

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

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

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20^a REUNION
(22 November 1983)

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conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/II/PV/1

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA REUNION
(8 November 1983)

The First Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours,
C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10hours.
sous la présidence de C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la primera reunión a las 10.0 horas,
bajo la presidencia de C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished Delegates, I call to order the first meeting of Commission II of the Twenty-second session of the Conference of FAO. In this Commission representatives of Member Nations are going to analyse and consider the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 along with all other items assigned to this Commission, as mentioned in Part II of the Agenda of the Conference.

The Council's recommendations on most of these subjects are the outcome of long and arduous work which began with the preparation of documentation by the Secretariat. The documents were then analysed and considered by committees and intergovernmental committees including the Programme and Finance Committees. These committees in turn submitted the results of their deliberations on the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for consideration of the FAO Council. What we have before us for consideration is a product of work done over the past two years in preparation for the next two years. The level and quality of these documents, coupled with the seriousness with which each item was dealt with at every stage, has been exemplary and has set the tempo of the seriousness with which this Conference Commission has to treat the various subjects.

I should like to stress the thoroughness, in particular, of the Programme Committee as it sought to present to Member Nations a reasonably comprehensive and yet practically feasible and austere Programme of Work and Budget to assist them in their individual and collective endeavour to tackle problems of poverty, hunger and under-development. I enjoin you to demonstrate appreciation and gratitude to the Programme Committee and its auxiliary committees and bodies. The Finance Committee should be commended for adding a dimension of economy to the Programme in an imaginative fashion that, however, took careful account of the current world-wide economical constraints.

By the same token, tribute should be paid to the FAO Council for the sensible way in which it strove to facilitate the work of the Conference by formulating well-balanced recommendations.

What is now left is for these three parties to discharge final responsibilities in the planning and programming process. First, the Member Nations here represented should give further and final guidance on how they wish to see their needs and aspirations translated into effective actions. I happen to be aware of the anxiety of the Secretariat to fully satisfy the wishes of the principles of this Organization, but this can only happen if Member Nations themselves issue clear, well thought out and unequivocal instructions.

Secondly, the Secretariat should respond to the queries and demands of Member Nations in an open-minded and pragmatic fashion but should be prepared to tackle criticisms with courage, and guidance with honesty and loyalty, as all will be said in a spirit that seeks to achieve meaningful results. There is no rivalry or trickery and therefore there should be no confrontation either between the Secretariat and Member Nations or among Member Nations themselves; but there should prevail amicable consultation and mutual guidance for the benefit especially of the hungry and desolate who, with tears in their eyes, await the decisions of this world body on their fate. In that event, when this has been done, mine will be an easy task: to ensure that all act and speak in a manner that will allow Ministers of Agriculture to take positive and responsible decisions which they came here to take.

Before concluding, I should like to turn to some housekeeping issues. First, it is my honour and pleasure to welcome to this Commission the two Vice-Chairmen, Dr Ján Schwarz, Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to FAO, and Mr Salmon Padmanagara, Director-General of Agricultural Research and Development of Indonesia. I am confident that with their able support and guidance we should all be able to achieve the primary objectives of living up to the standards of integrity of all the people who did the preparatory work for all our deliberations.

I am grateful and greatly honoured to welcome in our midst representatives of new members of the Organization and hope to benefit from their as yet unbiased views. I wish to draw attention of the meeting to Appendix D of document C 83/12 and suggest that we endeavour to keep the number of resolutions to the minimum. For the benefit of participants, document C 83/INF/12 provides a check-list of documents for the various items. It will always be helpful to pay careful attention to the Order of the Day which is issued at the documents desk.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to express the gratitude and sincere appreciation of my people and the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho as well as my own for the honour bestowed and confidence shown by Member Nations of FAO to them through me to guide the deliberations of this Commission which deals in the lifeblood of our Organization. In particular, I wish to thank my African brothers whom, in a sense, I represent; and in the African spirit I invite you all to endeavour to arrive at decisions and conclusions by consensus.

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION

11. Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives

11. Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et objectifs à moyen terme

11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y objetivos a plazo medio

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The Director-General himself had wished very much, as in the past, to make an opening statement to Commission II, which has such important items on its agenda, in particular the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. Owing, however, to commitments on the first full day of the Plenary he is obliged to remain there this morning, and he has therefore asked me to make a statement on his behalf.

I will not go into details of the format, presentation, programmes, and cost increases, and so forth, of the Programme of Work and Budget, but with your permission will ask Mr. Shah to make a statement after me on such matters.

On behalf of the Director-General, I would simply like to stress a few of the major policy considerations that have formed the basis of the preparation of the proposals which are now before you. The Director-General has voiced these considerations to the Programme and Finance Committees and to the Council, and these extremely important bodies have given their overwhelming support.

This is, of course, a Conference of all Member Nations, many of whom will be coming fresh to the subject. I think therefore that it is important again to stress the following policy considerations.

Firstly, I would like to say that the proposals are the fruit of a considerable period of study and reflection, beginning even before the first instructions for programme and budget preparation were given to Departments and Divisions about a year ago.

The whole budget strategy, policy thrust, programme balance, choice of priorities and calculations of allocations has been searchingly reviewed by the Director-General at every stage.

The review has not however been conducted in a vacuum. In every aspect, the Director-General has studied and tried to follow the recommendations of the technical statutory bodies, the last session of this Conference, the main Council Committees, the Council itself, the Regional Conferences, and the Programme and Finance Committees. It is therefore not surprising, though still gratifying, that once again the strategies, policies and programmes proposed have been unanimously endorsed by such bodies. We hope that they will be unanimously endorsed by you.

The budget side has also been rigorously reviewed. Many questions have been asked by the Finance Committee and by experts from individual member governments. These have been investigated in depth and answered. Both the methodology and the calculations have been subjected to in-depth examination, with the objective of achieving utmost restraint.

It is of course very difficult to look ahead and feel confident about financial and currency developments over a two-year period. Member governments find it difficult even over a period of one year.

Insofar as current indicators are any guide, I feel that we are possibly running risks, as regards the complicated equation of currency and costs. In this connection, the decision concerning the currency rate to be applied to calculations of the budget level will be particularly difficult.

For the moment, all I will say on the question of costs is that the Director-General has resisted all pressures to increase the provision proposed in the documents, although it is very likely, for example, that following decisions of the International Civil Service Commission and/or the General Assembly, there will be expenditures on personnel services not provided for in our present estimates, which we will have to cover during the course of the biennium in one way or another.

So far I have been talking about all costs, i.e., the inflation affecting the salaries of all professional staff, all general service staff, and goods and services. The Director-General has, however, paid very special attention to the question of administrative and support costs. As you will see, he has cut these to the extent that some concern has been expressed in the Programme and Finance Committees and in the Council lest this process should already have gone too far and the technical work of the Organization be deprived of necessary essential administrative support. We will bear this advice in mind, but we are also seeking on a careful and systematic basis to use the opportunities offered by data processing and other electronic equipment to increase our output with the same or fewer staff.

At this point, I would like to stress that FAO has an almost unique record with regard to reducing the number of Headquarters staff and the proportion of the cost of established posts to total expenditure, consistently over the last seven years. Not only were 323 approved posts cancelled by the Director-General in 1976, but the process of reduction has continued ever since every biennium. There are another 41 posts proposed for elimination in the next biennium. This is so, notwithstanding the fact that the Programme, both regular and field, has continued to increase. One dollar spent on the Regular Programme now generates or supports \$22 of investment or technical assistance in the field at the country level. This is an unparalleled rate of return, 1 to 22, on the Regular Programme.

Small wonder, therefore, that the Council has once again recognized the productivity and efficiency of the Organization.

It is as a result of this productivity and efficiency that we have been able to propose an increase of about 3.6 percent in the technical and economic programmes, while reducing the overall programme growth to almost zero.

Within this 3.6 percent increase in technical and economic programmes, the choice of programme priorities was not easy. It never is, but it was even harder this time, since every programme has its supporters for more resources. The reasoning for the choices is set out in detail in the document.

It may well be that some member countries will feel that more resources should be provided to some of the priorities than to others, or that new ones should be added. The scope for doing this within a virtually zero-growth budget is, of course, extremely limited, even if general agreement could be reached on what are the alternatives.

The Director-General will, however, try to maintain flexibility during the biennium, as circumstances change in programme feasibilities and financial opportunities. He will also continue to make every effort to broaden and increase the flow of extra-budgetary funds for multilateral and bilateral development and financial institutions for approved special action programmes and trust fund activities.

Finally, I come to the question of the budget level. As the Director-General has made clear, he could have found justification for a much higher budget level, but he has had to balance this against the harsh realities of the economic and financial situation of most member countries.

The economic conditions of the Third World are, of course, really harsh. At the same time, in the richer countries there is the rather unaccustomed phenomenon of a comparatively enormous number of unemployed, while at the same time governments are taking rigorous measures to curb expenditures and government establishments.

Whatever one's feelings might be about justice and equity on a national or international basis, it would obviously be unrealistic and unrewarding to ignore this situation, especially when it is so obvious from other reports before you that, through lamentable acts of will or sheer helplessness, many governments already have great difficulty meeting their constitutional obligations to pay their contributions in full and on time.

The Director-General has therefore done his utmost, as I have shown, to achieve a reasonable increase in technical and economic programmes, while keeping the overall burden for all Member Nations to virtually zero growth.

I am glad to say that not only did the Council overwhelmingly support his conclusions on the budget level, but also recommended that the Conference should unanimously endorse his Programme and Budget proposals.

The Director-General of course very strongly shares the feelings of the Council. It is not unusual by any means for a few Member Nations to vote against or abstain on the budget. In some cases it would seem it is almost a habit!

Yet, on this occasion, it would be a sad discouragement to the Director-General's efforts to meet the problems of all Member Nations and to reconcile considerations of need and cost in an acceptable way, if the Conference were unable to reach a unanimous decision.

If, on the other hand, the Conference were able to approve the proposals unanimously, it would be a great encouragement to all those who wish the United Nations system to show the highest standards of responsibility and realism as well as idealism, and to all those making efforts to improve international understanding and cooperation, especially in the field of food and agriculture.

I have spoken mainly about the Programme of Work and Budget. There are of course other important items on the Agenda, including the Reviews of the Regular and Field Programmes. The two Reviews are not only important in themselves but also, in the light of your comments on them, to the improved formulation and execution of future programmes. As to the other items, the Director-General or his representatives will be making separate introductions to you in due course. I will not spend more time on them now except to say that the Director-General will be closely following your views and comments.

Now, I would thank you for your attention and ask you kindly to give the floor to Mr Shah, the Director of Programme, Budget and Evaluation to introduce some further detailed aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The Deputy Director-General, having given you the policy introduction of the Programme of Work and Budget and Medium-Term Objectives, my task should be relatively simple in trying to assist the Commission in attending to the documents which are before you and in drawing your attention to those aspects of the proposals which might most meet the Commission's deliberations.

You, yourself, Mr Chairman, have drawn attention to the main documents on this item, so I do not need to repeat them.

Let me start with the main document, which is C 83/3, the thick blue document, the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. A run through this document might assist the Commission. The most important part of the document in terms of policy focus is of course the Director-General's introduction. It hardly needs any comment from me, but the Commission may find it useful if I draw its attention to the part of the Director-General's introduction which deals with the strategies and priorities for 1984-85 and in particular programme priorities which he has included in his proposals. Priorities, as the Conference well knows, differ within a timespan, they differ depending on the resource parameters that you are talking about. They defer in terms of means of action that is envisaged to implement those priorities. But a clear indication of the priorities for the next biennium is of course the net additional resources which are proposed to be consecrated to specific areas of activity. Here the programme priorities of the Director-General come out clearly in terms of research and technology development, follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, action programmes dealing with natural resources, crops and livestock, economic and social programmes aimed to strengthen food security, fisheries, forestry and an overall priority to the continent of Africa.

As regards means of action, the Technical Cooperation Programme is proposed again to have a priority focus in terms of additional resources on the very basic argument that the Technical Cooperation Programme is part and parcel of the economic and technical and social programmes of the Organization. While it is a separate budgetary chapter the action it encompasses cannot be separated from the substantive activities of the Organization. Priorities to investment, to decentralization and to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries continue to receive priority. Thus the Director-General's proposals result in the overall package which has just been described by the Deputy Director-General.

This document is the result of recommendations which the Conference itself made at its last Session. You will recall that the Conference requested the Council to consider how the document could be further improved by incorporating the medium and long-term strategies of the Organization into the same document as the proposed Programme of Work and Budget instead of having a separate document on medium-term objectives as hitherto. The Council considered this matter at its Eighty-second Session in November 1982 and it is following the decisions of the Council that the preparation of this document was begun. We trust that the incorporation of the medium and long-term goals and strategies will enable the Conference to view FAO's programmes for the next biennium in the medium and longer-term context. In addition, as also desired and decided by the Council, other changes were introduced into the programme budget itself. Here I refer to the programme budget part of the document which gives the major programmes of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, etc. This programme budget section has been streamlined, through consolidation of tabular information in a new synoptic table which provides clearer indication of programme changes, including at the sub-programme level. Thus if you take any programme - let us take Programme 2.1.1. on natural resources — you begin with a table which shows the sub-programmes, the approved budget base for 1982-83, the programme change proposed in resources, whether an addition or a reduction, the 1984-85 budget in dollar figures, the work years and the extra budgetary funds, all by sub-programme, to enable the Conference to examine each stage and the nature of each proposal.

Throughout the document the rate of exchange used is 1190 lire to the US dollar. This is of course completely unrealistic if one takes the rate of exchange not only of today but of recent months. But we have kept to this rate of exchange in order to permit a complete comparison with the budget approved for 1982-1983, which, as you will recall, was at the rate of 1 190 lire to the US dollar.

The document contains a new chapter on the programme framework. In the English text it begins on page 17 of the document. But, as I hasten to reassure my superiors, some of the changes are more for convenience than in order to make revolution, and in fact this chapter of the programme framework we trust will facilitate the work of the Conference in that it brings together in one place everything we could think of that the Conference would wish to examine. For example, the chapter gives a description of the relation of the Regular Programme to the Field Programme, because while it is the proposed Programme of Work for the Regular Programme that you will be approving, it cannot be considered in isolation, given the intimate links between Regular Programme and Field Programme activities.

There is then an analysis of the proposed budget in terms of programme changes by budgetary chapter. In the English text of the document these changes are shown clearly enough in Figures 1 and 2 on pages 27 and 29 of the document.

May I point out here, Sir, that Figure 1 has been the subject of a corrigendum, C 83/3 - Corr. 1,- purely because of a typing misprint which occurred in the document itself.

The chapter then goes on to give details, every detail requested by the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council, of changes in posts by grade, by department or regional office, by location, changes in objects of expenditure and then an explanation of the cost increases beginning at page 34 of the document in the English text.

The section on cost increases was elaborated in specific response to the queries and requests of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee examined proposed cost increases in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget at its spring session this year and at that time it requested that more information be given about each element of the cost increases and the basis on which the projections were made. We have therefore given this information, which was examined in full by the Finance Committee at its autumn session and which received its blessing both as regards the methodology and the content of the proposals.

The chapter then goes on to give the implications of the currency factor, to which the Deputy Director-General referred in his own statement, a comparison of the budget proposed for the next biennium with that approved for the present biennium, and a forecast of miscellaneous income for the next biennium, which leads to the draft resolution which your Commission will consider, Sir, for eventual adoption by the Conference in Plenary.

This draft resolution, which appears on page 45 of the document, of course contains appropriation figures at the rate of 1 190 lire to the dollar, and these figures will have to be adjusted in the light of the decision the Conference takes as to the rate of exchange that it will adopt for the next biennium's budget.

The main section of the document then is the programme budget. May I invite attention to the table of Summary of Estimates by Chapter and Major Programme, which appears on page 48, and the table of Programme Structure. This is a new table, but we think it might be helpful because we get so used to talking about programmes and sub-programmes that it is not always easy for somebody less familiar with the document to bear in mind what the total programme structure of the Organization consists of.

In the programme budget the narratives by programme have a further refinement. We explain under a section on changes in resources several different kinds of changes. First, we explain what are the net additional funds or the reduced funds proposed for a particular programme or sub-programme. Then there is an indication of shifts between sub-programmes, and finally shifts within sub-programmes, because any priority change as regards the work of this Organization does not necessarily need additional resources but can also be carried out by shifting resources between and within sub-programmes. All these were reviewed in great depth and supported by the Programme and Finance Committees.

There are three annexes. Annex I deals with the programmes by region. I shall here stress that the funds proposed for the regional offices are not synonymous with the programmes and the funds proposed by region.

In accordance with past practice the programme of the Organization is an integrated programme of units wherever they are located. Thus for the Technical and Economic Programmes, chapter 2 of the budget combines the programmes and the resources proposed for headquarters and regional offices. However, Member Nations are, of course, interested in always knowing what is the focus of the activities of the Organization as it affects each region, and here this focus is shown in the Annex, where I would request that the Commission bear in mind that of the Regular Programme resources there are certain activities which have to be viewed in their global context. There are others, whether financed at headquarters or in the regional offices, which have a regional focus. Then, finally, there are extra budgetary funds which again can and have to be seen in their regional context.

If we, therefore, look at table B, on page 212 of the English text, you have a breakdown of the total Regular Programme resources of 451. 6 million, broken down by global and regional subdivisions, and also broken down by headquarters, regional officers, and country offices. Then in a separate column you have the estimated extra-budgetary funds, also by region, which enables one to see what is the total impact of all funds, Regular Programme and extra-budgetary, by regions.

Annex II, Mr Chairman, gives the same kind of information which has always been given in this document, of the estimates by each organizational unit, and by object of expenditure, for 1982/1983, and 1984/1985. You also have an indication of the cost increases of the posts, the new posts, all the abolished posts, and the organizational charts.

Annex III, finally gives summary tables on salary and post adjustment schedules on established posts under old funds, and a comparative budget table by objects of expenditure, as it is utilized in the UN system.

Mr Chairman, compared to Programme of Work and Budget documents of other major organizations in the system, we find that this document is perhaps more terse, more compact, but a deliberate objective on our part, in response to the wishes of the Conference itself. The document gives every bit of information which has been requested, and we believe has a wealth of detail which covers both programme substance and financial information.

I hope, Mr Chairman, I have not abused the instructions of the Director-General, and your own patience in giving me the floor.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Shah, for your very detailed explanations.

I believe new members should be in a position to make comments and further requests and queries on your introduction, even though, as you say, you have tried everything possible to satisfy originally stated demands.

Before we open the discussions, I should like to talk about the Drafting Committee. We have now concluded the necessary consultations, and I wish to propose to the Commission that the Drafting Committee stands as follows: Chairman, Mr Brewster of Barbados. Members for the Africa region, Sierra Leone and Tunisia. For the Asia region, Pakistan and Malaysia. For the Near East region, Cyprus and Lebanon. For Latin America, Peru and Mexico. For North America, Canada. Southwest Pacific, Australia, and for Europe, Sweden and Bulgaria.

If there are no objections to this proposal we will take it that the Drafting Committee has been accepted as it stands.

While we are at this point I should indicate that we might expect that the first meeting of the Drafting Committee would probably be by Friday afternoon, but that depends on what I am going to say next. This morning we are going to make brief general statements on the entire Programme of Work and Budget, and we would hope that this would go on this morning and, perhaps, part of the afternoon, after which, for the remaining time until Thursday morning, we should then be focusing on the respective chapters of the document on the Programme of Work and Budget. But I should hasten to point out that between now and Thursday morning we do not have a lot of time for everybody to speak for as long as they want, and that means that those who would like to express things in mathematical terms, we have 17 meetings for this Commission to discuss six items, and we have 156 delegations here, and that means for the entire period of work of this Commission every delegation has 20 minutes, and if you eat up your 20 minutes too early, you might not have time to discuss, or make any more interventions. So I would like to make you aware that when we make interventions on this very first item, which is very important, please be very brief but to the point. Do not leave out anything that is important, but do not be too long.

I would also like to indicate that document C 83/INF/17 provides additional background on agricultural research. Also that Part One of the Review of the Regular Programme, which is in document C 83/8 gives information on activities during the biennium, and that is useful in looking at the proposals for the next biennium.

At this stage, I think that members are about ready to intervene.

U. SESSI (Italie): Pour briser la glace, permettez au pays hôte de commencer les débats sur cette question.

Permettez-moi, avant tout, au nom de ma délégation, de vous exprimer mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de ce Comité, félicitations que je voudrais étendre aux membres du Bureau et au Rapporteur.

Ma délégation voudrait avant tout remercier le Directeur général adjoint et M. le Directeur du Bureau du programme du budget et de l'évaluation pour la présentation du projet de programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1984-1985. Elle accueille avec satisfaction le clair engagement de poursuivre l'oeuvre déjà entamée d'amélioration, d'efficacité et de meilleur fonctionnement de la FAO.

Une fois approuvé par la Conférence générale, le budget représente le cadre financier pour toutes les activités de la FAO durant les deux prochaines années et fixe les limites des dépenses au Directeur général. Pour ces raisons, l'examen du budget constitue sans doute la tâche la plus importante pour notre Comité.

Cette année, on nous propose un projet de budget qui prévoit un total global de dépenses de 451,6 milliards de dollars à couvrir par des recettes accessoires pour 26,6 milliards de dollars et par les contributions des Etats membres pour 425 milliards de dollars. Ce projet a déjà été examiné par le Comité des programmes et le Comité du budget en avril, et par le Conseil à sa session de juin de l'année en cours. Tous ces organes ont exprimé des commentaires et des recommandations valables à ce sujet.

Sur cette base, le Secrétariat de la FAO a établi le document CL 83/3 que nous avons sous les yeux pour lequel nous exprimons nos remerciements, étant donné la forme claire et exhaustive dans laquelle il a été dressé, bien qu'il subsiste encore dans certaines parties l'exigence d'ultérieures améliorations pour éliminer toute possibilité d'équivoque ou de malentendu. Pour citer seulement un exemple, on nous déclare au paragraphe 3.9 de la page 33 du texte français la suppression de 41 postes sans faire mention du nombre de postes nouveaux, demandés dans d'autres parties du budget, que l'on doit retrouver dans les tableaux, sinon à la fin du budget.

Pour ce qui concerne maintenant le budget dans son aspect global, je voudrais louer le Directeur général pour avoir fait précéder le document en question par une introduction qui expose son approche philosophique générale au problème de l'activité de la FAO dans le prochain biennium. A ce propos, je voudrais confirmer l'attachement de mon pays aux activités de la FAO et au rôle que la FAO joue dans la lutte contre la faim dans le monde et pour résoudre les problèmes d'autosuffisance alimentaire des pays en voie de développement. Un exemple récent de cet attachement est le programme qui vient d'être lancé pour le développement rural et les activités agricoles dans le Sahel qui sera financé par le Gouvernement italien et réalisé conjointement par l'Italie et la FAO.

