all the personnel of FAO - Dr. Islam, Mr. Dutia, and everyone else, including messengers, interpreters, and so on-for the very efficient and effective way in which they have helped you and us in concluding these deliberations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie. La séance est levée.

The meeting rose at 15. 40 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 15. 40 horas