En même temps, le contexte économique international très difficile, reconnu par le Directeur général dans son introduction au budget, demande une gestion très attentive des ressources confiées à la FAO par les Etats Membres. Une chose n'exclut pas l'autre le dynamisme de l'action et le réalisme dans la gestion du budget pourraient et devraient marcher ensemble.

Je voudrais maintenant, avec votre permission, faire quelques observations d'ordre général sur le budget, en me réservant de revenir sur des points particuliers au moment où ils seront abordés lors de la discussion dans les prochains jours.

Nous avons noté avec intérêt et satisfaction l'effort fait par le Directeur général pour limiter la croissance réelle des dépenses à un taux de 0,5 pour cent pour le prochain biennium. Cela démontre la sensibilité de l'Organisation aux difficiles moments que vit l'économie mondiale et sa capacité de s'adapter, dans la poursuite de ses tâches fondamentales pour le développement du tiers monde, à un cadre économique très instable et très différent de celui que l'on avait il y a quelques années.

Nous avons aussi remarqué l'effort pour une meilleure efficacité structurelle de la FAO, que l'on se propose d'obtenir, d'une part par la réduction d'un certain nombre de postes, ce qui réduit sensiblement le pourcentage des crédits budgétaires alloués aux dépenses de personnel, et d'autre part, par une réorientation des programmes et des priorités qui se traduit aussi par une restructuration interne des bureaux et par une plus grande importance donnée au Programme d'assistance technique.

A côté de ces phénomènes politiques, il faut citer des aspects qui laissent subsister quelques perplexités. Le premier, c'est la croissance globale en termes nominaux du budget, qui montre une augmentation par rapport au budget précédent de -23 pour cent. De la lecture du document, il n'est pas facile d'identifier la partie de cette augmentation due à la prévision pour la biennialisation des coûts, et la partie due aux prévisions pour inflation. Je crois que dans la poursuite de nos travaux, nous aurons besoin d'ultérieures informations de la part du Secrétariat.

En ce qui concerne en particulier les prévisions de l'inflation, je dois rappeler que les lignes directrices de politique économique tracées par le Gouvernement italien, et qui sont maintenant à l'examen du Parlement, prévoient une série de mesures qui visent à réduire le taux d'inflation en Italie à 10 pour cent en 1984. Je ne sais pas si cette donnée a été prise en compte dans l'établissement du projet de budget.

Le deuxième facteur d'incertitude dans le projet de budget, c'est le taux de change lire-dollar E.-U. Nous avons noté les informations fournies dans les documents et nous attendons des informations mises à jour, mais il va sans dire que le taux de change qui sera adopté aura une influence capitale sur l'enveloppe globale du budget, car le choix d'un taux de change trop bas aurait pour conséquence de ramener la croissance réelle du budget à un niveau bien supérieur à celui qui est prévu maintenant.

A ce propos, je voudrais rappeler les lourdes conséquences pour les contributions des Etats membres de l'appréciation du dollar sur la majorité des monnaies, que ce soit des pays en voie de développement ou des pays industrialisés. Je pourrais citer l'exemple de mon pays, mais je crois que ce problème est ressenti par d'autres délégations qui ont vu, en raison de l'effet cumulatif de l'augmentation du budget dans sa totalité, de la modification des barèmes de contributions et de la hausse du dollar, leurs contributions au budget de la FAO pour le prochain biennium augmentées, selon les hypothèses proposées dans le document C 83/3, d'une manière substantielle par rapport au budget précédent.

C'est pourquoi nous attendons du débat qui se déroulera dans ce comité des résultats clairs, équitables et réalistes qui puissent consentir en même temps à la FAO de continuer son oeuvre indispensable pour le progrès des pays en voie de développement, et aux pays membres de participer à cette oeuvre avec des efforts financiers harmonisés et compatibles avec leur situation interne et la situation économique internationale.

M. BENNIS (Maroc) : La délégation marocaine tient tout d'abord, M. le Président, à vous adresser ses chaleureuses félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de la Deuxième Commission, dont l'importance évidente découle en particulier de sa responsabilité en tant qu'organe de la Conférence appelé à examiner les moyens mis à la disposition de la FAO pour lui permettre de remplir convenablement sa mission.

Le Maroc, en sa qualité de membre du Conseil, a eu, lors de la 84ème session de cette instance, l'occasion de formuler son sentiment sur le programme de travail et budget au titre du biennium prochain. Ma délégation ne se lassera pas d'exprimer sa pleine satisfaction et de renouveler devant la Conférence son approbation sur les lignes directrices du Programme de travail, et son appui aux prévisions budgétaires proposées pour les deux années à venir.

Les raisons qui incitent ma délégation à accueillir favorablement le programme de travail et le budget qui nous sont présentés sont multiples et touchent à la fois à la forme et au fond.

En effet, nous nous réjouissons tout d'abord du soin avec lequel le document C 83/3 a été élaboré et voudrions féliciter le Directeur général d'avoir conçu cette nouvelle présentation claire et transparente, qui a facilité amplement notre travail d'appréciation sur la nature et les moyens d'action que l'Organisation se propose de mettre en oeuvre pour l'exercice prochain.

Concernant le fond, nous relevons de prime abord que le Programme de travail trouve logiquement ses fondements dans l'analyse objective et réaliste de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture faite par le Directeur général. Les options retenues dans les orientations de l'action de la FAO en faveur des pays en développement emportent notre plein agrément parce qu'elles répondent aux besoins des pays qui demeurent encore et malheureusement plongés dans le marasme. Les priorités et les stratégies préconisées par le Directeur général dans leur ensemble et l'impulsion nouvelle accordée en particulier par le Programme technique et économique sont de nature à apporter une contribution utile au processus de développement économique et social, entrepris par les pays du tiers monde.

Mais l'action de la FAO restera vraiment insuffisante si les nations du monde, toutes les nations du monde, ne prennent conscience de la solidarité de leur destin et n'instaurent un nouvel ordre économique assis sur plus d'équité et moins de profit. Les aspirations légitimes des pays en voie de développement devraient être prises en considération avec plus de célérité par le monde industrialisé. Il est d'ailleurs heureux de constater que l'une des contributions louables de la FAO dans la recherche de cette voie réside dans la nouvelle approche de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, élaborée avec beaucoup de grandeur d'esprit et de pertinence par le Directeur général, qui a notamment souligné que le développement constitue l'une des conditions essentielles et déterminantes de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition.

La délégation du Maroc partage entièrement les vues de la FAO sur la priorité à accorder aux projets qui s'insèrent dans le cadre global des développements nationaux économiques et sociaux. La délégation se félicite des efforts que l'Organisation entend entreprendre au sein du Programme de coopération technique pour le développement intégré.

Par ailleurs, conscients que nous sommes du rôle de la recherche et de la technologie dans l'amélioration de la qualité et de la quantité alimentaire ainsi que de la production agricole, nous enregistrons avec satisfaction et encourageons vivement les actions accrues de la FAO dans ce secteur. Les moyens financiers nécessaires à la réalisation de ces objectifs auraient bien pu paraître nettement insuffisants si le Directeur général tenant compte de la conjoncture économique internationale n'avait assorti la vigueur qui caractérise ses prévisions budgétaires d'une répartition judicieuse et réaliste entre les différentes rubriques.

Ainsi, la réduction des coûts administratifs, d'un côté, et la progression des programmes techniques et économiques, d'autre part, constituent-elles des mesures habiles à mettre à l'actif du Directeur général toujours soucieux de l'efficacité de la FAO.

Parmi les continents qui aspirent au bénéfice de cette efficacité, celui de l'Afrique, entouré d'une attention particulière que nous voulons encourager fortement, croit à l'action de la FAO et espère pouvoir compter sur son soutien de plus en plus marqué pour l'aider à franchir plus rapidement les étapes du développement.

Si nous appuyons le Programme de travail et budget qui nous est présenté, et si nous félicitons le Directeur général pour la clairvoyance et le sens de l'efficacité qui en ressort, nous formulons cependant le souhait que, dès à présent, l'avenir ne soit pas grevé par la tendance générale de la croissance quasiment nulle du budget en discussion. Il est vrai que la croissance de 0,5 pour cent qui nous est proposée demeure symbolique parce qu'elle traduit plus un signe qu'une valeur réelle, et marque surtout une tendance par rapport à la croissance zéro.

Nous voudrions y voir la volonté d'aller de l'avant de notre Organisation. En définitive, nous gardons l'espoir en la FAO et en son avenir et nous assurons son Directeur général de notre confiance qui se traduit aujourd'hui par notre soutien et par notre appel à la Conférence en vue d'adopter la recommandation du Conseil et d'approuver le Programme de travail et budget qui lui est présenté.

J.SAULT (Australia): We would like to thank Mr West and Mr Shah for their very useful opening statements which have set the scene for our debate. I think I can be very brief and not use up too many of my twenty minutes in making a general statement on this item because I have already had the advantage of going through the proposals in very considerable detail in the Finance Committee, I will confine my remarks to a few broad observations.

First, the Director-General has faced a very difficult task in attempting to balance the needs of the membership of the Organization, particularly the needs of the developing countries which are, of course, enormous, and in taking due account of the very difficult financial environment which prevails throughout the world. We believe that he has struck a reasonable balance. He has been able to constrain the growth of the budget while at the same time being able to propose real increases in the technical and economic programmes of the Organization. Also, there has been an improvement, in our view, in the documentation for the proposals. We welcome the approach that has been followed in the documentation before us, which enables member governments to consider and assess the Programme proposals more conveniently and effectively.

As I have mentioned, we have been through the cost calculations in considerable detail in the Finance Committee and we are satisfied that they have been carried out in a detailed and thoroughly professional fashion and that they are based on reasonable assumptions. We can also endorse the main programme strategies and priorities that the Director-General has put forward.

One very significant item that remains is, of course, the choice of the exchange rate and we now await the proposals and suggestions that might be put before us on this item.

LI HYOK CHOL (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): The world is well aware of the seriousness of the food problem, particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries. Because of the shortage of food the peaceful, prosperous and harmonious development of the world has been severely affected. There has been much talk about North-South cooperation for co-survival, co-prosperity. However, so-called co survival and co-prosperity are too far from being realistic. The world is being threatened with tragedy by the enormous amount of nuclear weapons; and again, world peace is jeopardised by the political weapon of food.

In this situation FAO, under the guidance of the Director-General, has been doing highly encouraging work for the solution of the food problem. FAO has played a really important role in assisting the developing countries to increase food production. Expectations for FAO are very great in the developing world. Particularly in the current adverse international economic situation, the need for expanded FAO assistance is really great. We sincerely hope that FAO can be sufficiently solid and effective to provide due response to the needs.

After carefully considering the current international economic situation and the duties of FAO, the Director-General proposed the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives. My delegation is of the view that with the limited resources available, the Programme of Work and Budget covers the interests of all Member States. Economic and technical programmes including the TCP have been largely increased.

We also think that strategies and the choice of programme priorities have been correctly taken. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea congratulates the Director-General and the Secretariat on their work in producing the present Programme of Work and Budget and Medium-Term Objectives which my delegation fully supports. We maintain that the Programme of Work and Budget in its present presentation and level must be approved by the Conference.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): I too would like to express our appreciation to Mr West, Deputy Director-General and Mr Shah for giving us a very lucid preview of document C 83/3. By way of general remarks my delegation wishes to say that it is pleased with the efforts of the Director-General in presenting a budget with almost zero growth. This has been a very difficult task and would be so for any international organization. However, it is significant that while containing and reducing administrative growth, he has still found it feasible to increase the level of technical and economic services to member countries.

My delegation has already commended in the Council on the new format of the document under consideration and I need only say that we are very pleased that FAO has responded effectively to the Conference by devising and producing this new type of documentation.

As regards the programmes outlined for the biennium, my delegation wishes to support the priorities and strategies which have been identified by the Director-General. We feel that developing countries will benefit tremendously from the programmes in research, rural development and fisheries development. We also endorse the special priority which the Director-General has accorded to Africa. My delegation considers the Technical Cooperation Programme and the decentralization initiatives will bring deeper meaning to the work of FAO.

Finally, my delegation thinks that the level of the budget is the best that could have been provided in the current circumstances and, as such, we wish to express our full support for it.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (Mexico): Antes que nada, felicitar a usted por su elección, y al Sr. West y al Sr. Shah por la presentación tan útil del tema, que realmente nos facilitará mucho los trabajos.

Hemos visto con gran interés el documento C 83/3 que trata del Programa del Presupuesto de la FAO para 1984/85, y los Objetivos a Plazo Medio que merece el apoyo, en general, de nuestra delegación. El documento de referencia presenta con gran detalle los programas que absorberán la mayor parte de los esfuerzos y de los recursos de nuestra Organización en el próximo bienio. Destacamos el hecho de que los programas técnicos y económicos se incrementen en un 3.6 por ciento, que en nuestro concepto apenas es suficiente para que la FAO pueda cubrir las necesidades de asistencia que tienen los Gobiernos Miembros, que son más altas cada día.

Apreciamos la dedicación del Director General para conciliar una difícil situación económica planteada por un gran número de países donadores desarrollados que, esgrimiendo la tesis de un crecimiento cero en los presupuestos de los organismos internacionales, hicieron todo lo posible por constreñir a la FAO a sus designios económicos, llevando a la Organización a realizar algunos sacrificios que, en otras circunstancias, serían innecesarios y que pueden llegar a afectar su efectividad.

La realidad es que a pesar de esa reducción se han podido aumentar en términos reales los crecimientos de algunos programas para los países en desarrollo y llegar a un crecimiento simbólico del 0.5 por ciento sobre el presupuesto del bienio anterior. Este esfuerzo de racionalidad merece el encomio de nuestra Comisión y de la 22ª Conferencia de la FAO.

Asimismo debe de haber un pronunciamiento decidido para que las políticas generales de restricción presupuestaria no se vuelvan permanentes, no tomen carta de naturalización; hay otros programas en el sector alimentario a los que se les ha autorizado recientemente un aumento sustancial presupuestario impulsado básicamente por los países donadores, lo cual nos indica que ya se realiza un cambio en la funesta política de crecimiento cero preconizado hasta hace poco.

Si bien consideramos con gran preocupación la problemática que presenta actualmente la situación alimentaria africana, y apoyamos los esfuerzos de la FAO para atenderla, queremos llamar la atención al hecho de que en otras partes del mundo se están generando problemas que también requieren acción conjunta de la Comunidad Internacional, por tanto, sin reducir la atención sobre los problemas africanos se deben buscar soluciones que permitan canalizar mayores recursos para atender estos problemas y no arguyendo cambios en las prioridades, ni reducir la asistencia en otras áreas del mundo.

Por otra parte, es muy importante que los enfoques de la asistencia multilateral y también, por qué no, de la bilateral, se encuadren en soluciones de desarrollo general de los países del tercer mundo. La solución del problema alimentario no es solamente agrícola o pesquero, debe incluir otros conceptos de desarrollo como la educación, la salubridad, las comunicaciones, los transportes, etc. que tienden a enfocarse integralmente.

Es precisamente sobre esto que debería meditar y actuar coordinadamente la Comunidad Internacional,

Particularizando nuestros comentarios, queremos señalar que en general los aumentos de los costos propuestos en el presupuesto nos parecen conservadores. Pensamos que la actual situación inflacionaria en el país sede y en muchos otros donde opera la FAO hará que estas estimaciones se prueben insuficientes a pesar del optimismo del distinguido delegado del país sede.

Esperamos que, como en el pasado, estos errores de estimación no sean graves, pero veríamos con preocupación, y lo quisiera mencionar, la posibilidad de modificar las propuestas para los incrementos de los costos.

Hemos visto en el curso de los debates celebrados en el año que algunos países desarrollados han venido insistiendo en aplicar mayores controles que permitan una mejor evaluación de las actividades de nuestra Organización. Nuestra delegación está de acuerdo en que se conozcan mejor los resultados de los trabajos de la FAO, lo cual nos permitirá dirigir mejor su rumbo en el futuro; pero debemos ser cuidadosos de que los controles, la evaluación, los estudios analíticos no lleguen a frenar la propia capacidad de la FAO para realizar sus programas y que se gasten demasiados recursos para hacerlo, porque al final tendríamos una Organización muy bien controlada y evaluada administrativamente con poca capacidad operativa a nivel técnico. Hay que tener cuidado entonces de los controles excesivos y buscar el justo medio. Además sabemos por la dependencia común de inspección que en la FAO es ejemplar en materia de estos controles dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

En relación a los programas de cooperación técnica queremos destacar, a nombre de los países latinoamericanos y del Caribe, cuyo grupo representamos en la actualidad, y del de nuestra delegación, que consideramos a estos programas de relevante importancia para los países en vías de desarrollo porque permiten un auxilio ágil y eficaz a los gobiernos que solicitan ayuda de la FAO.

Nos preocupa las observaciones de unos pocos países desarrollados en el sentido de que hay que revisar e imponer controles a los programas de cooperación técnica que, en nuestra opinión, burocratizarían un excelente instrumento de apoyo que tiene la FAO a su disposición; es precisamente el tipo de programa cuyo presupuesto debe incrementarse ante la necesidad creciente de los países del Tercer Mundo que han visto reducirse la ayuda multilateral con la crisis por la que se ha hecho atravesar al PNUD,

Nos preguntamos entonces que propósitos se persiguen ahora o qué propósitos persiguen los mismos países que pusieron en crisis al PNUD, ¿es que acaso ahora se está pensando poner en crisis al Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO y de minimizar, finalmente, la ayuda multilateral? Estas son preguntas que nos deberían responder quienes proponen dicha reducción.

Nuestra delegación, y también el Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, vuelven a insistir en la bondad, utilidad y eficacia de las oficinas nacionales de la FAO que permiten realizar una actividad más dinámica a los países en vías de desarrollo puesto que establecen unos vínculos de colaboración efectiva con las autoridades locales. Las oficinas regionales, por su parte, tienen una muy importante función coordinadora que reduce los tramos de control y adecúa la FAO a las necesidades de un mundo en expansión y rápido movimiento. En la medida en que el mundo en desarrollo acude a esquemas de regionalización y se plantean soluciones regionales o subregionales a sus problemas comunes este tipo de oficinas se vuelve cada día más útil siempre y cuando se les dote de una mayor autonomía y capacidad decisoria. En América Latina la Oficina Regional ha probado ser particularmente útil, así como las reuniones regionales que sirven para obtener un intercambio más amplio de experiencia y coordinación de posiciones sobre temas de común interés.

Nuestra delegación apoya específicamente programas como el Fomento a la Investigación y Tecnología, las actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, fundamentalmente en el Programa 2.1.5. Desarrollo Rural; otros Programas que merecen todo nuestro apoyo son el 2.1.1. Recursos Naturales; el 2.1.2 Cultivos, especialmente las labores relativas a los sistemas agrícolas y los de fronteras agrícolas; los programas de participación de la mujer en los mecanismos de mercadeo rural también merecen nuestra alta consideración. Las políticas de precios agrícolas son relevantes para movilizar la producción y vemos con agrado que la FAO le ha dedicado mayores recursos a su análisis; el sistema de información y alerta, ligado al concepto de seguridad alimentaria, es otro programa que vemos reforzado y que consideramos de utilidad estratégica.

En materia pesquera la FAO ha venido desarrollando una labor ejemplar y que con las orientaciones del 15° período de sesiones del COFI y las que emanen de la próxima Conferencia de Pesca harán de este Programa uno de los más dinámicos dentro de la Organización.

En materia forestal la labor de la FAO se orienta a ligar esta actividad al desarrollo rural integral, lo cual aprobamos; asimismo las consideraciones ecologistas son relevantes; y asimismo apoyamos la creación de la nueva División de Investigación y Desarrollo de Tecnología resultante de la fusión de unidades dispersas lograda con unos ingresos adicionales a los que reciben, que esperamos sirva para canalizar los resultados de la investigación en los países en desarrollo.

Finalmente, manifestamos nuestra aprobación al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984/85 por el Director General contenido en el documento C 83/3 y el proyecto de Resolución que se propone en la página 46 del citado documento.

Nos reservamos, señor Presidente, volver a comentarios particulares cuando sea pertinente.

F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): I would like to express our appreciation to Mr West and Mr Shah for their presentation. We were expecting such work from Mr West and Mr Shah because they have always proved to be our right hand in other sessions, I would also like to express, on behalf of my delegation, our support to the programmes which are well elaborated in this document. We would like also to express our appreciation of the efforts to reduce the cost wherever it was possible. Our delegation would like particularly to point to the pattern set up by the Director-General who cancelled four posts in his office and we would like to warn against other reductions that might occur in other programme activities.

My delegation also supports the strategies and priorities set up by the Director-General in the elaboration of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85, I would also like to congratulate the Director-General and his assistants for the efforts made in order to elaborate this Programme of Work and Budget. We would recognize here that the Director-General has chosen the right strategies and priorities that meet the needs of the Member States and that he established a balance when he chose the programme activities.

We would particularly like to express our appreciation of the efforts of the Director-General in order to harmonize his idea with the needs of the programmes in developing countries and also his recognition of the difficulties the member countries face in order to meet their external financial commitments. In this respect we would like to commend the consolidation of the economic and the technical programmes of the Organization; these programmes which will enable it to increase the growth rate for the period 1984-1985 by 3.6 percent only in spite of the little increase in the general programme activities. This could only be achieved through austerity measures and reduction of administrative services mentioned above.

I once more express my support to the efforts made by the Director-General in order to improve the efficiency of the Organization and at the same time his efforts to implement the programmes so that they meet the needs of the member states and their legitimate aspirations.

According to what I have said I would like to recommend, and I hope that this programme will receive the support of the General Conference as it has always been the basis of the work of the Organization which helps to develop the international society.

H. FADHLI NAJEB (Iraq) (original language Arabic): My congratulations go to the Secretariat for the excellent document they have prepared and for the excellent presentation of the document.

This document has come about as a result of great efforts made by the Programme and Finance Committees and we wish to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation to the Chairman and members of these two Committees. We would also like to thank Mr West and Mr Shah for the excellent and clear presentation of the subject which we are discussing.

The Council of the Organization - and we are honoured to be members of this Council - at its session which preceded the convening of this Conference, approved the Programme of Work and Budget and appealed to the Conference to approve the Programme of Work and Budget.

We would like to take this opportunity to express to the Director-General our deep appreciation and gratitude for the presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium after taking into account the international economic situation on the one hand and the deteriorating situation of food and agriculture in the developing countries on the other hand. The result was a practical document that showed all the influences and introduced an excellent Programme of Work and Budget. The growth rate of this Budget is only 0.5 percent which is about zero growth compared to the preceding Budget. However that has not affected the programmes of the Organization and its development programmes but came about through reduction in administrative costs.

After listening to the excellent statement made yesterday by the Former Chancellor Mr Kreisky we hope that this statement will find its echo in the countries concerned and that this response will be to approve budgets and programmes of work, other than the ones we have in this budget, in the coming years.

Finally, we hope that this Commission and the Conference will approve the recommendation of the Council and approve the Programme of Work and Budget as it is presented in the document.

XIANG ZHONGYANG (China) (original language Chinese): I would like to say that the Chinese delegation under your Chairmanship, Sir, will cooperate with the other delegations to make its contribution to the success of our Commission.

I would now like to make a few general comments on the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. With regard to the level of the Budget the Chinese delegation has already pointed out at

the Eighty-fourth session of the Council that the growth rate of 0.5 percent is inadequate to reinforce the work of the Organization and meet the needs of the developing countries. However, bearing in mind the economic situation of the world at present we feel that this is a realistic rate. Therefore we greatly appreciate the efforts of the Director-General towards this end and we hope that the present Session of the Conference will arrive at a consensus on the level of the Budget.

The four main objectives proposed by the Director-General that is to say, promotion of food production, improvement of world food security, the impact on the field, and also the reinforcement of economic and technical cooperation between the developing countries meet with our approval. We feel that the four main objectives represent a coherent whole, even though multi-disciplinary measures will have to be adopted to solve the problem of agricultural development. The promotion of food production in particular in the low-income food-deficit countries is nevertheless the main objective of the Organization for the biennium. All activities aiming at stimulating food production in developing countries, in particular the field activities, should be given priority in allocating supplementary resources.

We appreciate the efforts adopted by the Director-General to allocate important resources to the economic and technical programmes, and even when the increase of the programme represents only 0.5 percent the resources set aside for technical economic activities have increased by 3.6 percent, and this represents continuity in the policy of the Organization adopted since 1976.

We feel that the choice of priorities, including the increase of 3.6 percent for technical cooperation, is appropriate and balanced.

We also support the priority granted to the African region in the programme for the next biennium.

We hope that once the priorities are adopted the Secretariat will implement the programme on the basis of past results with great efficiency so that the developing countries can benefit therefrom.

We are happy to note that the development of research and technology has been granted top priority in the Programme for the next biennium. We feel that the promotion of transfer of technology as well as transfer of resources constitutes an important component of the future activities of the Organization.

Economic and technical cooperation between developing countries is given much space in the sector of agriculture and food and we would fully support the fact that FAO has included this as one of the main objectives of the Programme for the next biennium. In the course of the last few years FAO has done a great deal along these lines, in particular in appealing to the capacities of the developing countries themselves for the implementation of the projects. When the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1983-84 was discussed at the Eighty-third session of the Council the Council also reaffirmed this new orientation.

Even though there are certain signs of economic revival in some of the developed countries since 1983 within the overall framework of world recession, the unfavourable effects of this recession on the economics of the developing countries cannot be cancelled out very quickly. The developing countries will therefore have to face in the next years a very serious challenge in developing agriculture. The developed countries will have to help the developing countries to attenuate this unfavourable impact of economic recession.

In introducing his Programme of Work and Budget the Director-General has stressed the interdependency of world economy. He is quite right to say that if the developed countries were to assist and encourage developing countries, then these latter countries could act as a motor for a while for economic growth in the northern countries. It is true that the developing countries have to rely in the long run on their own resources to take up this challenge. However, economic and technical assistance from the outside is also essential. This is a point of view which is generally accepted by the international community.

We are happy to note that in the present unfavourable international economic situation many developing countries have constantly readjusted and redefined the policy of development. They have relied on their own efforts and they have been able to absorb outside resources and introduce new techniques. Accordingly they have obtained optimum economic results in taking advantage of help from outside. For several years China has received help from outside and we are willing to make good use of the good experience of other countries.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the support of the Chinese delegation for the objectives, strategies and priorities proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. As to the various programmes and sub-programmes, we shall comment later on in the course of the discussion.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like at the outset to associate myself with the previous delegates who have congratulated you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I would like also to congratulate the Vice-Chairman and the members of the Drafting Committee. By the same token I would like to express my satisfaction after having heard Mr West's and Mr Shah's declarations.

My delegation read this whole document very carefully, especially the Director-General's introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. I reserve the right to speak more specifically on the different items of the Regular Programme of Work and Budget in forthcoming meetings.

We would like to congratulate the Director-General upon the presentation of this document which is very harmonious and realistic, despite the unfavorable economic circumstances prevailing in the world. I think we cannot but approve the different strategies and priorities, especially since they have been prepared on the basis of recommendations given by different international organizations and the FAO governing bodies and since they are intended to fulfill development requirements in low-income and least developed countries within limited financial resources.

My delegation has noticed the Director-General's measures aiming at scrapping low-priority programmes reducing administrative costs and back-stopping expenses as well as eliminating certain posts. This is illustrated by the cuts he introduced in his own office of \$400 000, which were pumped in high-priority technical and economic programmes thereby increasing the efficiency of field programmes to achieve a substantial increase in agricultural production, food security as well as fostering technical cooperation among developing countries.

My delegation would like to support the trend taken by the Director-General to allocate additional resources to those programmes and sub-programmes that deserve higher priority, especially developing agricultural research and technology.

In previous meetings my delegation has underscored the importance of increasing FAO's efficiency and activities in the field of agricultural research and technology. We are happy to see that before us we have the Director-General's proposal to combine the various research units into a new research and technology department, and this serves to highlight that the Organization is prepared to cooperate with other organizations involved in research.

We are happy to see that the African continent is given priority in the programmes of the Organization, given the importance and weight of the Technical Cooperation Programme, which has helped many countries, to find solutions to their problems.

My delegation would like to support the new trend followed by the Director-General to increase resources allocated to that programme from 12 percent to 13.5 percent of the total budget base.

My delegation has also noted that the different activities undertaken by the new investment centre, are extremely important since they pave the way to increase development projects, and we hope that its activities will continue to grow, and that this centre will be given the resources it requires, in order to fulfill its role adequately.

We must also pay tribute to the decentralization policy followed by the Director-General, as well as the role of FAO Regional Representatives, who offer timely assistance. Given the new dimensions of economic and technical cooperation amongst developing countries, my delegation would like to invite the Director-General to pursue all these activities, and to draw upon the capacities and potential of developing countries the carrying out of their projects, and to give them high priority in the framework of the Organization's programmed activities. We commend FAO's efforts in training and hope that it will develop more attention to training institutions in developing countries. We noted when we looked at the regular budget before that there has been a very modest increase in this budget, compared to the budget of the last biennium. So we appreciate even more the efforts made by the Director-General, in order to achieve this even symbolic growth, and his attempts to lighten the financial burdens on Member States in the light of present international economic difficulties.

W. ADERO (Kenya): First I wish to join other delegations who have spoken before me in congratulating you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission. I also wish to thank both Mr West and Mr Shah for the very clear introduction they have given us on the Programme of Work and Budget, which is the subject which we are discussing now.

Kenya has been honored to serve in the FAO Council. We, therefore, have had a chance to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget at Council meetings, and due to this I shall make my intervention very brief.

My delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget, and are very much in agreement with priority areas, as outlined by the Director-General. As regards the budget level, our view has been that, and we still hold that same view, that FAO would have been in a much better position to carry

out its programmes with a slightly bigger budget. However, due to the difficult economic conditions being experienced by member countries, we accept the budget level as it is. We note with appreciation, that although the budget level remains about the same as it was during the last biennium, the expenditure on technical and economic programmes will rise by not less than 3.6 percent, and this will enable the Organization to respond more effectively to urgent situations in Member States, and especially the poorest ones. We very much welcome this. We also note that this has been made possible by reducing administrative costs, that now stand at only 58 percent of the total budget, as compared to that of 77 percent about ten years ago. This goes a long way in showing that the Director-General and the Secretariat are doing a lot in putting FAO resources in areas where they are required most.

In conclusion, I want to state once again that we support the budget, and we hope that it will be carried by consensus.

M. KHORAYCH (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission. Nous sommes persuadés que vous dirigerez nos débats avec la plus grande compétence. Mes remerciements s'adressent aussi à MM. West et Shah pour les excellents exposés que nous avons entendus.

Ma délégation voudrait également remercier le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs qui ont élaboré ce Programme de travail et budget; les priorités ont été bien définies en dépit de la croissance de 0,5 pour cent du budget. Ce Programme de travail et budget est la preuve de l'effort fourni car les ressources ont été allouées au mieux et c'est la raison pour laquelle ma délégation voudrait apporter son appui total au Programme de travail et budget; nous espérons que les autres délégations feront de même. Nous voulons espérer que le concept de la croissance zéro ne constituera pas un précédent à suivre dans l'avenir car il est nécessaire d'augmenter les activités en matière de production agricole et d'alimentation si nous voulons que la FAO s'acquitte de sa tâche, à savoir : l'élimination de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde.

K. M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): Allow me, first, to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this very important Commission. I would also like to extend our appreciation to Mr West and Mr Shah for their lucid presentation of the subject.

I shall be very brief, in order to save on our 20 minutes for later interventions. As a member of the Council, the Bangladesh delegation at the Eighty-fourth session has discussed the Programme of Work and Budget in detail, and expressed its full support to the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Objectives.

The Programme of Work and Budget is a key tool for guiding FAO in accomplishing its objectives in the service of mankind, particularly through its efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

As incidence of hunger and malnutrition continue unabated, it would seem legitimate to expect expansion of FAO's activities involving enhancement in budgetary outlay. On the contrary we perceive budgetary deceleration. In real fact, however, this deceleration represents a reorientation of priorities. This reorientation displays the Director-General's wisdom and appreciation of the reality of global economic situation which advocates restraint. At once this reorientation in Programme priority savings really augments technical activities which preserves FAO's productive impetus. This briefly stated consideration of reality impels us to reiterate the full support of the Bangladesh delegation to the Programme of Work and Budget, as well as the Medium-Term Objectives, for the next Biennium.

E. J. STONYER (New Zealand): Firstly, can we add our congratulations to the other delegates, on your appointment as Chairman of this very important Commission. The New Zealand delegation would like to join other delegates in their praise for the work of the Programme and Finance Committees, and to the executive staff, which has obviously so well serviced these Committees.

Document C 83/3 has a much improved format, and goes a long way towards meeting the difficulties many others experience in trying to evaluate the work of FAO.

At the Twenty-first session of the Conference, many delegations, including that of our own, expressed the thought that the prevailing economic climate meant that constraints would have to be exercised in the rate of real budget growth. It is very pleasing to see the responsible approach taken by the Director-General and his staff, and the very real efforts that have been made to curtail expenditure and maintain operational programmes.

New Zealand, along with many other countries of FAO, has been seeking budgetary reform aimed at providing for the more efficient use of funds. Within our own economies we have had to limit budgetary growth.

We have attempted to reorder our priorities, and eliminate any wastage. I think this type of approach that many of us have adopted in our domestic backyard is very important too to the United Nations agencies such as FAO. We would not support as a nation any diminution of effort in the food and agricultural area. In the same vein we would not support the limiting of effective operational programmes to maintain surplus administration, or projects which are no longer cost-effective.

We still have some difficulty in making quantitative judgements from the papers provided to the Conference. This is rather a small point, and it has already been mentioned by the delegate from Mexico, that we cannot perhaps do too much in this line, but the philosophy and analytical interpretation provides an excellent background in the papers that we have put before us. We identify the problems which face the Organization and, indeed, all aid agencies, in the more effective application of funds invested in country development. Despite this fact, and the presentation of statistical information, it is still difficult for the observer to judge real performance. The tenor of the documentation reflects the uncertain economic situation that prevails throughout the world. It illustrates the effect this has both in the developing countries and more specifically the impact that a reduction in funding has on the programmes of FAO. It is apparent from the text of the reports that this situation has been accommodated by a range of modifications to the current Programme. It would have been desirable, perhaps, to make available the criteria on which these changes were made, and the way in which priorities for funds application are established. It does seem that in this important area priorities should be debated as widely as possible, so that the principles on which the Organization stands may be seen to be applied and endorsed in this open forum.

A similar atmosphere of uncertainty surrounds the effectiveness of some of the field operations. It is pleasing to see that serious attempts are being made to evaluate performance. However, it does seem that the internal audit system could suffer from a degree of subjectivity which could raise questions of credibility. The introduction of limited external evaluation is to be commended, but there is no way in which these two independent activities can be related. The point is made, for instance, in one report, that no attempt should be made to correlate the two types of evaluation as they are both made from a different mix of projects. The credibility of major internal assessment operations I think could be enhanced if they were reinforced with comparable results achieved through an independent audit. What are the criteria to be used to hold the project which lacks commitment or competence in the counterpart organization? To what extent is human need and social benefit assessed in weighing the merits of sustaining faltering performance? It seems that this forum could address itself to some of these philosophical questions so that the executives would have more guidance in making the kinds of decisions which they have to make. In taking hard decisions they will know they are working within an improved and agreed philosophical framework.

In conclusion, just one other point. For New Zealand's part our main area of interest obviously is in the Pacific. It is difficult within the information provided to extract information which is specific to that region. Despite any of these very minor shortcomings, my delegation is very pleased with the progress that has been made, and we would give our general support to the strategy which has been put forward, and to the work programme and the priorities that have been established.

N. K. BASNYAT (Nepal): First of all, I would also like to thank you on being elected to the high post of the Chairman of this important Commission, and I also would like to thank Mr West and Mr Shah for their task of representation of the whole work. I would like to thank the Director-General and his staff for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

Nepal's delegation, or Nepal in particular, has been benefiting from FAO's efforts and we are very happy, and my delegation would like to express our gratitude to the Directors and others for the priority given to Asia and the Pacific region, and particularly any Asian countries.

My delegation will be putting our views in discussions, so without taking much time I would just like to thank you again for being elected to the high post of this important Commission.

Sra. Dra. D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia reitera su más pleno apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984/85. Considera nuestra delegación que este importante documento contiene notables mejoras en su presentación y corresponde a las prioridades definidas de los Organos Rectores, así como a una seria y adecuada evaluación de la situación de la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que se deben destacar los esfuerzos realizados por el Director General para presentar un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto equilibrado que representa el mínimo posible. Apoyamos esta propuesta en el sentido de que, en los bienios futuros, la FAO deberá contar con todos los recursos necesarios para llevar a cabo sus importantes labores. Afortunadamente, el Director General actuó con criterio realista y pragmático logrando hacer reducciones en los sectores administrativos para dedicar más recursos a los programas técnicos y económicos.

La delegación de Colombia opina que tan acertada actitud de la FAO y la posición transaccional de los representantes de gobiernos que seguimos apoyando más amplios recursos para la FAO, deberán merecer la aprobación unánime de esta Conferencia.

Nuestra delegación piensa que no es posible seguir aceptando que se acentué la tendencia real y progresiva contra la asistencia multilateral. Esta Organización se ocupa de los campos que más interesan hoy a los países en desarrollo, y debe contar con medios y recursos suficientes para cumplir adecuadamente sus funciones. Lamentamos que la forzosa reducción a que fue sometido este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto haya impedido el reforzamiento de las Oficinas Regionales y la apertura de nuevas oficinas de representantes en los países.

La delegación de Colombia confirma su apoyo a la política de descentralización. Consideramos que los problemas, los campesinos y los elementos primarios de la agricultura están en el campo, en regiones de países en desarrollo. Es allá donde se hace más necesaria la acción de la FAO, en forma directa y en permanente contacto con las tierras y los agricultores.

Apoyamos con énfasis, en particular, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Ese Programa ha venido confirmando su validez de instrumento ágil, eficaz y positivo con un efecto multiplicador generalmente reconocido y apreciado.

Para concluir, nuestra delegación apoya plenamente el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984/85. Esperamos que en los bienios futuros, los países desarrollados no insistan en su funesta política de crecimiento cero que nosotros rechazamos.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais joindre mes félicitations à celles qui vous ont été adressées par mes collègues pour votre élection à la présidence. La délégation canadienne a eu l'avantage de participer aux travaux du Comité financier où nous avons eu l'occasion d'examiner le détail de ce budget et de présenter nos commentaires. Il s'ensuit qu'aujourd'hui nos commentaires seront d'ordre général et très brefs; nous réaliserons ainsi une économie sur les 20 minutes de parole qui nous sont allouées et nous réserverons le temps économisé à des commentaires plus détaillés ultérieurement.

La délégation canadienne se félicite des efforts importants qui ont été faits lors de la préparation du budget en vue de répondre aux inquiétudes exprimées tant par le Canada que par d'autres Etats Membres lors de la Conférence de 1981, en vue de mettre un frein aux dépenses budgétaires. Nous savons que la tâche du Directeur général s'avérait particulièrement difficile, car il ne pouvait répondre aux exigences de tous les Etats Membres. Nous croyons néanmoins qu'il a bien pu répondre aux besoins les plus importants.

Le Canada continue à préconiser le principe d'une croissance réelle zéro à travers le système des Nations Unies, mais il sait adapter ce principe avec souplesse lorsqu'il y a eu un effort sérieux pour répondre aux plus hautes priorités et rechercher le maximum d'économies.

Dans ce contexte, nous avons constaté avec satisfaction que le Secrétariat en formulant son Programme a su mettre l'accent sur les programmes techniques et économiques aux dépens des aspects administratifs de ce programme. Aussi tenons-nous à affirmer notre appui à la priorité qui est donnée aux pays moins nantis et surtout aux pays africains.

Nous avons aussi noté dans les documents la suppression d'une quarantaine de postes. Nous nous réjouissons de cet effort économique mais nous croyons qu'il aurait été utile de joindre un tableau ou une description indiquant la provenance et le remaniement de ces postes à l'intérieur du programme.

Ma délégation souhaite également féliciter le Secrétariat d'avoir préparé un document clair et complet qui rend l'analyse du budget beaucoup plus facile. Comme nous l'avons indiqué antérieurement à maintes reprises, nous continuons à nous inquiéter de la croissance continue du Programme de coopération technique. Notre inquiétude tient d'une part à notre adhésion au principe de financement central par l'entremise du PNUD et d'autre part, de l'utilisation de fonds du Programme régulier pour son financement. Bien que le programme spécifique soit conçu en vue de répondre à des urgences ou bien pour financer des projets, il semble qu'il soit difficile à la FAO d'épuiser les fonds alloués à ce projet dans un seul biennium. Nous aurons peut-être à intervenir sur ce sujet lors de l'examen du chapitre de ce budget. Néanmoins, comme nous l'avons indiqué lors du dernier Conseil, ma délégation appuie les choix de priorité qui sont exposés dans ce document et nous pouvons endosser les propositions budgétaires qui nous sont présentées.

N.V.K. WERAGODA (Sri Lanka): I found the introductory remarks by the Deputy Director-General and by the Director of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation extremely useful in understanding this item which no doubt is the most important item on our Agenda. I wish to commend them on the clarity of its presentation, the tabular and graphical presentation in the document which makes the understanding of this subject very much easier. We endorse the strategies and priorities adopted by the Director-General for the forthcoming biennium in formulating his proposals. We realize the stand taken by the Director-General in preparing a modest budget level because of the existing difficulties facing both developed and developing countries, the shift of resources from less priority areas to more important areas of activity such as the technical and research fields, is a step in the right direction because the FAO primarily has these duties to perform; and we wish to commend him on this.

Let me state, however, that it is our hope -that in curtailing administrative and support services this is sustained within reasonable limits, as it endangers the efficiency and the functioning of the entire Organization.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to state that we fully support the Programme of Work and Budget proposals by the Director-General for 1984-85 together with the proposed budget level.

CHAIRMAN: Before we adjourn I should like to indicate that we have had 18 speakers this morning. All of them have supported the Programme of Work and Budget. However, concern has been expressed on the calculation of the budget increase and I hope the Secretariat will attend to that at the end.

Concern was also expressed on the modalities for judging the effectiveness of programmes and I hope this will be attended to by the Secretariat.

On the whole, however, appreciation was expressed for the effort of the Organization to exercise budgetary constraint and at the same time the 0.5 percent growth was greatly deplored. However, the Technical Cooperation Programme and the decentralization programme were largely supported. We look forward to further support in the afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 83/II/PV/2

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SECOND MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE SEGUNDA REUNION (8 November 1983)

The Second Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours,
C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La deuxième seance est ouverte à 15 h 00
sous la présidence de C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la segunda reunión a las 15.00 horas,
bajo la presidencia de C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

11. Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)

11. Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

S. PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): My delegation would like to thank Mr West and Mr Shah for their clear introduction to the subject under discussion. My delegation has carefully examined the documents concerning the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. Taking into account the current world situation, and especially having listened to the Director-General's statement yesterday, we welcome the proposed Strategies, Priorities and Measures as contained in those documents. My delegation therefore fully endorses the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

Tesema NEGASH (Ethiopia): I would like to thank Mr West and Mr Shah for the policy statement and the lucid introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget.

I was in the Plenary Session for a while this morning and the atmosphere there is rather for complete support for the Programme of Work and Budget. I am afraid we cannot here act differently or take a different position than the one that is being taken at the Plenary.

The Programme of Work and Budget presented to us in its final form is the most scrutinized in content and in form Programme of Work and Budget that I have ever known. It has been through the various Committees and two Council sessions. I have no doubt therefore that this Commission and the Conference would unanimously support and endorse it as it is presented to us.

In the past my delegation made its position clear by strongly - and I repeat, strongly - opposing the trend towards zero budget growth. However, having carefully considered the current unfavourable global economic situation, and being convinced of the need for pragmatism and a case by case intersituational approach made by FAO, we express our full support for the Budget before us.

We reiterate our unreserved support for the Programme of Work and the level of the Budget. We hope, however, that the present trend - that is, the tendency towards zero growth - will be corrected in future in line with needs of developing countries.

The effective use of the TCP project has been endorsed and agreed by several Member Nations of the FAO Council only last week, especially in reference to its use in attacking rinderpest in Africa, and I wish to commend FAO for the efficiency and effectiveness demonstrated by the use of this fund.

The continuous depletion in the size of FAO administrative staff gives us some concern. The Organization has been effective without any sacrifice qualitatively as well as quantitatively, in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities entrusted to it by the world community. However, this cannot continue indefinitely, and there should be an end to it. We are opposed to any unjustified directions which would force the Organization to compromise the quality of its service.

Lastly, we wish to record our appreciation for the priority accorded to Africa for research, technology and training. We reaffirm our full support for the strategies and priorities charted for the biennium 1984-85.

We shall make further comments, if need be, in due course.

R.M. SHIRIMA (Tanzania): The Tanzania delegation wishes to join the other delegates in congratulating you on your selection as Chairman of this important Commission. The Tanzania de'egation support the suggested budget and work programmes and commends the way it has been presented. We endorse the Director-General's introduction and support the idea of minimizing certain areas of expenditure as far as possible.

The question of exchange rate used in the Budget has been raised by other delegates, and we share this concern. We endorse the general considerations, and feel that it covers the necessary spheres FAO has to look into in the coming two years. We appreciate the efforts being made in fisheries and forestry, and fully support the programmes mentioned. We consider this greatly supports the FAO's efforts in assisting developing countries, and my delegation expresses sincere thanks for the efforts FAO made in preparation of the national food strategy, now adopted by the Tanzania Government. We hope FAO will continue to assist such strategies, and ensure adequate technical support during implementation.

We further note FAO's support in assisting our regions in a number of outbreaks, such as the large grain borer, and such measures should be emphasized in future programmes, in order to assist not only the affected countries, but also the developing countries.

At this juncture, Mr Chairman, we shall reserve our specific comments to later debates.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous aussi, Monsieur le Président, nous allons tenter de ne pas épuiser nos vingt minutes de parole à la première séance.

Qu'il me soit permis, au nom de la délégation, de notre pays, de joindre notre voix à celles des autres délégations qui nous ont précédés pour vous adresser nos vives félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de la Commission II de la Conférence. Nous voulons de même profiter de l'occasion que vous nous offrez en nous donnant la parole pour remercier MM. West et Shah ainsi que vous-même, Monsieur le Président, pour vos explications complémentaires aux documents soumis à notre examen.

Il y a quelques jours, intervenant en tant que membre du Conseil de la FAO, notre délégation, tout en prenant note du fait que le Programme de travail et budget 1984/85 de la FAO serait examiné en détail au sein de la présente Commission, avait appuyé de façon totale ces outils de travail pour la Direction générale de la FAO. Depuis que le Conseil a pris fin, nous avons affiné l'examen de ce document, et à l'issue de cet exercice, nous sommes heureux de vous dire à nouveau que nous n'avons pas changé d'avis mais que, tout au contraire, plusieurs raisons nous ont confortés dans notre soutien au Programme de travail et budget 1984/85 présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO.

Au nombre de ces raisons, nous pouvons citer: les efforts tendant à la réduction des charges administratives déployés par le Directeur général, le choix délicat mais bien réussi des stratégies et priorités qui concilient à la fois la situation des pauvres et celle des pays industrialisés, mais tous membres de notre Organisation; la transparence, la prudence et le réalisme qui caractérisent ces documents; les multiples innovations apportées à la présentation des documents conformément aux directives de la Conférence, du Conseil et des comités spécialisés de l'Organisation; la priorité accordée aux actions de terrain par rapport aux charges du Siège; le soutien à l'Afrique continent très épouvê par des calamités naturelles de tout genre.

Encore quelques mots avant d'en terminer. Par rapport au budget de l'exercice précédent, le budget 1984/85 de la FAO aura une croissance globale de 0,5 pour cent. Devant les effets du cisaillement de la crise économique mondiale de plus en plus ressentis par les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire, nous voulons exprimer une fois de plus nos préoccupations quant aux réductions dont sont l'objet les programmes de terrain de la FAO.

Dans ce même ordre d'idée, nous délaissions et rejetons en bloc le culte que certains pays accordent au principe de la croissance zéro en matière de contribution au Fonds de notre Organisation. En terminant, nous déclarons que, pleinement ouverts à la discussion, nous souhaitons participer activement à l'exercice qui aboutira, nous osons l'espérer, à l'adoption par consensus et à l'unanimité, du Programme de travail et budget 1984/85 de la FAO sous l'éclairage des déclarations que nous avons entendues en séance plénière, et en particulier après la Conférence donnée par M. Kreisky de la République d'Autriche.

N. RAYEL (Ireland) : I would like to add my congratulations to you on your appointment to the Chairmanship of this Commission. I would also like to thank Mr West and Mr Shah for their very helpful introductions. I will be very brief, indeed, as my delegation made its views known at the Eighty-fourth session of the Council last week.

We commend the Director-General and his staff for both the presentation and content of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984 and 1985. We welcome the fact that the Budget level takes into account the present difficult economic and financial situation prevailing in all countries. While it is not possible to satisfy everybody, we feel that the Programme of Work and Budget, as presented, goes a long way towards meeting all interests. We can, therefore, add our support.

C. THOMSEN (Denmark): The Danish delegation wishes to join others in congratulating you and the other members of the bureau on your election to this important task. We would also wish to thank the Deputy Director-General and Mr Shah, for their helpful introductions.

The first part of my general remarks will be related to the format of the document. Whereas my delegation in the past has advocated the presentation of Medium-term Objectives as a separate document, we can see the advantages in incorporating these background considerations under each of the Programmes. It does, in fact, in our view, facilitate the examination of the individual Programmes. We are anxious, however, in line with our previous point of view, to maintain the importance of this part of the Programme document, that is that the importance of medium-term planning should not, as it is stated in the document, be compromised in the future. We welcome the list of priorities indicated under each programme, although, as it is stated, their presentation is not always so easy to elaborate and to grasp. We believe that there is room for further progress and refinement in this respect, and we would like to take advantage of such progress in the future.

We also welcome the increased amount of detail provided on the proposed changes in resources, which although we would admit it makes for more difficult reading, it does at the same time provide us with a better basis for understanding the proposals and their implications. So we do welcome this.

With regard to the level of the Budget we wish to express our satisfaction that account has been taken of the present economic circumstances in presenting a budget for the next biennium which, as it has been stated, involves a real growth limited to 0.5 percent. But at the same time it should not be forgotten that the budget for the present biennium has provided for a considerably higher rate of real growth, and this, of course, has provided the base for the new budget proposed.

My delegation would like to express our appreciation of the achievement of the Director-General in changing the emphasis from administration to technical and economic programmes, which has made it possible to propose 3.6 percent increase in real terms in these programmes. We welcome that.

We also welcome the proposed reduction in a number of posts, especially at headquarters in Rome. We do not consider this to be an objective per se, but as a way of promoting more action in the field, that is as a part of the action orientation of the Organization.

I then wish to make a few general remarks on priorities, but will revert to these matters in more detail in a later intervention. Within the proposed budget level it is, of course, most important to consider with care the relative priorities of the various parts of the Programme of Work and Budget, but from the point of view of scarce resources, it seems equally important to avoid overlapping and competition with other organizations that are involved in improving the world food situation. We admit that coordination can be a troublesome undertaking but we cannot escape the need for close collaboration with other organizations in order to obtain efficient use of resources. We fully acknowledge that there are several examples of such collaboration under various parts of the Programme, but we wish to express a wish that these examples may be intensified and may be in other areas collaboration-promoted in the future.

Finally, in connexion with the consideration of priorities it is in our opinion most important that all activities are included no matter from where the sources or finance come; that is total programming as far as this proves possible. But particularly with regard to the presentation and implementation of the special action programmes we consider it essential that these should be fully integrated in the Regular Programme and not become a separate entity in the total system. In our view close interaction is a condition for obtaining successful results also here.

M.E. BONDANZA de FILIPPO (Argentina): En primer término deseo aprovechar esta primera ocasión para felicitarle, señor Presidente, por su designación; estamos seguros que los trabajos de esta Comisión se van a llevar a cabo con todo éxito bajo su experta dirección y nosotros comprometemos nuestro esfuerzo para que así ocurra.

Al mismo tiempo también deseamos agradecer al señor West por la brillante presentación del temario que nos ha efectuado, y también al señor Shah que nos ha dado explicaciones que nos resultan muy útiles sobre el documento C83/3.

Siguiendo su primer consejo, nuestra intervención en esta ocasión va a ser breve. Simplemente queremos resaltar dos aspectos el más importante es que la Argentina cree que el Proyecto del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado significa un gran esfuerzo por parte de la Secretaría y quizá constituya un verdadero ejemplo entre las agencias de las Naciones Unidas.

Las prioridades y estrategias sugeridas en el documento nos parecen apropiadas en tanto responden a las necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

Evidentemente, la FAO podría bien utilizar más recursos si se contara con ellos, pero debemos tener en cuenta las especiales condiciones económicas internacionales que han sido ya señaladas en esta Sala; y en este sentido quiero destacar un segundo aspecto: que mi país en la actualidad ha logrado ponerse al día con sus cuotas de pago para la Organización, pero ello se ha hecho con gran esfuerzo. Debemos ser entonces conscientes que ello implica un sacrificio para nuestros pueblos. De todas maneras creemos que la Secretaría ha logrado un verdadero equilibrio en la presentación.

Vemos con satisfacción que no se han afectado los fondos destinados a proyectos de desarrollo, sino que, por el contrario, se sugiere un aumento, y es importante comprobar que el mismo surge en buena parte de ahorros provenientes de una racionalización administrativa.

Por otra parte, deseo dejar constancia de nuestro apoyo, en particular a los programas de Cooperación Técnica que resultan de invaluable utilidad a todos los países en desarrollo y de un modo general quiero expresar el apoyo de Argentina a todo el Programa. Claro está que a medida que vayamos analizando Programas y Subprogramas nos reservamos el derecho de hacer comentarios adicionales.

B. AL-MABROUK SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I would like to join the previous speakers in extending our heartfelt congratulations to all those who contributed most effectively and seriously to the preparation of this excellent and clear document. This programme has not only been able to maintain the budget level despite the economic problems facing the world of today but it also increases the allocations for technical and economic programmes by a rate of 3.6 percent. By this formula the Director-General presented to us constructive and most effective solutions. My country's delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium 1984-85 presented by the Director-General, which we believe lives up to our aspirations.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Señor Presidente, a nombre de la delegación Cubana, deseo trasladarle nuestra felicitación por haber sido elegido para conducir las sesiones de esta Comisión.

Asimismo agradecemos al Director General adjunto y al Director de la Oficina del Programa, del Presupuesto y de Evaluación por la clara presentación del tema para facilitar nuestras deliberaciones.

Al examinar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio no podemos dejar de recordar, ante todo, la gravedad de la situación alimentaria y nutricional y la miseria y pobreza que padece una parte importante de la humanidad, tal como se deduce de la introducción del Director General de la FAO al documento C 83/3; los problemas del hambre, la carrera armamentista, la creciente deuda externa de los países subdesarrollados caracteriza la dramática situación mundial sin que los análisis que se hayan realizado auguren una solución a los agudos problemas que aquejan a toda la humanidad, y en particular a los países de más bajos ingresos.

La producción de alimentos con marcada tensión descendente permite asegurar que la aspiración de una seguridad alimentaria estable que satisfaga incluso los niveles indispensables de consumo resultan muy incierta. Si a toda esta situación añadimos que existe la propensión de los países de mayores ingresos a reducir sus contribuciones para la ayuda del desarrollo de la agricultura y de la alimentación, las perspectivas no pueden ser más desalentadoras y ello nos obliga a reflexionar para que en el marco de las posibilidades actuales tratemos de orientar las actividades de la FAO, ya reducidas en sus posibilidades, hacia la solución de los problemas más urgentes.

Debemos reconocer que la FAO ha realizado un notable esfuerzo en la preparación de un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que busca precisamente la redistribución de un fondo para orientar las prioridades de sus labores hacia los temas y problemas más agudos que hoy confrontamos en los países subdesarrollados. Esta labor merece nuestro reconocimiento y el apoyo por la forma en que ha sido enfocada, tanto en el orden estratégico como práctico, a la vez que elogiamos el equilibrio razonable que presenta el Programa, teniendo en cuenta las múltiples solicitudes y actividades que tiene la FAO en materia de asistencia técnica.

De manera especial se debe señalar la preocupación del Director General en cuanto a dirigir los escasos recursos disponibles para resolver las necesidades urgentes de los países menos adelantados como primera prioridad, y en particular hacia el grupo de países del África Subsahariana.

No podemos dejar de mencionar nuestra preocupación relativa al bajo nivel de crecimiento propuesto del 0,5 por ciento y al que muchos países lo han denominado crecimiento simbólico o crecimiento cero. Esto debe constatar la preocupación de todos por cuanto sienta un precedente que para los períodos futuros pudiera no ser salvado, incluso puede constituir un anuncio de perspectivas de reducción en los períodos venideros.

En consecuencia, esta Conferencia debe hacer un llamado a los países de mayores ingresos y a las instituciones contribuyentes para que aumenten de una manera significativa sus aportes, si es que en alguna medida están sensibilizados con los agudos problemas del hambre, la malnutrición y el sub-desarrollo que caracterizan a los países del Tercer Mundo.

Permítame, señor Presidente, sugerir y apoyar los esfuerzos que ha realizado la FAO en el fortalecimiento de las acciones encaminadas a la identificación de proyectos y programas que puedan ser financiados a través de los fondos extrapresupuestarios. Mención especial debemos hacer acerca del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que ha venido desempeñando importante papel para los países subde-

sarrollados dado su dinamismo, capacidad y movilidad de recursos dentro de cada país. Este programa permite además abordar los problemas urgentes con prontitud para la búsqueda rápida de soluciones. En consecuencia, consideramos que esta Conferencia debe apoyar las asignaciones propuestas para este importante Programa y siempre que sea posible aumentarlas.

De otra parte consideramos que ha sido acertado el criterio de dar una alta prioridad a los programas que se llevan a cabo en el Continente Africano, identificado como aquel que acusa una situación más crítica.

Estamos convencidos que la FAO realizará sus mejores esfuerzos para obtener los mayores resultados que puedan derivarse de recursos tan limitados, pero para ello sería necesario que esta prestigiosa Organización cuente con el más decidido apoyo de todos los países que se esfuercen por un futuro mejor para sus pueblos.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): Mr Chairman, I wish to add my voice to those who have congratulated you on your election to this high office of Chairman of this very important Commission. From the way we have progressed so far it is quite apparent that we are in good hands and the Commission will accomplish its tasks efficiently and within the allotted time.

The Nigerian delegation has examined in some detail the Programme of Work and Budget. We have also listened to the excellent introductions to the subject and we have nothing but praise for the Secretariat and the Director-General of FAO.

In our judgement the budget is the most analytical and most informative one in recent years. The integration of the medium-term objectives at the global, regional as well as programme level has put every programme in the document in its proper perspective.

The Director-General's introduction has also provided an excellent summary to the Programme and Budget. The interesting features of this Programme are: (1) in spite of the marginal increase of 0.5 percent in real terms over the current programme, all field programmes of the Organization which have been acclaimed to be useful by Member Nations will continue at least at the current level of activities, while those that have outlived their usefulness have been struck out to release resources for other programmes. In fact it is recorded that an increase of about 3.6 percent in the expenditure on field and economic programmes is envisaged. This is highly commendable. The restructuring of the administration and technical services of the Organization which started a decade ago has continued, thus reducing the proportion of the total budget spent on administration from 77 to 58 percent. This will go a long way in improving the image of the Organization as an action and result orientated one.

The priorities have been set in full recognition of the state of food and agriculture in 1983 which has been characterised by widespread drought, floods and disease advent in various parts of the world. Even some developed countries were not immune to these natural instabilities. My delegation therefore endorses the Director-General's priorities in the following areas: (1) Research and technical development which forms the basis of most FAO technical programmes in many developing countries. The reorganization proposed that will make research and development more cost-effective is supported. (2) The new focus on agricultural extension, education and rural institutions for women in the context of WCARRD is most welcome.

3) The sub-sectorial allocation of resource crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry is quite satisfactory having regard to the magnitude of the problem of each sub-sector and its potential contribution to the most urgent problems of food and agriculture.

4) The enlarged concept of food security which includes improved food production, stability of supplies and economic access to food by all sectors of the population is also supported. One issue of major concern to my delegation is the funding of field programmes which depend largely on extra-budgetary funds from UNDP, EEC, IFAD donor governments, and development banks such as World Bank and IDA.

Although an indicative figure of \$653 million has been entered into the budget, recent trends make one wonder whether this is optimistic, realistic or conservative. We make this observation at this stage even though it is not the main subject of discussion, in order to underscore the need to appeal to donor agencies, to favour multilateral channels of aid over bilateral channels which appears to be the trend. The UNDP which, for instance, used to provide the bulk of the extra-budgetary funds, is facing a serious decline in its revenue and according to document C 83/4, UNDP indicated late in 1982 that it would authorize budget levels of only 55 percent of the original IPF for each country for its Third Programme Cycle for 1980 to 1986. In practical terms this has resulted in not renewing the contracts of several experts while their services were still very much needed or wherever possible, setting up trust funds to retain such officers. The longer-term effect of these cutbacks in extra budgetary funds is that many valuable projects which have been studied and appraised by FAO and other bodies remain on the bookshelves of the Ministries of Agriculture.

It is therefore a serious matter requiring the attention of all developed countries and donor agencies. Important programmes such as Food Security, Assistance Schemes, Control of Locust and Rinderpest, Prevention of Food Losses, Seed Improvement and other development programmes will eventually be enhanced if multilateral aid flows improve during the coming biennium.

One feature of the budget which cannot escape notice is the focus on Africa. My delegation appreciates the concern of representatives of other regions and also the initiative of the Director-General in devoting as much as 35 percent of the Regular Programme to Africa. It is indeed ironical that Africa which was once noted for its abundance of food and agricultural resources is going through its second decade of food shortages, droughts and pestilence. I wish to assure this august assembly that we in Africa are not relenting in our efforts to turn the tide in our favour. The Lagos Plan of Action is being pursued vigorously at the country, regional and sub-regional levels. We know this through the exchange of experiences, at various meetings some of which are devoted exclusively to agriculture. It is gratifying to note that food production increased by 2.6 percent per annum in Africa from 1978 to 1982, with a record increase of 3.7 between 1981 and 1982. This shows that with a little more effort from within and outside, the target rate of 4 percent per annum is attainable. However, the very high rates of population increase in many parts of the Continent render these production gains imperceptible.

This has also been compounded by the widespread incidence of drought and pest and disease outbreaks starting from late 1982 and 1983.

This occurrence has called for a new focus on such crucial programmes as water conservation planning and development, pest and disease control on crops and livestock, and prevention of pre- and post-harvest losses, development of drought-resistant crop seeds in the seed improvement programme also need to be considered. The resources earmarked for this aspect of the Programme are therefore fully supported.

Finally, my delegation supports the transmission of the Programme of Work and Budget to the Conference for its adoption.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): Je voudrais tout d'abord excuser la délégation du Cameroun parce que la personne désignée pour prendre la parole vient d'être appelée au téléphone. Néanmoins, comme il y a dans l'ensemble de cette délégation un phénomène d'intercompétence d'interchangeabilité, je me permets de prendre la parole à sa place.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Cameroun s'associe aux précédents orateurs pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de la Deuxième Commission de la Conférence, ainsi que le secrétariat et les responsables de la direction générale de la FAO.

La délégation du Cameroun a suivi avec un grand intérêt le programme de travail et budget 1984-85. Ce document nous a été présenté dans le détail ce matin. Notre délégation se félicite des principes généraux qui ont présidé à l'élaboration de ce document, et prend note du fait qu'il s'agit essentiellement de la maîtrise des facteurs de production, du développement rural, de vaincre la pauvreté et la faim qui frappent la plupart des pays en développement. Elle reste sensible à l'effort international visant à soulager les moins nantis, mais s'inquiète que malgré tout cela l'autosuffisance alimentaire reste encore à un niveau illusoire.

La délégation camerounaise note avec satisfaction la variété et la diversité des programmes que se fixe la FAO au cours des années 1984-1985. Elle apprécie également le niveau du budget qui a été affecté à ce programme.

Tout en se félicitant et en approuvant le programme de travail et le budget qui sont soumis aux diverses délégations de notre conférence, la délégation du Cameroun souhaite que des actions concrètes qui ont un impact réel sur le terrain soient menées dans l'ensemble des pays et c'est dans ce sens qu'elle appuie le programme de travail, soumis à notre appréciation en même temps que le budget.

La délégation du Cameroun se réserve la possibilité d'intervenir sur des petits détails, mais elle constate que le travail essentiel a été très bien fait.

M. BALLA SY (Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, comme les honorables délégués qui m'ont précédé, je voudrais saisir l'occasion de la réunion inaugurale de notre importante Commission pour vous adresser à mon tour mes sincères félicitations pour votre brillante élection. A ces félicitations, je voudrais associer M. le Directeur général adjoint et M. le Directeur du Bureau du programme, du budget et de l'évaluation de la FAO dont les contributions claires, concises et objectives faciliteront certainement nos débats, que je souhaite, dès à présent, fructueux et constructifs.

Concernant le Sénégal, pays en développement, et de surcroît situé dans la partie Sud du Sahara durement éprouvé par la sécheresse et confronté à de très réels problèmes dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, il est inutile de réaffirmer son intérêt, du reste certain, pour tout ce qui intéresse notre grande Organisation, je veux dire la FAO.

S'agissant du programme de travail et budget qui nous a été proposé, son étude m'a inspiré des sentiments de satisfaction. Satisfaction parce que ces documents, outre leur parfaite présentation et leur clarté, reflètent une démarche logique du Directeur général, dont la déclaration d'hier en séance plénière, fort appréciée du reste, est traduite concrètement par le contenu du budget proposé.

Que l'examen comparatif des chiffres proposés montre une priorité pour l'agriculture et le pays en développement n'est pas un hasard mais une volonté sincère de la FAO, à travers son directeur général, de contribuer à la paix dans le monde et à une meilleure redistribution des moyens de subsistance existants sur notre planète.

Aussi, vous pouvez être assuré que dans sa globalité le projet proposé recevra notre appui, même si nous nous réservons, comme certaines délégations qui nous ont précédés, le droit d'intervenir dans certains détails de forme pour améliorer le travail que nous présenterons avec beaucoup de fierté à la Conférence générale.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): My delegation gave its general views on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 during the Eighty-fourth session of the Council when we also commended the Secretariat for the revised format of document C 83/3. On the level of the budget we commend the Director-General's recognition of the need to limit real growth in the Programme and we welcome the shift in the deployment of resources, from administrative services to economic and technical activities. This reassigning of funds to the priority areas which have been indicated by regional and technical meetings of FAO has been achieved, by and large, within the same level of real resources as provided in 1982-83. Thus the practice of across the board increases of recent biennial budgets has now been replaced by changes more closely reflecting the priorities of the Organization.

The United Kingdom like the Government of New Zealand supports budgeting of this type, particularly in times of financial constraint, not just because of the resulting budget level but - and far more importantly - because it directs available funds to areas of greatest need.

An objective of the United Kingdom's current policy on the financing of the UN and its specialized agencies is to maximise benefits to developing countries by more cost effective use of scarce resources. We are therefore in broad agreement with the Programme priorities set out by the Director-General in his introduction to the document before us. The increase in resources allocated to research and technology development represents, in our view, a realignment which is likely to yield considerable benefits. Similarly, we hope that the strengthening of the follow up to WCARRD will lead to substantial progress fairly soon. The concentration on field work through other agricultural programmes also has our support. In this connection we would like to support the views expressed this morning by the New Zealand delegation in relation to aspects of evaluating their effectiveness.

I would only like to refer now briefly to two other substantial matters. We can accept an increased role for the Technical Cooperation Programme given the difficult situation of external funding for technical cooperation. We note the Director-General's affirmation that TCP is not intended to compete with other sources of technical assistance, such as UNDP, but to complement them. Provided that TCP does not impinge upon work which is properly the province of UNDP we can continue to support the purposes for which that programme, i.e. the TCP, was designed but we would wish to emphasize that TCP should not be regarded as an alternative source of funds to replace UNDP resources. The short term and quick responding nature of TCP must in our view be preserved.

Lastly, we welcome the planned further decentralization of FAO activities assisted as they are now by the existence and further appointments of FAO representatives at the national level and we note the extension of double accreditation, where this is practicable. The establishment of FAO country offices over recent years has in our view contributed very greatly to the Organization's ability to respond quickly to the needs of member countries but this national orientation of FAO's representation does in our view raise the question of the future role and cost effectiveness of the regional offices. We hope to revert to this and other issues at a later stage of the Commission's work.

R.F.J. NETO (Angola): M. le Président, comme l'ont fait les délégués qui m'ont précédé, je vous félicite à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de cette importante Commission. J'adresse également mes félicitations à M. West et à M. Shah pour les déclarations excellentes qu'ils ont faites ce matin sur le document C 83/3.

Ma délégation approuve le document C 83/3 comprenant le Programme de travail et le budget pour 1984-85 et profite du temps qui nous est imparti pour remercier le Directeur général de l'effort qu'il a déployé pour définir les stratégies et les priorités de notre Organisation durant le biennium 1984-1985.

Nous exprimons notre satisfaction quant aux efforts également déployés par le Directeur général pour donner la priorité aux programmes économiques et techniques, tout en réduisant les frais administratifs et de soutien de la FAO. Cela dénote l'intérêt que l'Organisation accorde à la solution des problèmes prioritaires du moment que pose l'agriculture dans les pays ayant un déficit alimentaire, dont les populations rurales sont, comme par hasard, frappées par la pauvreté, la faim et la misère.

Nous exprimons également notre satisfaction pour l'attention particulière accordée à la région Afrique qui est au centre des préoccupations de tous les délégués, du fait qu'elle constitue une des priorités du programme. Nous demandons que lors des attributions des ressources, la FAO tienne compte des besoins réels de chaque pays africain et de chaque sous-région.

Pour terminer, nous acceptons le principe de la croissance 0,5% du budget, car elle a été atteinte sous des contraintes imposées par les péripéties de l'économie mondiale et la réduction considérable des dépenses nationales par les principaux pays donateurs. Cette réduction compromet sérieusement les programmes prioritaires, tracés par nos gouvernements, parfois avec l'aide de la FAO. Néanmoins, nous encourageons notre Organisation pour qu'une augmentation substantielle du budget soit accordée au cours de l'exercice prochain.

ABDUL WAHID JALIL (Malaysia) : In the last Council session, my delegation had indicated our general agreement on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. It was clear from the introduction of the Director-General also contained in the document before us and as he had explained in his statement yesterday, the Director-General had taken all possible motives to balance his proposed budget to meet the opposing requirements, one, that of restraint and the other on the ever increasing priorities of the developing countries. He had undertaken certain cutbacks and reallocated the available funds for more priority activities. Without having to go into detailed discussion of the proposal now, because we intend to do so at a later stage, my delegation would like at this moment to reiterate our support for the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium and endorse the medium-term strategies and priorities of the Organization.

H. MAURIA (Finland) : Coming to the item under discussion we have to consider that the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget has been a difficult issue this time as has been stated here. Keeping this in mind I would like to say that the document before us is a good one. It gives a fair picture of the intentions for the next biennium and of the programmes and financial facilities. Particularly we want to commend the way in which the Director-General has analysed the problems and underlined facts. We believe that the choice of priorities made on that basis is a realistic decision which we are ready to support. Further I want to say that we are in agreement with the search for economy and greater efficiency in the Organization, which research has been reported on in the document. It must only be added that FAO's efforts must be, of course, a continuous process with the aim at improving steadily the management of the work of FAO. We agree principally also to the cuts made in the administration as to allocating additional resources to FAO's technical and economic programmes. In this way a reasonable growth in the real core of the activities has been made possible.

We do hope that the proper balance can be kept in the performances of the Organization when cutting down administrative costs and trying to improve management. The shift in resources to substantive programmes which has taken place is again a necessary procedure to streamline the work and to avoid undue dispersion of resources. It is not quite easy to find all the proper reasons for the shifts but we trust in the policy considerations of the Director-General in this respect.

Finally, we feel that the Director-General and the Secretariat this time should be given full support for the Programme of Work and Budget and confidence in the carrying out of the Work Programme.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil) : My delegation wishes to compliment the Secretariat for the new presentation of document C 83/3; the latest format, which now incorporates to each different chapter the texts on Medium-Term Objectives is a net improvement as compared to the previous editions of the Programme of Work and Budget. The other changes in the traditional presentation of different parts of the document have greatly contributed to an easier reading and a better understanding of this complex matter.

As a member of the Programme Committee and as a representative of Brazil in the Council I have twice had the privilege of expressing my Government's views on the new Programme of Work and Budget. I can, therefore, afford to be brief this time. My delegation believes that the Director-General's introduction reflects in a correct way the most relevant aspects of the world's current situation which directly affects food and agriculture. His perception of the economic crisis and particularly of the financial issues leads us naturally into the main topics he analyses with respect to food and agriculture, interdependence and dependence, the problems of production, the decrease in it, shortages and emergencies and prospects for the future. The section on world food security underlines production, trade and aid as its main component and discusses the wider concept on food security which my delegation fully endorses. Coming now to the strategies and priorities which the Director-General proposes in order to guide the work of FAO for the next biennium I wish to acknowledge the effort required to achieve the aim of a Programme of Work and Budget taking into account the restricted financial climate which generally prevails in the world today. Care was taken to limit the financial burden on member countries; major shifts in resources from administrative to substantive programmes were made; and, finally, forty-one posts had been eliminated. This effort, however, has not changed the main priorities of the programmes which rightly continues to be the promotion of food production and the increase in food security; the impact at the field level and enhancing economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

My delegation fully supports the special priority given to food and agriculture in Africa. My delegation is happy to endorse the programme priorities and indeed, it welcomes the special emphasis given to the programme of research and technology development. The establishment of a new research and technology division is a needed step which will enable FAO to render better and more efficient services in helping developing countries to increase food production and to improve agricultural productivity.

I wish to reiterate the support given this morning by the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil to the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Director-General. My delegation will be glad to participate in the detailed debate on each one of the major programmes included in the document at a later stage. At this stage let me reaffirm the full support of my delegation to the proposals put forward by the Director-General. My delegation wishes to recognise the difficulties that had to be overcome in preparing these proposals and it is grateful for the positive results achieved by the Director-General. It expresses the wish that his Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 may meet with the support of all member countries of our Organization.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands) : In my intervention I confine myself in this meeting to some general remarks concerning three subjects: the documentation submitted, the planning, and strategies and priorities.

Documents submitted: Let me first say that my delegation has noted with satisfaction the improvement made in the presentation of financial information in document C 83/3. We appreciate the form of tables, in which for the various programmes and sub-programmes the budget estimates of the Regular Programme as well as of the extra-budgetary fund are presented. From this presentation it becomes clear that for a number of important programmes, such as rural development, natural resources, crops and livestock, the extra-budgetary funds are four to seven times as large as the Regular Programme. This leads me to ask the Secretariat about how the extra-budgetary activities are integrated in these Regular Programmes. In the same context my delegation would like to have more information about the role and responsibility of FAO with respect to other international organizations such as UNDP, World Bank and bilateral donors.

I come now to the second subject of my intervention, medium-term planning. The medium-term objectives and the Programme of Work and Budget are incorporated in document C 83/3. This has improved the surveyability. But what is lacking is information about the relative priority in the medium-term for the various programmes. Compared with other UN specialized organizations the FAO system of programme planning - and that includes medium-term programmes and programme budgets - could be improved. On the basis of General Assembly Resolution 37/234 my delegation would suggest a revision of the present system in order to acquire a better understanding of (a) the relationships between the Budget and the activities which have to be financed; (b) the medium-term planning; and (c) a better understanding of the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities performed. My delegation agrees and supports the recommendations concerning this subject which were made by the Danish delegation.

I come now to my last subject, Priorities and Strategies 1984-85. In view of the serious situation concerning world food security, my delegation can support the priorities and strategies for the biennium 1984-85 formulated in the introduction by the Director-General. In that context my delegation would like to emphasise the need for an integrated approach in rural development. Therefore it is necessary that there is a clear connection between the proposed priorities and the other FAO programmes in order to break through the traditional mono-disciplinary approach.

KYO-EUN KIM (Korea, Republic of): Firstly, I would like to join other delegates in congratulating you, Mr Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen, on your election for this important Commission. My thanks also go to both Mr West and Mr Shah for their excellent introduction of the subject matters. I would like also to take this opportunity to express my people's and Government's heartfelt welcome to the new four Member Nations of this Organization.

With your permission, I would like to state my Government's views and position on the agenda.

The Government of the Republic of Korea shares the Director-General's view on the assessment of the world economic situation and its impact on food and agriculture. As he mentioned in his introduction, the political and economic situation of both developed and developing Member Nations continues to be in difficult circumstances due to the slow and delayed recovery from the worldwide economic recession and the effects of which are more severe on food and agriculture, particularly in the developing world. As a result, the interdependence and dependence in world agriculture is also growing rapidly.

In such a situation, in my view, FAO activities and every possible means of international cooperation should be expanded, if the new goals of the world food security and the target of the agricultural development in the developing world are to be achieved. To meet these needs, however, it is imperative to achieve consensus and to win unanimous support through the expanded dialogue and compromise among the Member Nations. My Government is very happy to find out that a great deal of painful and courageous actions have been taken to win unanimous support from Member Nations on the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. It must be a painful and courageous action to cut down heavily programmes, budget and posts, even though they are in the lower priorities area and at the same time to expand the programmes and budget of higher priorities in order to meet the urgent-felt needs of Member Nations.

My Government has the view that the programme priorities, means of action and budget level for 1984-85 as a whole are selected, coordinated and modified well enough to deserve the full support of my Government. In this connection, I would like to emphasize the importance of TCDC and ECDC as one of the most effective ways of expanding FAO activities under the situation in which the adverse international economic and political situation makes it more difficult for FAO to mobilize additional resources.

As a new effective means of international cooperation, TCDC and ECDC should be and also can be expanded in the various fields of agro-business, forest industries, EEZ development projects and so on. My Government welcomes and fully supports FAO's continued efforts to expand and stimulate TCDC and ECDC.

The FAO's application of a farming system approach to small farm development is also our great concern. Development of the integrated crop-livestock farming system along with the integrated support of credit, input supplies and marketing is an essential element for the effective development of small farms with a limited access to land.

According to our experiences, however, it is also very important to apply farming system approach on both the individual farm and regional base. Without approaching on regional base, it is never easy to adjust production and marketing and consequently, the increase in production does not lead to the increase in farm income.

Lastly, I am pleased also to mention my Government's continued support on the FAO's highest priorities for Africa where problems and needs are more urgent and greater in relative and per caput terms than those of any other region.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like also to emphasize my Government's strong and positive view that the international cooperation not only for eradication of hunger, poverty and malnutrition, but also for the elimination of the international terrorism and blooded violence, should be expanded and intensified to realise the lofty goals of FAO, that is to achieve coexistence and common prosperity of mankind.

A. RUIZ DIAZ (España): Gracias, señor Presidente, y reciba en primer lugar la felicitación de la delegación española por su elección. Permítame también expresar el reconocimiento al Director General y a todas las persona que han contribuido a la preparación y presentación del documento objeto de esta discusión.

La delegación española está conforme en líneas generales con la propuesta del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984/85. Subrayamos con especial complacencia que la reducción en los gastos administrativos haga posible el aumento de los gastos en Programas Técnicos y Económicos, aunque por desgracia la realidad actual no permita el nivel de aumentos que sería necesario.

También se felicita la delegación española por la eficacia lograda por la FAO en cuanto al rendimiento de sus Programas y por la expectativa de que en el futuro esa eficacia continuará aumentando.

En definitiva, en estos tiempos de serias dificultades económicas mundiales es inevitable que los aumentos de los gastos tengan que moderarse al máximo y que la búsqueda de la eficacia, ligada al rigor en las evaluaciones, sea más que nunca un objetivo prioritario. Esto se refleja en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado por el Director General, por lo que elogiamos y apoyamos dicho Programa.

Sin embargo, y como observación particular para nosotros importante, debo expresar en nombre de la delegación española cierta preocupación por el volumen de gastos dedicados a América Latina, que juzgamos insuficiente; Señor Presidente, esta delegación es consciente de la escasez de recursos disponibles; tampoco deseamos, de ninguna manera, reducir las actuaciones proyectadas en otras regiones del mundo, donde las necesidades son extremadamente importantes y urgentes; conocemos que América Latina está también atendida en parte por medio de programas especiales o de tipo similar.

Y por último, quisiéramos dejar bien claro que esta observación particular no supone desacuerdo de la delegación española con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado, pero nos permitimos insistir en que la participación de la FAO en América Latina debería ampliarse.

A. BOTHNER (Norway): Mr Chairman, the delegation of Norway welcomes the format and the way of presentation of the Director-General's proposal on Work and Budget. I would also like to express my appreciation of the introductory remarks made this morning by Mr West, and by Mr Shah.

With regard to the level of the Budget, it is the view of our delegation that the Director-General's proposal strikes a careful balance between the enormous needs of assistance, and the limitations of the present international situation. I also appreciated the Deputy Director-General's remark this morning, to the effect that the Director-General during the biennium will maintain flexibility with regard to the needs for Programme changes, if I understood him correctly. This, I believe, could be quite useful. For instance, with regard to programmes concerning fisheries development. We do on the whole support the priorities of the Budget, with emphasis on WCARRD; nutrition; the role of women; focus on Africa; fisheries development, and forestry development. We would like to comment further on this at a later stage. Priorities should, as we know, in general be based on basic UN decisions and the basic purposes of FAO as laid down in its constitution. In its operational activities FAO should in a general way, take into consideration and inform governments of what other international organizations are doing, particularly the World Bank. Thus the work of the various international organizations will be seen in the total context, enabling governments to get an overall view.

I would also like in general to support the points made by the distinguished representative of the Netherlands with regard to his reference to General Assembly Resolution 37/234. Allow me also to commend document C 83/3 as a source of information. I particularly appreciate information contained under each Programme on extra-budgetary resources. If at all possible, it would be interesting if these figures in the future could be split into two, one for UNDP, and one for Trust Fund resources. My authorities would in general like to encourage FAO to continue on this road of increased transparency.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like to reiterate our support for the Budget, its general direction and its priorities.

P. OLMOS MORALES (Uruguay): Señor Presidente, la delegación del Uruguay, en primer término, desea expresar las felicitaciones por el cargo para el cual ha sido elegido y que será, sin duda alguna, un apoyo para nuestros trabajos en la Comisión.

En segundo lugar desea expresar su reconocimiento por la presentación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para este período de sesiones, en los cuales se ha logrado concentrar en un solo documento una serie de aspectos que han facilitado el trabajo y el análisis de cada una de las delegaciones. Asimismo la clara exposición realizada esta mañana por el señor Director General adjunto, señor West y por el señor Shah, nos han permitido un análisis más exacto de los distintos aspectos que incluye este tema.

Mi delegación desea expresar en líneas generales su apoyo al documento presentado, en primer lugar a la introducción del señor Director General en la cual se analizan muy claramente los principales problemas de la agricultura y de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria en el mundo.

Asimismo en lo que concierne a los aspectos de estrategia y prioridades para el período 1984/85, nuestra delegación comparte los lineamientos básicos y las estrategias que en él se plantean.

Desearíamos detenernos algunos instantes en algunos de los aspectos referidos a los medios de acción, particularmente nos preocupa lo que tiene relación con el Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Nos importa señalar la necesidad de su fortalecimiento en tanto ha significado para las distintas regiones en desarrollo un elemento valioso para atender sus necesidades y ha cubierto la situación de disminución de otros fondos que habitualmente contribuían a programas de desarrollo en las áreas en desarrollo.

Nos preocupa, y en ese aspecto recalamos lo señalado por la delegación española, la disminución que ha significado en el área Latinoamericana la asignación de fondos, particularmente en los Programas

de Campo en el último bienio; si bien la situación de la región Latinoamericana pueda compararse en forma relativamente ventajosa con otras regiones, no debemos descuidar sus necesidades y sus carencias frente a los graves problemas de su agricultura y de su situación de alimentación y nutrición.

En lo que tiene relación con la política de descentralización de funciones, mi delegación comparte y apoya lo relacionado con el funcionamiento de las representaciones nacionales y de las Oficinas Regionales. Consideramos que constituyen un instrumento básico para la acción de la Organización en los distintos países y que han constituido en los últimos años un mayor fortalecimiento para su acción y para la integración de distintas actividades, en particular en un momento en que se han planteado algunas observaciones, que creemos importantes. La actividad de las Oficinas Regionales, la experiencia que se ha desarrollado dentro de la región Latinoamericana y el Caribe con el sistema Latinoamericano de redes de cooperación técnica que ha fortalecido la cooperación horizontal entre países en desarrollo y ha sido una de las actividades que más ha impulsado y más ha catalizado en estos últimos años la Oficina Regional. Consideramos que esa línea de acción es una línea de acción insustituible y que debe ser asumida justamente por las Oficinas Regionales en la viabilidad, más aún en la cooperación Sur-Sur entre los países en desarrollo.

Nos preocupan también algunos aspectos señalados en cuanto tienen que ver con la modalidad de cooperación técnica. Creemos que es necesario un uso más eficiente de la cooperación técnica, teniendo en cuenta las características particulares de cada región y de cada país, buscando de esa manera una mayor eficiencia y mayor fortalecimiento. La evolución de muchos países lleva a que la cooperación técnica deba buscarse en temas más específicos, con expertos más calificados y de corto plazo. En ese aspecto debe tener un enfoque entre el organismo internacional y cada país a los efectos justamente de ir fortaleciendo las propias estructuras nacionales en materia de asistencia y cooperación técnica. Nuestra experiencia en cuanto a la asunción de dirección nacional de proyectos de cooperación técnica en los últimos años ha permitido acortar una valiosa experiencia y ha también significado una disminución en los costos de cooperación técnica.

Por último, como resultado de nuestra observación a los planteos referidos a los medios de acción, nos parece significativo procurar la difusión como señalábamos antes, de los mecanismos de cooperación horizontal que posibiliten una mayor amplitud en las acciones en los distintos campos, y sobre todo en lo que tiene que ver con los campos prioritarios de los Programas de Labores y Presupuesto que se expone a consideración de esta Comisión en lo que tiene que ver con la investigación agrícola, con la investigación de recursos naturales y con la coordinación en lo que tiene que ver con los aspectos sanitarios.

L. MOHAPELOA (Lesotho): Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate you on the way you have conducted this meeting so far and again take this opportunity to congratulate the rest of the bureau which has been elected to assist you in the running of the meeting.

As a member of the Council we have already had the opportunity to make our comments on the Programme of Work and Budget. We therefore only wish at this stage to add our voice to those that have indicated their general acceptance of the programme. We wish at the same time to make particular mention of some aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget, and that is the priorities and the position occupied there by WCARRD and by training. There are one or two areas that the meeting may wish to address which we think are of particular importance such as the administration and the budget allocation for the regional offices. Added to that will be the priority consideration that is given in the budget for food security insofar as it reflects the priority that we accorded to security in all our statements. We will at the appropriate times be making our points on these.

Claes-Erik ODHNER (Sweden): Mr Chairman, we are all national governments and international organizations, we are all now caught in the austerity trap. This means that the inevitable restrictions deprive us of much of the means for development and investments that should have increased production and productivity and thereby reduced the need for future austerity, and it deprives us of the demand necessary to promote investments growth and employment. We are in a vicious circle. We very much share the analysis put forward by the French Minister of Agriculture, Michel Rocard, this morning in the first part of his statement. The international debt crisis and the conditionality of the International Monetary Fund for the debt-stricken countries leads the way into this vicious circle both for those countries themselves and for industrial countries that were providing their imports which are now drastically cut down.

The FAO and other international organizations in the agricultural field are the most important of the international family of organizations that could help to lead the developing countries and the world economy out of the trap. That is why the developments in the coming years for these organizations are so decisive. This budget with only a symbolic growth is certainly now to be taken as a political fact. It is also a political fact that austerity will prevail in the medium term. The economic cooperation between the dominating governments in industrialized countries that would be needed for a more positive development is still very far.

In this situation it is extremely important for FAO to see to it that available resources are efficiently used to support production and productivity in order to help to get out of the tran. We also think that resources should be reallocated for this purpose. In this respect the proposed budget is a step forward which should be continued.

Mr Chairman, the Swedish delegation supports the suggested level of the budget, and we will come back in the following discussion on chapters on forestry and environmental problems.

M.A. MEDANI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Please allow me on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. We are fully confident that you will lead our debate to full success. We would like to assure you of our full cooperation. We would also like to thank Mr West and Mr Shah for the concise statements they made. Thanks are also addressed to the Director-General for the efforts he deployed in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget.

We would like to commend the policy of cutting down the administrative expenditures, provided that it would not affect the FAO's performance. Criticism has been addressed to this Organization on the account that it allocates more funds for administrative posts rather than for supporting the agricultural sector and for increasing its productivity.

Therefore, we support this policy and we hope that further assistance will be given to the development of agriculture with both its aspects of plants and livestock.

Large surfaces of lands have not been cultivated in Africa and in the Sudan in particular. Many productive agricultural projects need to increase their productivity. Animal wealth in Africa is threatened by diseases and needs great efforts in order to be protected from such diseases and in order to increase in number.

Besides, forests are being cut off with a view to cultivating these areas despite the fact that such areas are suitable only for forests and range lands. This trend leading to deterioration of nature should be stopped. We should work for reafforestation.

Fisheries in fresh and saline water need further studies in order to identify the existing stocks and the quantities that should be consumed annually.

Thus additional financial and technical support should be provided for these natural wealths.

We therefore support the Programme of Work and Budget together with the priorities and strategies included in it.

J. SCHWARZ (Czechoslovakia): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to join the other delegations in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I would also like to express my delegation's congratulations to the Secretariat for the quality of the document on the Programme of Work and Budget submitted to the Conference, and for the excellent introduction by Mr West and by Mr Shah. At the same time I would like to commend the work of the Programme and Finance Committees which examined in detail the financial situation of the Organization and the prospects for the next two years on the basis of the proposed budget. I do not want to go into detail but nevertheless I would like to express a few general comments on this subject.

First of all, I wish to emphasize that while appreciating the efforts and success made by the Director-General in re-orienting FAO funds towards an intensive action programme, including the Technical Cooperation Programme, we hope that this trend will continue and the present result should not be considered as final.

We welcome the measures aiming at rationalization and economies in the bureaucracy of FAO and we assume that these efforts will also continue.

Secondly, with regard to the strategies and the priorities for the next biennium, we fully support them, of course with special emphasis and special priorities for the African regions. We are confident that the various items in the budget corresponding to the Director-General's priority programmes of work will certainly be accepted by the Conference. I should like to mention that even a 0.5 percent increase in the budget means, in terms of Member Nations' contributions, that after adding the inflation rate to the expenses, the burden increases. It is not appropriate to say that some members contribute more important amounts to the Regular Programme because the contributions are equitably distributed according to means so that all nations contribute directly at the same level. However, for the smaller States the smaller contributions may represent greater problems than to others.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of the cooperative programmes recently started or continued in the European Region which may have important effects on development assistance, even in the short term, during this biennium. To give an example: the potential of Applied Research in European Agriculture:

- In the European networks more than 350 institutions are now cooperating;
- .Work on the development of new and renewable energies for agriculture is being carried out in cooperation with 150 European institutions;
- There is an enormous treasure of both plant and animal genetic resources in Europe.

It should be taken into account that all these activities are largely supported by the European governments through their institutions without calling for any increase in the Regional budget, which remains the most modest among all regional budgets and we would not like to see it reduced.

Having said this, I would like to state that my delegation will fully support the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

S. BODHISANE (Laos): M. le Président, je voudrais à mon tour et au nom de la délégation de la République démocratique populaire du Laos m'associer aux collègues qui m'ont précédé depuis ce matin pour vous féliciter d'être élu à la tête de cette importante Commission.

Je voudrais également féliciter M. West et M. Shah pour leur introduction au document C 83/3.

Notre délégation a tardivement étudié le Programme de travail et budget pour 1984/85 et nous sommes heureux de vous dire que nous approuvons sans réserve les concepts et les propositions présentés par le Directeur général. L'augmentation des ressources de 0,5 pour cent pour l'exercice biennal et la réduction du budget de support d'administration qui ne représente plus que 58 pour cent, vu la conjoncture économique que nous traversons pour l'exercice 1984/85, nous paraît convenable.

Nous sommes aussi satisfaits que le budget du PCT, dont l'intérêt est bien connu dans les pays en développement, subisse également une augmentation.

Toutefois, nous espérons que les ressources budgétaires pour le prochain exercice biennal connaissent une augmentation plus importante car elles sont très nécessaires pour combattre le problème de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde, particulièrement en Asie.

E. MARTENS (Belgium): First of all my delegation would like to extend congratulations for your election as Chairman. I am sure this choice has been a good one. As you asked us to be brief and to the point I will try to do so, and moreover, to stay within the limits of 5 1/2 minutes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Shah for the concise and very clear introduction he made on the matter. The actual presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget is indeed a very good one and I am sure it will facilitate the work of this Commission.

Regarding the evolution of the budget itself, my delegation was favourably impressed by the fact that it is augmented by only 0.5 percent as compared to the previous biennium. We are especially glad to see that the technical and economical programmes constitute almost the only chapter where there is a significant rise in budget allocation. However, we think that still a greater effort could be made taking into account that this Programme represents 72 percent of the total budget when including extra-budgetary funding, whereas it represents only 45 1/2 percent of the Regular Programme.

In conclusion, we should admit that it shows well the special interests of the Director-General to try to increase the relative importance of technical and economic programmes within the very limited possibilities of the overall budget. We would have welcomed finding a comparison of extra-budgetary funding between the two biennia, which fact would have completed the récapitulative table on provisions per chapter and head programme.

I will end with these general reflections and I will come back on more detailed questions later on.

H. MENDS (Ghana): We are most grateful for the excellent introductory statements made by the Deputy Director-General and by Mr Shah this morning. We warmly commend them for their presentations.

My delegation has had a unique opportunity of more or less proofreading the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the 1984/85 biennium in the last two sessions of the Finance Committee. Consequently we can afford to be really brief.

While we fully concede that it is difficult to meet individual member governments' concepts of Programme priorities and budgetary economies and efficiency for the needed impact in a dynamic Organization such as FAO, we are quite convinced that the objectivity, balance and realism with which both the Programme and budgetary proposals are made admit no argument at this stage. My delegation therefore can only reiterate its full support for the Programme of Work and Budget for the ensuing biennium and urge this Commission to adopt them for remission to the Plenary with the recommendation that they be unanimously approved by the Conference.

T. CLARKE (Jamaica): The Programme of Work and Budget that is before us for 1984/85 must be described as a well prepared and structured document. The Programme in technical and economic activities covering agriculture, fisheries and forestry is of primary importance to fight the battle of poverty and hunger. The emphasis which FAO has placed on such activities can only assist poor countries to redress their problems of feeding themselves and the development of the rural poor. The development support programmes are endorsed by my delegation.

The Technical Cooperation Programmes are considered vital in assisting small island economies such as Jamaica and the Caribbean nations in assisting themselves towards self-sufficiency in food production.

In the face of serious financial problems my delegation must congratulate the Director-General and the Organization on structuring its Programme of Work so that zero growth is achieved, but also ensuring that the aims and objectives of the FAO are attained.

My delegation would recommend that in the future Programmes of Work and Budget more attention be given to job creation programmes in developing countries. We feel that food security and eradication of poverty can only be obtained through the creation of jobs in agriculture or agro-industry.

My delegation endorses the FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85 and commends the Director-General and his Secretariat on the high level of presentation.

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): My delegation carefully examined the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. We welcome the increase of 3.6 percent for technical and economic programmes. We believe that this strategy, this new direction is essential. We also welcome the Programme by region which, in our opinion, is balanced in relation to the needs of food demanded by great numbers of people in all regions.

The re-organization of FAO, especially the setting up of a Research and Technology Development Division is necessary. My delegation welcomes this direction. However, we would wish to see further additional financial contributions to market research. We believe that trading or marketing is an important role concerning food security. Increasing food production alone does not mean that hunger can be reduced unless food distribution is efficient and marketing costs are low, taking into account the income on the consumer.

H.L. CHAWLA (India): The Indian delegation extends its felicitations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this important Commission. We also congratulate the Vice-Chairmen on their election. The Indian delegation commends the Director-General on his review of the world situation and his views on inter-dependence and dependence problems of production and food security. Attention to the special needs of Africa certainly deserves the appreciation which it has widely received, and we support it.

Considering the realities of the economic situation in the world today, the approach adopted on the size of the FAO budget for 1984-85 is realistic and we support it.

It has been noted that the strategies and priorities for 1984-85 have been guided by four principal aims : promotion of food production, increase in food security, increased impact of FAO activities at the field level; and enhancing economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

The farmer is at the centre of agricultural production. In this context the role of the small and marginal farmers in a large number of developing countries working under extremely hard conditions requires special attention. His problems, his needs and motivations are crucial to the achievement of food security and agricultural growth in the world. Therefore his interests require closest consideration by this august forum.

Priority to farming system development in small farm holder areas deserves appreciation. Emphasis on greater attention to problems of small and marginal farmers and small fishermen are really very desirable objectives which have been emphasised, we find in this Programme of Work and Budget.

The creation of a Research and Technology Development Division under the Agriculture Department is a welcome development and we hope it will make a very useful contribution to agricultural progress. The document presented by FAO, inter alia, indicates that in order to take into account the needs for information on how farmers are affected by fluctuation in world markets, further improvements will be made in the data series after commodity prices received by the farmers and the prices paid by them for inputs.

It had also been indicated in the budget that the comprehensive study of agricultural price policies will be continued and completed. We commend these efforts because the economic condition for the agriculturist is a very important factor in successfully implementing agricultural development policy.

To keep within the limits of time I will, in conclusion, also mention that in the sphere of fisheries the Programme lays considerable emphasis on conservation of Marine and inland fishery resources, aquaculture development, protection and control of fish habitat, etc. These are comprehensive programmes and correspond to the priority needs of development in the world in this sector.

The importance given to forestry is also very timely considering the serious menace to forest resources from growing pressure of population and increased production in developing countries, industrialisation and other factors in the developed countries.

In conclusion, we give our full support to the priorities and programmes laid down in the FAO budget for 1984-35.

HOANG THI CU (Viet Nam): My delegation wishes to join other previous speakers in congratulating Mr West and Mr Shah for their clear and excellent presentation of the document. On behalf of my country I fully support the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 as proposed by the Director-General. I think it is most appropriate and achieves a balance.

We welcome the list of priorities set forth in the document because they reflect the urgent needs of the developing countries. We are happy to see the stress on the TCP and hope in future FAO can obtain more resources so that it can provide more help for developing countries which are now making all efforts to achieve self-reliance in food.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation has had the occasion to give opinions on the Programme of Work and Budget earlier in the Programme Committee and subsequently in the FAO Council so we can therefore be very brief in our general remarks about the Programme of Work and Budget.

Briefly speaking, as far as the format is concerned we find that the merger of the Medium-Term Objectives into the body of the Programme of Work and Budget is a great improvement and a step in the right direction. We also feel that the document frames in the beginning of the document gives an excellent overview of the Programme of Work and Budget and is a very useful part of the document.

We support all the priorities and strategies in the Programme of Work and Budget and we want to convey our priorities to the Director-General and to the FAO Secretariat for the fact that these priorities and strategies reflect the guidance given by the FAO Conference, the FAO Council and the other Technical committees of FAO.

We also appreciate the difficulties which the Director-General encountered while formulating his proposals. We appreciate the way he has come out with a very finely balanced document. We appreciate the shift of resources from general administration and policy to the technical departments and we appreciate the fact that there is a 3.6 percent expansion in the technical programmes. However, we feel that the additionality of resources provided in this Programme of Work and Budget are very modest particularly if we realize the magnitude of the task that we expect FAO to perform and we therefore hope, and as the leader of my delegation said this morning in the Plenary, we therefore hope that this is only a temporary modest increase and in future FAO would be provided with resources adequate for the task it has to perform.

I will not go into any of the details of any of the programmes except referring to the Technical Cooperation Programme and again in our country's statement of the morning the leader of our delegation pointed out the usefulness of the programme and subsequently when we look at the review of the Field Programme we will see how useful and effective TCP programmes have been for developing countries. These programmes are welcomed for their flexibility, for their elasticity and they meet the emergency needs of developing countries. If I recollect correctly in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget there was an indication that the TCP would be 13.5 percent

of the overall budget but in the Programme of Work and Budget it now stands at 12.7 percent. We recognize the fact that the programme change is the same as was indicated in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. However, we are still concerned that in the overall total picture of the Programme of Work and Budget TCP does not have as big a chunk as we wish and hoped that it would have due to its usefulness to the developing countries.

S. SCHUMM (Germany, Federal Republic of) (Original language German): May I make a few general comments on this document initially. The present world economic situation is characterized by recession, unemployment and financial and monetary instability. Our national budget for 1984, which is at the moment being deliberated in the parliamentary committees for the purpose of bringing about further cuts, is based on a nominal growth of 1.8 percent. At the same time we expect an inflation rate of 3 to 3.5 percent. In other words, already during government planning a minus growth rate of 1.2 to 1.7 percent is accepted. This situation naturally also has an impact on our attitude towards the budget of FAO and against this background we would like to make the following comments in this respect:

We welcome the efforts made by the Director-General in the form of his suggestion to meet the interests of many developing countries in strengthening the fields of food and agriculture and at the same time taking into account the existing world economic and financial problems and also making a realistic assessment of the possibilities of the industrialized countries. In particular we welcome the clearly recognizable intention to balance to a large extent real programme increases within a clear priority framework through cuts in overhead costs. We also welcome the presentation of document C 83/3 which has gained greatly in clarity both through the description of the technical aims, in particular through the inclusion of the Medium-Term Objectives, but also through the surveys which precede the individual main programmes showing their financial impact.

Now I would like to make some comments on the actual Programme: the setting of priorities, i.e. the increase of agricultural production and in particular in developing countries with a food deficit and the promotion of rural development in the wider sense of the word is right in our opinion. The following areas deserve particular attention: integrated plant nutrition systems, water management, soil and water conservation measures, farm management and environment as well as energy.

In the main programme on agriculture we welcome within the framework of the planned strengthening of priority measures the greater orientation towards research and technology, particularly concerning activities for strengthening agricultural research in the developing countries. In connection with the main Programmes on fisheries, we consider the measures to strengthen the exploitation of fish reserves an important food resource in many developing countries as being something particularly positive. In the main programme on Forestry we would above all welcome the strengthening of afforestation programmes to produce fuel wood in Africa.

As far as the TCP is concerned I would like to draw your attention to the attitude we have continuously adopted according to which technical cooperation should be financed by voluntary contributions and not from the Regular Programme Budget. We however note with concern that the TCP has the highest rate of increase in terms of percentage compared with other main programmes. We do not ignore the difficulties which the Organization has in the project area due to the declining allocations of UNDP resources even if these are made up for, to a certain extent, through an increase in "the trust fund resources. Nonetheless, we hold the view that with the share of the TCP in the overall budget to the amount of 12.9 percent, which has been reached in the current budget 1982-83 the upper limit for projects which are financed from the Regular Programme budget has been reached. We are seriously concerned about the possibility of allowing this percentage for the TCP to grow beyond this ceiling. We would also explain our concern to the fact that through a further increase in the number of projects which is very high already now too much working capacity in the Secretariat will be tied down by planning, implementation and supervision. In view of the already existing high share of the TCP in the overall budget we would like to repeat our request for more detailed information on the TCP. To our view this should also include the possibility for interested member states having a list of the projects made available to them so that they can make an in-depth assessment.

As far as the internal evaluation of the TCP through the FAO itself and the external evaluation by the Joint Inspection Unit is concerned, this will be referred to us in more detail under the agenda item on the review of the Regular Programme.

I would now like to comment in general on the budget. I can describe the general attitude of the Federal Republic of Germany in the following terms: throughout the United Nations systems for some years now we have been in favour of real zero growth, partly absorption of cost increase due to inflation and the application of a realistic exchange rate within the budgets of international organizations. This attitude is not in any way directed specifically against the work of these Organizations. On the contrary, we are firmly convinced that the activities of the Organizations in the family of the United Nations are absolutely necessary in the interest of the welfare of mankind and understanding among the people, but on the other hand we feel that the scarce

resources at our disposal should be used as economically as possible. This is the basis for our attitude to the FAO, to an organization which has such an important role to play in fighting hunger throughout the world. The German delegation welcomes on the one hand that despite a relatively low rate of increase of about 0.6 percent in the biennium in respect of the technical programmes, a real growth of 3.6 percent could be obtained by savings in the administrative sector. On the other hand the German delegation regrets that in document C 83/3 the full compensation for inflation costs has been proposed and, as has been already pointed out by the host country Italy, this is a very high figure. Furthermore, another thing which is not clear to the German delegation is why, when listing the established posts and their grades the data for the FAO Country Representatives are not given in more detail because according to the statement made by the Director-General the decentralization at country level should be concluded with the current budget 1982-83. We understood the Secretariat said at the Council meeting in June that the established posts for the Country Representatives would be included in the usual tables in the budget document. In this connexion there will be some further detailed questions which we will return to.

Another point which is also not clear in document C 83/3 is the number of the actual posts which are to be economized on, excluding the Country Representatives. On page 30 and table B page 3, there is a saving of 41 posts which is mentioned, which is very difficult to reconstruct in the tables appended to the document. Over and above this in previous meetings of the Finance Committee the Secretariat has said that an EDP system would be set up which would give concrete data on the number of established posts and the number of posts in the Organization. We would be very grateful to hear to what extent any progress has been made in this field because document C 83/3 does not give us any detailed information on the actual number of filled posts on the basis of the Regular Programme Budget. We think it is important to get an overview about how many established posts approved in the budget have in fact been filled on certain dates or remained unfilled. Moreover, we would like to ask the Director-General to inform us about the cash position of the Organization. Because of the favourable rate of exchange between the US dollar and the Italian lira in 1982 and 1983 there should be a substantial surplus of funds in hand during the current biennium and we would be glad to know to what extent this surplus of funds is going to have an impact on the contributions of the members for 1984-85. Finally, we would be very grateful if the Secretariat could tell us very soon its latest concepts about the basis of dollar/lira parity it will suggest for an adoption of the Budget.

That is all I would like to say at this stage, but I would like to reserve the right to take the floor again on further details if the occasion should arise.

J.E. MENDES FERRÃO (Portugal): Je vous félicite au nom de mon pays pour votre élection à la présidence de notre très importante Commission.

Nous sommes d'accord avec le Programme de travail et budget présenté par le Directeur général.

Nous savons bien que les pays en développement aimeraient certainement un budget plus élevé, soit que les besoins sont très grands, soit que les conditions difficiles des dernières années ont provoqué des situations critiques qui se sont traduites par de nombreuses pertes de vies par suite du manque d'aliments. Nous pensons que les pays développés aimeraient de leur côté faciliter une aide plus grande, et si ce n'est pas possible ce ne sera pas par manque de conscience des difficultés mais par suite de la conjoncture économique que le monde traverse actuellement. Je pense que le Programme de travail et budget est ainsi un compromis avec la réalité.

Mon pays souhaite vérifier le renforcement des activités au niveau des pays mais considère qu'au niveau du Siège beaucoup de services de base ne devront pas être sacrifiés, comme par exemple les services de publication, les services de Codex alimentarius, qui apportent une aide précieuse à tous les Etats Membres.

L'approbation globale donnée par mon pays au programme et au budget ne signifie pas que nous ne ferons pas quelques interventions sur certains points du programme.

H. BENATTALLAH (Algérie): Notre intervention se limitera à la présentation liminaire faite par M. West. La délégation algérienne approuve le Programme de travail et budget pour le bien nium 1984-85. Dans notre entendement, il correspond à un double effort de compromis: d'abord parce qu'il représente une volonté d'arbitrage en quelque sorte entre des tendances centrifuges poussant à une limitation des activités, face à une augmentation quasi exponentielle des besoins. Ces besoins sont connus et la FAO a estimé l'aide financière internationale nécessaire de l'ordre de 8 à 9 milliards de dollars aux prix de 1980, pour la décennie de 1980, ceci en fonction d'un objectif de croissance de 3,5 à 4 pour cent.

Le programme de travail et budget ne cède pas à la première tentation, et s'efforce de maintenir, estimons-nous, un niveau important d'activité; ce qui se matérialise par des mesures d'austérité, une réaffectation des ressources qui se maintiennent au niveau réel de celles de 1982-83, et un transfert substantiel vers des programmes techniques. Nous estimons que les stratégies et priorités sont également fondées. Il est d'ailleurs normal de marquer une pause lorsque l'effort a été soutenu.

Cependant, M. le Président, nous situerons ce profil bas dans un contexte des baisses générales des ressources, surtout celles de caractère multilatéral. Les moyens des instruments de caractère multilatéral particulièrement, à la fois dans leur fonctionnement naturel de cadre de négociation et de vecteur de l'esprit de coopération internationale, y compris l'aide au développement, sont globalement en recul.

Nous demeurons persuadés que cet effort méritoire de rationalisation, cédant aux appels au réalisme, est conjoncturel. Bien que se situant dans un contexte de crise mondiale, ce lien ne doit pas prévaloir indéfiniment, au risque d'emboîter le pas à la montée de certaines tendances négatives dominantes.

R. STEINER (Austria): The Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 is one that is in our opinion both by its content and format down to earth. My delegation is grateful to Mr West, the Deputy Director-General, and Mr Shah, the Director of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, for introducing it with their renowned skill and ability. The Budget for the forthcoming biennium was prepared by taking into account also the harsh reality of the current economic situation in the world and in our member countries. The Director-General's realistic judgement of how best to reconcile needs and costs on the one side and member countries' preparedness to endorse the budget proposals on the other side are evidence of the realistic and wise approach taken by the Organization. To make it clear, however, the Austrian delegation does not hold the opinion that for development activities organizations such as FAO should follow a zero budget procedure. As a matter of fact to speak about development issues implying a sustained economic and social upward trend in the countries concerned and anticipating that this be achieved with stagnating or even reduced financial resources is a contradiction in itself.

The efforts of the Programme Committee, the Council, and in particular the Director-General, in shifting resources from administration to economic and technical activities and towards priority areas is appreciated. At this point - and we will revert to it later - the Austrian delegation would express its appreciation of the methods and the work followed by the Technical Cooperation Programme.

Finally let me indicate that the Austrian delegation will accept the Budget proposal as presented in the document before us and I hope it can be carried by consensus.

CHAIRMAN: I do not see any further indications of a desire to speak this afternoon. However, I want to indicate that I have received requests from some delegations who would like to speak on this general part of the debate tomorrow morning. We are going to use the first half of tomorrow morning to complete this section of our general discussion, after which we will proceed to the chapters of the Programme of Work and Budget document. Therefore I will not as yet give the floor to the Deputy Director-General and Mr Shah to reply to questions but will do that tomorrow at the end of our discussion.

The meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 83/II/PV/3

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRD MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE TERCERA REUNION

(9 November 1983)

The Third Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours,
C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 10 h 00, sous la présidence de
C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 10.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de
C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITIES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZATION (continuación)

11. programme de work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium -Term objectives(continued)

11. programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

11. programa de Labores y presupuesto para 1984-85 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): Immediately the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 constitutes the most important single item on our agenda for the very simple reason that the realization of the goals and objectives of the Organization are directly conditioned by the level of its budget and by the structure of its programme. We have given due attention to the documents pertinent to the Programme of Work and Budget and wish to express our appreciation for the clarity with which they present the budget and the programme of work. We have noted with satisfaction the Director-General's success in coming up with a more balanced budget, taking into consideration hardpressing economical realities on the side of contributing countries and expanding real needs on the side of developing countries. In this connexion we express our full appreciation that though the overall increase of the budget is rather symbolic, just about 0.5 percent, yet technical and economic substantive programmes show an increase of 3.6 percent thus enabling the Organization to respond effectively to the real and expanding needs of its developing member countries.

We would like in particular to commend the Director-General's success in maintaining an increased flow of financial resources to such practical and effective programmes as the TCP which indeed has been so effective in responding quickly to acute needs and emergencies in developing countries. Cyprus is highly indebted to the Technical Cooperation Programme for assistance extended in a number of fields, especially in its water drilling programme at a time of high and urgent needs.

We are also in agreement with the programme priorities as established by the Director-General such as research and technology development, follow-up to WCARRD, fisheries and forestry and Africa from a geographical point of view. Obviously the 3.6 percent increase in technical and economic programmes has been made possible through further upgrading in the efficiency of the Organization, a process which has been successfully going on for some years. Indeed, this is an achievement in itself for which the Director-General deserves our best comments because it has a direct reflection on the level of the budget through the release of financial resources tied up in administrative issues to be used up more productively in the fields where they are mostly used. However, I would like to express my delegation's concern as to how far this counting down of administrative expenses can go. Obviously the margins are narrowing with time but definitely the efforts to upgrade the Organization's efficiency should go on. This is and should be a continuous process but unavoidably so they cannot constitute the norm through which resources can be provided to finance future FAO budgets and give them the necessary rate of growth.

We wish to congratulate the Director-General for his proposals on the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. We therefore convey our full support thereon and expect that they be approved unanimously

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): The Yugoslav delegation has in fact had a number of opportunities to express its views on the salient features of the Programme of Work and Budget and I think that we can be reasonably brief. First and foremost we are in full agreement with the decisions taken by the Council. We especially welcome the incorporation of the Medium-Term Objectives into the Programme of Work and Budget. It immeasurably contributed in our view to the comprehensiveness of the document.

We also want to express our compliments to the Director-General and his staff, most directly to Mr Shah and his small but very able team who have immeasurably contributed to this excellent presentation and it is in our view quite an improvement even if compared with the high standard of documents in the past.

Let me only voice our agreement with the modified programme structure. First of all we welcome very much the change which reflects the recent support. We are in full agreement with the subsequent small changes in programmes 127 to 128 which are in full compliance with the principle that we always underline, the discrepancy between programme and organizational schemes should be kept as close as possible and the two schemes should depart only if it is fully justified on the direction of the Director-General who balances in our view the realistic assessment of the whole array of factors that are more or less directly relevant to the FAO for the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

We are in agreement with the Strategies and Priorities proposed for the next biennium. In our view it represents only a further logical step along the same lines, the basic policy guidelines that the whole FAO Membership approved in 1977.

With regard to the Programme framework I would like to reiterate our serious concern with the downward trend in extra-budgetary resources, in particular to the deepening crisis of UNDP. We hope that the Conference will again make a very strong appeal to all donors to increase their contributions, particularly contributions to UNDP in compliance with the already established target of 14 percent gross annually.

With regard to the overall resources we have no difficulties to agree. We feel that the Director-General really deserves our compliments for being able to propose appreciable increases in major FAO programmes at the expense of administrative support services. I want to underline that the same process certainly could not be repeated and extended in the long run and the same scale could not even apply in the subsequent biennium, that is to say 1986-87.

Finally the issue of rates; we want to advocate realism. In our view that means that we have to take fully into account the past year's dollar rate to be applied to the next biennium.

I. SZABO (Hungary): Concerning the document C 83/8, the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1984-85, I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation. After a careful examination of the main parts of this document, as we shall state in the afternoon in the Plenary, the Hungarian delegation shares the opinion of all the others who have supported it. In our opinion this Programme of Work and Budget can be considered as a realistic one and we hope that its targets can be achieved in the not so far future. We particularly welcome the fact that a reduction can be experienced in administrative support and common services. My delegation also endorses the strategies and priorities for the 1984-85 biennium.

S. ZAHARIEV (Bulgaria): The document which we are discussing now is well prepared and indeed needs to be complimented.

The Programme of Work and Budget of every organization and institution is the most important item for the success of this Organization during the current year. For FAO it is even more important because this Programme of Work and Budget is directly concerned with existence and life and well-being of the millions of people in the world. As it was stated yesterday morning by our Minister, our delegation would like to see FAO as effectively directly orientated to the needs of the Organization. We believe the Programme of Work and Budget is in line with these wishes and that is why we directly support it.

M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador): A pesar de que seré muy breve, permítame felicitarlo en nombre de mi delegación por su elección a la Presidencia de esta importante Comisión. Estamos seguros que, bajo su acertada dirección, llegaremos a resultados muy positivos en nuestro debate. Agradecemos asimismo la clara exposición realizada tanto por el Sr. West como por el Sr. Shah.

El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que el Director General somete a nuestra consideración merece nuestro más entusiasta apoyo y deseamos felicitarlo en esta oportunidad por el justo equilibrio logrado, haciendo hincapié en el reforzamiento de las actividades técnicas y económicas debiendo, sin embargo, sacrificar algunos recursos destinados a los servicios administrativos de apoyo.

Los cuatro objetivos básicos que guiaron al Director General en la selección de las prioridades del Programa no pueden ser más acertados y consecuentes con las prioridades fundamentales de los países en vías de desarrollo.

Apoyamos plenamente los programas indicados como prioritarios y para los cuales se plantean incrementos netos adicionales. Entre ellos, quisiéramos manifestar nuestra complacencia por la importancia dada al Programa 2.1.5 "Desarrollo Rural", y, en especial, al hecho de destinar importantes recursos a la promoción de las actividades de la mujer en la comercialización permitiendo su gradual y efectiva incorporación en la vida económica de nuestros pueblos.

Asimismo apoyamos los esfuerzos de la Organización por atender las urgentes necesidades de nuestros hermanos de Africa cuya situación alimentaria nos preocupa enormemente.

Unimos nuestra voz al llamado realizado recientemente por el Director General y confiamos en una respuesta adecuada de todos aquellos países capaces de ayudarlos.

Estamos conscientes, señor Presidente, de las dificultades que implican definir prioridades y distribuir los recursos de la FAO entre las diversas necesidades que tienen nuestros países; por ello, compartimos la opinión del Director de la FAO y apoyamos fuertemente el reforzamiento del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, el cual ha demostrado, sin lugar a dudas, ser un instrumento eficaz que permite atender con prontitud las necesidades y prioridades específicas de cada uno de los Gobiernos.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, confiamos en que esta Comisión remitirá a la Plenaria este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto tal como nos ha sido presentado y que el mismo obtendrá el apoyo unánime que se merece.

M. FENWICK (United States of America): First I would like to congratulate my friend on his election as our Chairman. We have all looked forward to it and welcome it and his work here now among us. I cannot resist, although he has left the room, saying a word about the Chairman of our Programme Committee, with whom we all worked so happily.

But I have a thought, and I hope that you, Mr Chairman, and my colleague will forgive me if I bring in a little personal note from my own experience that I would like to share with my colleagues. I spent eight years in the Congress of the United States and more years before that in my State Legislature. Those of us who live by the vote of our fellow citizens subject to dismissal every two years in the Congress have a problem, which is that we cannot depart too far from the beliefs and feelings of our people. We have to say what we think is true and right and if our heart leads us too far ahead of what they believe we are not there any more. That is one of the things that I would like to bring to the attention of this august Assembly, the family of mankind, all of us here together working for something that we believe to be right, the elimination of suffering and how we can best do it.

Very often you may wonder why certain countries do certain things. Very often their heart is longing to do more, but their ability to do more is limited by the beliefs of the people they represent.

I would like to congratulate, as others rightly have, the Director-General and the Chairman of the Programme Committee. We have a budget here that represents considerable cuts in administrative costs and protection of the programmes which are the heart of the work of FAO, in addition to the statistics and the information that must be made available to those who are trying to join FAO in this endeavour. We are concerned of course with improvements, research in crops, germ plasm, and all the aspects that would improve production of food, and we have other concerns too of course. The terrible scourges that have threatened small farmers in various parts of the world, rinderpest in Africa, swine fever in Latin America, these terrible animal diseases that can wipe out the whole assets of a small farmer who may not have more than five head of cattle and sees them in danger of being killed by this hideous disease. So we have, I am glad to say, gone to meet that emergency.

I would like to say a little something also about forestry. I think that many in the forestry field are concerned perhaps that the budget was not reflective of some of the needs there. We are indeed facing a hideous situation if the present forestry conditions continue. The increase in population has made the demand for fuelwood, simply to cook food for families to eat, and that means an increasing destruction of the forests and in many places it means destruction and erosion of the hillsides where trees kept the earth back. It means that in the valleys crops are destroyed by terrible floods. We have countries dependent - if you look at it in a regional situation - on the slopes of mountains in another country because some of the rivers flow so directly and damage so much in the neighbouring country when the floods come down. So there are many considerations and many needs and I think we all know what they are.

I think we must examine all the funds and resources of the FAO and all the other Agencies to see how we can best meet the needs of the people we are trying to serve. There is nothing that is exempt, there is nothing that is so perfect that we cannot look at it and always with that point in mind, how do we better serve the people that we are trying to help - the word 'help' is the wrong word - they are the people that we want to work with, our partners, as the Minister of Mali said. I thought those were the two most significant words that have been said since I have been listening here.

I would like to say a word about the Technical Cooperation Programme, in which I have an enormous personal interest. I think it has moved quickly to respond to urgent needs and I think that everybody would agree that the projects are well conceived and well executed. But my Government shares the concern of Canada and some others lest too much of the assessed funds be used in that way rather than leaning on the voluntary funds. My Government and I support funds for the UNDP and all the others that FAO can lean on for this endeavour.

Finally, we will continue our support for the UNDP. I would like to say a word though. I think we have seen in this budget the kind of work we can and should expect and have a right to expect from these Agencies. We have a combination of intellect and heart. We have a common sense which says this is the way we think it can be done, but we have a heart that says we are concerned about people, and we will not give up that concern, and we will somehow manage to meet the needs. That is the important thing from my point of view in this Programme or Work and Budget that is being submitted.

I think the Director-General and the staff have done wonderful work. Their responsiveness to our inquiries has been generous and full and accurate and I am impressed with it. I am new here and I only want to say I am very happy to join you all.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): La Delegación de la República de Panamá desea unirse a las delegaciones que nos precedieron en el uso de la palabra y felicitar al Sr. Presidente por su elección y por la excelente dirección con que conduce las sesiones de esta Comisión II de trabajo.

Nuestra Delegación desea asimismo agradecer y felicitar al señor Director General Adjunto y al Sr. Shah por sus intervenciones al inicio de esta reunión y por lo acertado de las mismas.

Sr. Presidente, nuestra participación tiene como propósito fundamental expresar la aprobación y el apoyo de la Delegación panameña al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1984-85 y efectuar algunas breves y concisas observaciones al respecto.

El primer comentario que le merece a la Delegación de Panamá en el análisis del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto es el reconocer que dicho documento ha sido presentado en cuanto a estructura y contenido de manera superior al del bienio anterior, lo cual permite que el mismo sea examinado en forma ágil y eficaz.

Por otra parte, nuestra Delegación considera que los criterios en los cuales se basó el Director General para formular su propuesta, así como las prioridades en esta contenida, permitirá, en gran parte, el logro de los objetivos propuestos, además del logro en economía, eficiencia y mejor administración de los recursos disponibles.

Sr. Presidente, la Delegación de Panamá, sin embargo, desea expresar una vez más su preocupación por la política de crecimiento cero propugnada por algunos Estados Miembros y se auguró que ello no sea el preludio de una próxima tendencia a una posterior reducción presupuestaria ya que ello tendría funestas consecuencias para la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo. Nuestra Delegación desea manifestar además su preocupación por la posición adoptada por algunos países y que se interpreta como una tendencia a reducir al Programa de Asistencia Técnica y considerar que, de continuar la misma, tendríamos un regreso de importantes actividades de una organización como FAO en la cual hay puestas muchas esperanzas y depositada tanta confianza.

La República de Panamá es un país pacifista por tradición y por convicción. Es por ello que aprueba y adopta ya el planteamiento del Director General relacionado con los recursos destinados al armamento en vez de destinarse al Programa de Desarrollo.

Nuestra Delegación, Sr. Presidente, está firmemente convencida que la seguridad alimentaria es sinónimo de paz.

Sr. Presidente, para terminar, nuestra Delegación desea manifestar que se reserva el derecho de intervenir nuevamente, si ello fuera necesario, durante los debates de carácter particular a fin de aclarar los conceptos aquí emitidos u opinados sobre nuevas ideas que se presenten.

M. PIOTROWSKA (Poland): The Director-General in his introduction to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 presented a very interesting analysis of the general and economic situation in the world and very convincing arguments supporting the priorities of the Organization for its activities in the coming Biennium.

Concerning the zero gross concept, in view of the existing difficulties, both social and economic, in a number of countries, it is in our opinion the only possible approach at present. We are supporting this concept and we have noted with satisfaction that the number of established posts at headquarters is being reduced and a decrease is envisaged in the amount allocated for administration and other support services at headquarters.

As a matter of principle we are against the setting up of new units or divisions, as this normally provokes further proliferation of bureaucracy. However, as the Research and Technology Development Division will only constitute an amalgamation of the already existing units, we raise no objection in this respect. Research and new technology in agriculture are of such importance that the establishing of a new Division is justified and might only be considered as proof of the attention paid to this problem by the Organization. The strategies and priorities for FAO activities in the field of agriculture are very clearly spelled out, and to a large extent they constitute a continuation of the programme initiated previously. All important areas of agriculture have been covered in the document under discussion, and we feel, therefore, that it would be of little value to repeat them or to discuss them in detail. We would like to reiterate our views expressed on many other occasions, that top priority should be accorded to research and technology; training of farmers, and formulation of sound agricultural policies, which might have great impact on increased yields; growth of production; access to means of production of small farmers, and equitable distribution of income between different groups of population.

We also welcome the stress laid on the concept of self reliance in food, especially in view of the growing protectionism and barriers to the trade. The programme for the prevention or reduction of food losses in developing countries is directly linked to the idea of self-sufficiency. We have noted with satisfaction that IFAD and the Regional Development Banks are using more and more the services of FAO Investment Centre. This is certainly a confirmation of the high professional level of services rendered by this unit. As for FAO representative, we share the opinion that the number of countries covered by this scheme is large enough, and there is no need to consider the establishment of additional country offices in the years 1984-85. This concept of multi accreditation has been supported in the past by a large number of Member Nations and they should be further expanded when additional governments request, and FAO are in their countries. Further consolidation of the programme is in our view more warranted than its expansion. The TCP programme has proved its value to many countries over the past years, and the proposed increase of funds for this purpose will probably be welcomed by most countries. As a word of caution we would like to stress that principles governing the use of TCP funds should be well known to the governments and strictly adhered to when approving the projects.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to make a few comments on the programme for Europe, which is of utmost interest to us. We have noted in the present Programme of Work and Budget some prominence is given to the research and technology development in Europe. We have always supported the Organization of scientific research networks in different fields of agriculture, and we are glad to see that more and more scientific institutions, both from Europe and outside Europe, are joining the existing networks. Research on the energy resources for agriculture and soya conservation appear to us extremely important at present. Thank you, Mr Chairman, for your attention.

M. MAZOYER (France): M. le Président, la délégation française tient d'abord à s'associer aux félicitations unanimes qui vous ont été adressées pour votre élection, ainsi qu'aux compliments et aux remerciements adressés à M. Shah et à M. West pour la présentation qui a été faite au début de cette Commission.

La délégation française se félicite des orientations générales, des objectifs et des priorités qui sont proposés dans le Programme de travail et budget, ainsi que des efforts qui sont entrepris en matière de renouvellement des analyses, des méthodes et des moyens d'intervention de l'Organisation. En effet, nous considérons que les orientations mises en avant par le Directeur général depuis quelques années sont essentielles. L'aspect le plus important et le plus difficile de la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale réside aujourd'hui dans la crise que traverse une fraction très étendue et croissante de la paysannerie des pays en développement. Cette crise est essentiellement concentrée dans les pays les moins avancés dont l'agriculture constitue souvent la seule base économique. L'affaiblissement, voire la destruction de la paysannerie, alimente aujourd'hui le chômage et la marginalité urbaine. Elle compromet gravement l'équilibre alimentaire et, partant, l'équilibre économique des pays en développement.

En outre, si l'aide alimentaire reste indispensable à court terme, nous pensons qu'à plus long terme la sécurité alimentaire des pays en développement passe nécessairement par le développement prioritaire des productions vivrières de ces pays. Par conséquent, nous pensons que la restauration de l'économie paysanne, et en particulier le sauvetage de sa fraction la plus menacée, à travers une politique paysanne et vivrière volontaire, constitue bien l'axe principal d'une stratégie efficace visant à l'instauration d'une sécurité alimentaire véritable.

Parallèlement, les systèmes d'agriculture forestière qui sont concentrés dans beaucoup de pays du Sud doivent jouer un rôle essentiel dans l'élaboration de cette stratégie. Dans la zone intertropicale, ils sont en pleine évolution sous le triple aspect d'une croissance démographique, de l'extension des économies de plantations et de la puissance des moyens mécaniques de défrichement, de la déforestation qui s'est opérée anciennement sous d'autres latitudes et qui sont ici aujourd'hui en marche.

Dans ces conditions, la mise au point de systèmes agricoles, sylvicoles et pastoraux équilibrés, capables de satisfaire les besoins en aliments et en bois, capables de produire la fertilité et de préserver le bioclimat, reste à découvrir et à promouvoir.

Dans ce contexte, il est clair que les programmes techniques et économiques, et en particulier la mobilisation des résultats de la recherche, de même que le programme de coopération technique à l'appui des actions sur le terrain, sont prioritaires. A cet égard, nous appuyons donc tout particulièrement le renouvellement des analyses et des méthodes proposées et qui devra être poursuivi. Ainsi, l'étude des systèmes d'économie paysanne, l'étude de leur origine, de leurs structures, de leur fonctionnement et de leur dynamique est indispensable. Ce sont ces études et elles seules qui permettront d'identifier et de réévaluer l'héritage technique de ces sociétés, d'en déterminer les besoins et d'orienter les recherches vers les technologies les plus appropriées à la situation et aux possibilités techniques, économiques et culturelles des sociétés paysannes.

Pour être appropriées, ces techniques devront être d'une part plus économes en privilégiant systématiquement l'usage des ressources renouvelables, et elles devront être plus autonomes en utilisant en priorité les ressources locales. Elles devront être enfin plus progressives en favorisant une meilleure protection de leur environnement et elles devront être plus faciles à reproduire et à entretenir localement.

A cet égard, la création de la nouvelle Division du développement de la recherche et des techniques prévue par le secrétariat, ainsi que la réorientation qualitative des activités de recherche, peuvent jouer un rôle décisif pour animer, coordonner et renouveler les problématiques d'analyse et les méthodes d'intervention de l'Organisation. Nous pensons que l'efficacité future de l'OAA en dépend.

La délégation française se félicite et félicite le Secrétariat de l'esprit d'économie, de la volonté de rigueur et du souci d'efficacité qui ont présidé à l'élaboration du programme de travail et budget. Nous apprécions l'orientation prise par le Directeur général et l'encourageons vivement à poursuivre ses efforts. La croissance réelle du budget global de l'Organisation de 0,5 pour cent environ se traduit par une réduction nette de 41 postes pour le programme ordinaire et essentiellement pour le Siège. A cet égard, il convient de noter l'évolution favorable de la part des dépenses consacrées au personnel qui passe de 77 pour cent en 1974-1975 à 58 pour cent dix ans après.

Toutefois, le net ralentissement de la croissance des dépenses et les réductions de personnel ne devraient pas affecter le volume et la qualité des opérations. En effet, la ventilation des accroissements des programmes proposés s'effectue pour l'essentiel au bénéfice des programmes techniques et économiques et du programme de coopération technique.

En ce qui concerne les bureaux régionaux, nous avons constaté avec satisfaction pour la première fois depuis le biennium 1978-1979, une réduction réelle des programmes par rapport au biennium précédent alors que les représentations de l'OAA dans les pays sont maintenues à leur niveau actuel. Toutefois, cette réduction qui a été limitée à 1,1 pour cent aurait pu être plus importante.

En effet, lorsqu'en 1976 la délégation française a donné son aval à l'instauration des représentants de l'OAA dans les pays, elle avait demandé que dans le même temps soient réduits le rôle et la taille des bureaux régionaux. Toutefois, s'il nous paraît justifié de réduire la part des bureaux régionaux dans le budget global, nous ne sous-estimons pas pour autant l'importance des activités régionales. Nous appuyons la priorité; qui a été accordée dans ce document aux programmes du Siège, qui ont un impact régional et ceci tout particulièrement pour l'Afrique. Nous apprécions donc l'effort de rigueur budgétaire qui a été porté sur ces bureaux régionaux et les dépenses administratives et de soutien. Nous espérons que cet effort sera poursuivi dans ce sens.

Enfin, si le regroupement au sein d'une nouvelle division du développement de la recherche et des techniques est effectivement de nature à accroître l'effort d'efficacité et de soutien au développement des recherches nationales et d'une plus grande coopération entre institutions nationales et régionales, cet effort d'unification doit s'accompagner de la mise en évidence des liens existants entre l'OAA et les thèmes de recherche et de formation prioritaires.

Je voudrais faire aussi quelques remarques sur la présentation du Programme de travail et budget. Il aurait été souhaitable de faire apparaître plus clairement les efforts faits et proposés par l'Organisation en faveur des pays les moins avancés, et ceci conformément aux recommandations de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les pays les moins avancés, tenue à Paris en août 1981.

En conclusion, la délégation française tient à souligner que les priorités annoncées en faveur du soutien des productions vivrières et de la revalorisation des sociétés paysannes, en particulier les sociétés les plus pauvres, rejoignent les analyses et les orientations de la politique française d'aide au développement. L'effort de rigueur budgétaire entrepris peut être poursuivi dans le contexte international actuel. Les politiques de maîtrise des déficits budgétaires, mises en oeuvre par beaucoup d'Etats membres de l'Organisation, justifient en effet pour les années à venir une plus grande modulation et une rationalisation dans l'emploi des fonds mis à la disposition des organisations internationales, même de celles qui, comme l'OAA, ont une finalité qui correspond aux priorités essentielles de la communauté internationale.

Pour terminer, à titre personnel, je tiens à témoigner que les conditions de travail qui ont régné au sein du Comité des programmes que nous avons aujourd'hui sous les yeux ont été excellentes, et je remercie mes collègues et le secrétariat qui nous ont aidés dans notre travail.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of France. As distinguished delegates will have noted on page 1 of the Order of the Day, which is C 83/DJ/4, Plenary will suspend for the arrival of the President of Sudan, and his subsequent address. We are to follow suit. Therefore, we will suspend and go to Plenary. But we will resume as soon as the President of Sudan has delivered his statement, and Plenary resumes its normal operations.

The meeting was suspended from 10.45 to 12.15 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 45 à 12 h 15

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.45 horas a las 12.15 horas

F. LARBI (Tunisie) '(langue originale arabe): Je vous adresse tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, ainsi qu'aux deux Vice-Présidents, nos vives félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission. Je voudrais aussi exprimer notre reconnaissance à M. West et à M. Shah pour leur présentation claire et précise du point inscrit à notre ordre du jour. Je remercie également le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document C 83/3. N'étant pas membre du Conseil, ni du Comité du Programme, ni du Comité financier, ma délégation a l'honneur d'exprimer sa satisfaction quant à l'introduction franche et objective faite par le Directeur général et fait siennes les stratégies et priorités adoptées pour le biennium 1984-85. Ma délégation est consciente des choix difficiles auxquels s'est trouvé confronté le Directeur général et approuve pleinement la limitation des charges financières et la réduction des postes au Siège ce qui a permis le transfert de ces ressources vers des programmes techniques, programmes de développement, de la recherche, de la formation et du transfert de technologies appropriées. Ce sont là des moyens très appréciables qui répondent aux besoins effectifs des Etats Membres. A ce propos, ma délégation voudrait rendre hommage aux efforts déployés par le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs, en vue d'améliorer encore l'efficacité de la FAO et de veiller sur la bonne gestion des ressources disponibles.

Enfin, ma délégation appuie sans réserve le Programme de travail et budget proposé par le Directeur général pour le biennium 1984-85. Nous remercions le Directeur général pour avoir donné la priorité à l'Afrique, et nous faisons appel à tous les Etats Membres pour que la Conférence approuve à l'unanimité le Programme de travail et budget proposés.

H. TAKASE (Japan): First of all we would like to add our congratulations on your election and the election of the two Vice-Chairmen, and we would also like to express our appreciation for the efficient explanations of the document given by Mr West and Mr Shah yesterday morning.

Mr Chairman, we appreciate that the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 formulated with the maximum of effort by the Director-General and his staff to take into consideration and coordination both requirements, that is more strengthening of international assistance to the recipient countries in the field of food and agriculture, and the severe financial constraints of the major contributors. We especially appreciate that the Director-General has reduced the real programme growth to nearly zero and cut heavily the administrative costs to divert more resources to high priority areas such as technical and economic programmes.

Nonetheless we would like to say that it has been explained in the Conference document that the cost increases are calculated not only by the inflation rate in the host country or worldwide, but also by various factors relating to FAO expenditure. However, this explanation itself is not persuasive enough for us. We are considering that it would be helpful for us if FAO could show us in the Budget document for the next time some concrete calculation process on a few items that are outstanding in their growth of the cost increases. We also hope that FAO in relation to cost increases will endeavour to reduce also the nominal growth rate further, taking into consideration that under severe financial constraints each Member Nation is striving to cut the total cost of each budget by a maximum effective use of resources.

We would now like to seek some explanation on the following points. According to the Council document CL 83/3 page 33, the details of the cost increases are estimated to be 34 757 000 biennialization and 48 700 000 in inflation.

On the other hand, in the Conference document C 83/3 on page 41 it is estimated to be 34 503 000 in biennialization and 48 261 000 in inflation. In both of these estimations the estimated total costs are the same, that is, 82 764 000. However, we would like to know why, in detail, such different estimations occurred.

We would now like to comment on the Technical Cooperation Programme. We appreciate in general that TCP is very useful and effective in meeting unforeseen and urgent needs in the developing countries. The Programme of Work and Budget is in principle formulated on the programme budgeting system. In such a system only the TCP is exceptional as an unprogrammed budgeting item. From this viewpoint we believe it would be desirable to set up certain upper limits at TCP level. We cannot agree with the unlimited increase of TCP more than what it already is at the present level.

Another point I would like to mention is that according to the breakdown of TCP projects in each category in 1982, the funds were diverted as follows: 31.3 percent for training facilities and 19.2 percent for emergencies. We think that in its original nature, more funds should be diverted to emergencies.

As for training activities, the technical and economic programmes are also widely extended for this purpose. We are inclined to think that some part of the TCP activities might be well replaced by some of the activities of the technical and economic programmes. We feel that from the viewpoints of ensuring the efficient implementation of TCP, it would be helpful to prepare more clear and detailed criteria and to have enough information supplied in order to monitor the criteria to see that it is adequately functioning at the stage of TCP planning. It has been explained that TCP is not duplicated with the other activities of UNDP. We hope that FAO will endeavour further to provide us with the necessary information on this point.

Notwithstanding what I have said, we are happy to say that my delegation is ready to support in general the Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives.

S. OKWAKOL (Uganda): My delegation fully supports the Programme of Work and Budget as presented in document C 83/3 and we would like to express our appreciation of the fact that this Budget is so constrained, in view of the financial and international crisis currently prevailing throughout the world. We would like to record, however, our concern as to the zero growth of the Budget in that we feel that this should not form a precedent for further declining budgets in future.

We also wish to record our support for the emphasis put upon technical cooperation programmes, especially for the developing countries.

Furthermore, we support the cutback on the administrative costs and support services as presented to us for our approval. We are behind the Programme of Work and Budget as presented to us and we wish it to be unanimously approved by the Conference.

On behalf of my delegation I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to preside over this important Committee. We also wish to thank the Deputy Director-General Mr West and Mr Shah for their presentation of these documents and we also wish to thank the Director-General for the excellent document C 83/3: Programme of Work and Budget which has considered in detail the general strategies and priorities which are important to the Organization. Due to the very critical international food situation which reigns which is marked by imbalance and crises throughout all the countries of the world, we can but give our full support to the Programme of Work and Budget and the various programmes which would help the Organization achieve its basic goals. We hope that it will be possible for the Organization in the future to have a Programme of Work and Budget which will receive full support and which will be satisfactory and meet the needs of all.

We now wish to express our full support to this Programme of Work and Budget because it is a means of ensuring that the new concept of food security presented by the Director-General will help us eliminate the problems of hunger and malnutrition throughout the world.

CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank and congratulate delegates on the efficient use of the five and one half minutes at their disposal. They have exercised restraint in these times of zero growth, even on time!

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): A number of questions and requests for clarification have been made in the course of the very interesting debate. I shall address myself purely to these.

First of all, some comments which can be satisfied, I hope, with very brief explanations. The delegates of Italy and Canada - mainly them, perhaps some others as well - referred to the information given in the document on the net elimination of posts and they wondered why more information was not given on the units in which new posts are proposed to be added, and those in which posts are proposed to be eliminated. The tables on pages 30 and 31 of the document in the English text give only the net result, the net changes. It was wrong to think that the posts to be eliminated or abolished amount to only 41. In fact, 32 professional posts are proposed to be abolished, and offsetting these against 15 new posts to be created, you have a net reduction of 17.

For general service posts, 29 posts are to be abolished, 5 new ones created with a net reduction of 24. Combined, you have a net reduction of 41.

The Annex II to which I referred yesterday, the organizational Annex, gives for each Department by Division the grade of the post and the title of the post, both of the new posts and the abolished posts. For example, if delegates would turn to page 265 of the English text which gives information for the Agriculture Department, I do not need to make any further comment except to draw attention to the information given there.

A number of delegates, in particular those of Belgium and Norway, asked for information on extra-budgetary funds by programme, and here let me firstly point out that each programme narrative in the programme budget has a total at the end which indicates for that programme the extra-budgetary funds expected during the biennium under UNDP, government programmes, other trust funds, World Food Programme and other programmes in the UN system. I emphasize the word 'expected' because we can only go by the indications available to date on extra-budgetary programmes which have been approved and which FAO may be expected to implement. As far as the present biennium is concerned information on extra-budgetary funds by source is given in the document, Review of Field Programmes which you shall be considering later, document C 83/4. Here I should point out, of course, that the biennium is not yet over so whatever figures are indicated for 1983 are only provisional.

Then a question was raised about the share of the Technical Cooperation Programme in the total budgetary proposals and the delegate of Pakistan referred to the proportion of 12.7 percent. He is, of course, referring to this figure of 12.7 percent which is given in the table of Summary of Estimates by Chapter at page 48 of the document. You will recall that for the present biennium 1982-83 TCP's share in the total budget is 12.9 percent and then when you add the real programme increase proposed by the Director-General and the cost increases related thereto you come to a total figure of 57 470 000 dollars, which is 12.7 percent of the overall proposed budget. But that is, as I explained yesterday, at the rate of 1 190 lire to the US dollar and if you take the budget at a more realistic rate, as indicated to the Finance Committee and the Council, let us say of 1 600 lire to the dollar the overall budget comes down to 422 million dollars but in dollar terms the TCP share remains the same and that comes to 13.6 percent. So I would invite the Commission's attention to the real dollar figure and not to the percentage which may be calculated at different rates of exchange.

A number of delegations indicated the priority, the importance they attach to our work on research and technology development and we were very gratified to take careful note of these comments. May I here draw attention to a document which members might find particularly useful to bear in mind, not only in the second round of discussion that you propose to have on this item, but also when we consider the Reviews of the Regular and Field Programmes, and that is the document C 83/INF/17 entitled National Agricultural Research. This document is a study which results from a joint evaluation undertaken by FAO and UNDP, an evaluation and the experiences of 91 agricultural research programmes in 25 developing countries. We think this is quite an important evaluation. You will note that it is not only done by FAO but jointly with UNDP and its context can be seen also in the fact that over the last decade or last, say, 11 years FAO and UNDP have assisted some 800 projects with a total financial commitment of over 750 million dollars. This study may therefore be of interest and relevance when the Commission looks in more detail at our proposed work programme on research and technology development.

The Federal Republic of Germany requested more information on the Technical Cooperation Programme and specifically wished to have lists of projects by country. This information was certainly given by the Deputy Director-General a few months ago to a representative of the Federal Republic of Germany but in your presence I would now like to convey to him these lists of TCP projects not only for the year to date but also for the last 3 or 4 years. They give exactly the information that he has sought in every detail imaginable.

The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany also requested information about grades of staff in the offices of FAO Representatives and referred to a promise that was apparently given to provide this information in the budget document. I will recall the discussion at the Eighty-third session of the Council and in fact have even checked the verbatim record. There is no reference in the reply given by the Secretariat that this specific information would appear in that specific table but, of course, we are entirely ready to meet the delegation interested and discuss exactly what information they want and how it can be of use to them. I would only make a general point that posts in the offices of FAO Representatives should not be seen in the same way as established posts under the Regular Programme for each unit as described in the Programme of Work and Budget. The grading of a post, let us take the grading of an FAO Representative in a particular country, is according to the programme that FAO has in that country. It varies also according to the experience and the seniority and the capabilities of the individual. It also depends and takes into account the fact that a grade is given to an individual for a particular assignment. So these are all general factors that we should bear in mind. And if anyone is troubled by the total number of staff in the offices of FAO Representatives, which is given in the Annex III to this document, I believe the number is 642. This, of course, covers not only the FAO Representative and not only the Programme Officer and not only the secretaries, but also the sweepers and the nightwatchmen and in fact anyone who may be on the payroll and even at local rates.

A specific question was also asked about the exchange rate benefits to the Organization in 1982-83. This information as usual was, of course, conveyed to the Finance Committee and is in the report of the Finance Committee to the Council, document CL 84/4, and it states that during the first 20 months of the biennium the average lire/US dollar rate applied by the Organization was 1386 to the dollar as against the 1190 approved for the budget and the cumulative savings resulting from this amounted to \$11 027 000, every penny credited to the Special Reserve Fund and at the end of August, as reported to the Finance Committee, the balance of the Special Reserve Account stood at \$29 359 000. This figure will, of course, rise during the remaining months of this year.

The subject of cost increases invited some very interesting comments from a number of delegations, including those of Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan. Firstly I would like to try and clarify the issue of the rate of inflation in Italy, our host country, and how that affects cost increases. The document tried to show clearly, in fact it does say so but it may have escaped notice, that the cost increases proposed are not built up purely on the factor of inflation in Italy and that is because the expenditure covered under the budget covers many items, many categories the cost of which is dictated not by prices and costs in Italy but by the standards which are established elsewhere and even outside the Organization. For example, professional salaries; they are established by the Civil Service Commission and endorsed by the General Assembly. I give this only as a brief example, the full explanation is of course given in the document. The rate of inflation in Italy we of course follow very closely because there are expenditures related to the prices in Italy and we all hope, I am sure the Secretariat as all Member Nations, that our host country's Government will contain the rate of inflation according to its declared policies. I do not need to go into any discourse on this except to draw to your attention the fact that even a paper this morning, and I shall restrain myself from giving the name of the paper, has an article about inflation and salaries in Italy and the difference between the projections and the targets.

I stated just now that there are certain expenditures which are particularly related to costs in Italy and one example of this would be the expenditures for general service salaries. May I draw attention to figure 5 which is a graph given on page 35 of the Programme of Work and Budget. This graph in the second half of the page shows that in fact our estimates for inflation in Italy for this biennium were extremely modest and were not borne out by events. The hardline in the graph shows the provision made in the Programme of work and Budget for 1982-83. According to this general service salary increases should have occurred in April 1982 for the first time; in fact it occurred a month earlier. The second one in June; in fact it occurred in May. I draw attention to this graph only to show that the estimates we make and the provision we make is, if anything, on the conservative side.

Talking of general service salaries, there is an important point to bear in mind also that the cost increases provisions which are included in this document are those based on sound and realistic assessment of the facts. There is no provision made for cost increases which we expect will occur, we can guarantee will occur, but the magnitude of which we cannot estimate and to give you the most significant example, there is going to be a survey of general service salaries in 1984.

It would be rare for a salary survey to show that salaries should be reduced. We can take it as responsible people that there will be an increase which will be the result of this survey and which will be applicable during the biennium; at what stage we cannot say yet. You will recall that this is exactly what happened in 1980-81. There was no provision made deliberately for the increases which would result from the General Service salary survey at that time, and as a result of the survey and the increases approved by the Council some \$7 million had to be added. We have specifically not added any such amount because the Director-General believes very strongly that he should not prejudge, and not even give any hint of prejudging, what the results of the survey would be.

The delegate of Japan raised a question about why there is a difference between the cost increases as shown in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget which was reviewed by the Council in June and the cost increases as given in this Budget document on page 41. The reason is very simply that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was prepared in January and sent to print in February; so we were considering the very early information then available to us, whereas the full document before you was prepared during July and August, so we have been able to take the latest information, the latest trend and indicators. I can say equally clearly that if there is a difference - and there is a difference, as the delegate has pointed out - in the figures for biennialisation, that is because the document is based on more realistic figures and we were able to bring down our estimates for biennialisation from \$34.7 million to \$34.5 million.

But then he asks, how come the total figure does not reflect this difference. The reason is that the total figure was deliberately kept to the overall level as a deliberate decision of the Director-General. It would have been perfectly possible to show greater cost increases on the basis of the later information we had available, which would have increased the total amount, but it was a policy decision of the Director-General not to increase the overall amount and that is why we have contained it within the amounts you see before you in the document.

A number of delegations requested information, particularly the delegate of New Zealand, on the elimination of low priorities and what are our criteria for eliminating low priorities. First I would point out that, as the Director-General himself has stated in his introduction and in his policy statements, he pays the closest attention to every recommendation made to him on Programme matters from the whole range of technical bodies under the auspices of FAO, from the Council Committees, the Programme and Finance Committees, the technical committees, the Regional Conferences, the Conference itself from its previous session, all these are taken into very careful scrutiny and account. But they do not always resolve our problem because every recommendation is usually for higher priority. There is every urging, every request for what should be done more and what are the greater needs that FAO should respond to. So when we come down to formulating the package, helping the Director-General to formulate his package, it is a question not only of considering the recommendations but of seeing how everything that can be done can be fitted into the package. Then there are questions which are addressed, such as what is the urgency of the proposed Programme and activity, what is its cost, what is its rationale, is it feasible to implement, what are its links with other FAO activities and priorities, what is the role of FAO - because let us not forget, no matter what effort the Organization makes to help resolve problems of world food and agriculture it only plays a role among many other partners - and finally the cost effectiveness of a particular proposal. So in determining lower priorities I would add one word of emphasis, that it is not a question of giving lower priority to certain Programmes, but eliminating certain activities and reducing costs.

The same delegation and some others had also very interesting comments to make about evaluation, but if you will permit me I will not respond to those, as there will no doubt be other comments also relating to our reviews of the Regular and Field Programmes which could be handled at the same time.

Finally may I take a comment made by the delegates of the Netherlands and Norway which referred to General Assembly Resolution 37/234. I am no stranger to this Resolution because as honest professionals my colleagues and I try to follow developments both in the United Nations and other organizations which are relevant for us and we had in fact studied the contents of the Resolution when it was adopted. It deals with programme planning and it establishes the guidelines which the General Assembly has given the Secretary-General on the whole range of operations governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, monitoring of implementation, methods of evaluation, and medium-term plans.

First, I need hardly stress that the Director-General follows the instructions given to him by his governing bodies - that is, by yourselves, by the Conference. It is very interesting to note what other governing bodies do in other organizations, but of course we are not bound by them.

Secondly, this very interesting and comprehensive Resolution, it may interest the Commission to note, has not resolved problems for the United Nations. In fact it is no secret that when the Secretary-General presented his Programme of Work and Budget Proposals for 1984-85 this Spring, they went in May to the Committee on Programme and Coordination, it is no secret, it is in the records of the Committee of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly that the proposals were not ready and that the Committee could not commence its work on time and had to meet in extraordinary session during the summer. I am not commenting on the whys and wherefores, I am giving you the facts. The Secretary-General acknowledged this in his statement to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly when he presented his Programme of Work and Budget on 12 October, if I recall correctly. He expressed his regrets for the delays in the issuance of the Programme of Work and Budget and he ended by saying:

"I therefore appeal to you to declare a moratorium for this session on organizational changes or on further detailed programme, budget and personnel regulations. The time has come, I think, for the Chief Administrative Officer to conduct a searching look into these issues".

It may also interest the Commission to note that this is a subject that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, ACABQ, a committee of the General Assembly, follows very closely, and I was privileged to be able to accompany the Deputy Director-General when he met with them on 8 September this year.

One of the subjects that they wanted to explore in depth with each Agency representative was the arrangements for programming, budget medium-term planning and evaluation. They were very interested to know about our methods, our arrangements, the role of our governing bodies, the specific role of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee and the Council, and their report is fairly clear. I do not go into the details which describe what FAO does, but suffice to quote two paragraphs. First:

"The Advisory Committee cautions that harmonization of the arrangements among Agencies in respect of programme planning, budgeting and evaluation does not appear necessarily a desirable or feasible goal".

And at the conclusion of their report I quote again:

"No two Agencies have exactly the same arrangements for programme planning, budgeting and evaluation. Rather the particular arrangements in any organization have been tailored to the needs of that organization. On the other hand, all Agencies are aware of the need for careful programming, budgeting, financial control and evaluation in order to ensure the optimum use of limited resources and each has developed its secretariat and intergovernmental structure with that end in view".

We shall of course continue to follow and collaborate with our colleagues in other organizations on ways of improving our methods, our performance, our accountability, but I felt that this was information which I should draw to the attention of the Conference at this session.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Shah, for your very forthright replies.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I just wanted to say on behalf of the Director-General at the conclusion of the general debate how happy we are that there has been complete support, except perhaps from one delegation, for his proposals and I look forward to the remainder of the debate on the item with pleasure.

CHAIRMAN: Before we adjourn I would like to remind delegates that we will be starting this afternoon on detailed discussion of the eight chapters in document C 83/3 and that those delegations that have not had a chance to say something during the general discussion could be allowed to make one or two introductory remarks of a general nature before we go into the detailed discussion. So do not feel restrained. At this point I want to congratulate you on the completion of the general discussion.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/II/PV/4

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE
CUARTA SESION

(9 November 1983)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de
C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de C. Ntsane; Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

- 11. Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)
- 11. Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)
- 11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We now start with our discussions of the eight chapters in document C 83/3. Let me explain that we will be discussing these chapters altogether, so you are free to comment on any one of them. We will not go through the document chapter by chapter.

E.P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Because of the small size of our delegation we were unable to speak earlier in this Commission and I trust therefore, Sir, that we could crave both your indulgence and the indulgence of this Commission as we attempt to make our overall contribution perhaps in one shot.

We would also add our voices to the congratulations with respect to your election.

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to commence its remarks by indicating its general support for the 1984-85 budget. Of course, it is very difficult to do otherwise. The Director-General has proceeded along two critical lines of action which give him almost instant support.

He has presented a virtually zero-growth budget; in reality a 0.5 percent increase. This is in stark contrast to levels of 6 percent and more which I understand other international bodies have been presenting for consideration in other places - with expected opposition. Mr. Chairman, in terms of the critical needs of mankind today, there is no other organization which merits favourable consideration to the same extent as FAO, for an increase in its budget.

Secondly, the Director-General has undertaken a major surgical exercise, cutting and transplanting, with emphasis being on delivery in the field where the action is required.

These two major lines of action virtually guarantee the 1984-85 budget "easy passage". We are grateful to the Director-General for his thorough effort resulting in a budget which clearly demonstrates managerial excellence. Priorities are adequately identified and the financial requirements are firmly held within the economic realities of our world today.

My delegation will make a few brief remarks on some aspects of the programme, especially given the time factor and the number of other delegations who will wish to speak on them.

If and when resources increase or there is any scope for virement or reallocation within the total sum approved, we recommend that certain programmes be strengthened.

Farming Systems Development (2.1.1.2). The comprehensive approach is fully supported; this approach will force field workers to take a closer look at production systems and to develop recommendations related to actual field conditions. Existing production patterns based on years of experience in location-specific environments will acquire increased relevance. Involvement of national institutions and on-farm testing must bring valuable results - especially in relation to the majority of producers in the developing countries - the small- and medium-sized farmers. In the context of production, therefore, the proposals relating to fertilizers, water development and management, and national agricultural research systems are fully endorsed; each area is critical but we do feel that FAO's efforts in the development of effective national agricultural research systems must be fully supported and strengthened where necessary. There is an urgency for a sustained, wide-ranging scientific effort in the national context where the reward orientation of the scientists is rooted in results related, in large measure, to ways and means of improving the productivity of those engaged in farming today.

Success in this regard combined with the proposed activity on the transfer of appropriate technologies can usher in a new era in the struggle with agricultural production in the countries of the Third World.

The programme on genetic resources, including the seed sub-programme, must receive attention in this biennium as a matter of urgency. Besides efforts to improve seed-production technology, there is another important concern and that is the gradual disappearance of indigenous types of fruits and vegetables in some developing countries. Many a young child in Trinidad and Tobago today has never seen many of the fruits - undoubtedly many of them quite nutritious - which I knew as a boy; yet we are busy consuming millions of dollars each year in apples, pears and other fruits, none of which

can be produced in our part of the world. Let there be more variety, of course, but we need to rediscover indigenous fruit and vegetable types, learn more about them - improved propagation techniques, their relative nutritional value, etc.

Considerable effort and resources are being directed towards dairy development in many countries. Also, we see at paragraph 29, page 94 that FAO will proceed with plans related to the livestock sector. A little over a week ago, I watched a programme on television in London relating to the rearing of sheep for milk production. I saw the flocks of sheep, use of milking machines, preparation and distribution of the milk for human consumption in suburban areas. This development is of interest. If the potential is real in terms of milk yield per acre and we can combine this with reasonable meat yields, given the more difficult conditions under which sheep can thrive, milk production in the small farm context in Third World countries can take on new dimensions. I recognize the problems of milk strains for the tropics, etc. - but it does seem to be a matter which ought to be pursued. Importing one dairy cow with no particular pedigree costs thousands of dollars!

Our delegation also wants to register its full support for the Director-General's programme on decentralization. The posting of country representatives with appropriate authority augurs well for increased project activity and greater vigilance on a continuous basis. Hopefully, with time, increased funding will allow the Director-General even greater flexibility with this programme in order that he could exploit fully its potential as an effective mechanism for delivery.

Our delegation also stands firmly with the Director-General's Technical Cooperation Programme. Unforeseen weather, the ravages of nature, outbreaks of pests and disease or other unanticipated unique situations provide the circumstances in which the rapid and flexible response of TCP is very welcome by the recipient country. The Director-General indicated that the budgetary increase from 12.9 to 13.5 percent was done with "the greatest restraint". We understand the contributing circumstances and we feel that the Director-General must, within reasonable limits, improve the overall efficiency of this mechanism. It is hoped that, with time, the need for severe restraints will gradually and substantially be removed.

My delegation has read with satisfaction the programme proposals for our region of the world -Latin America and the Caribbean. The Caribbean, more so the island states, have their peculiar problems related to food and agriculture.

As I speak of our region, the group of countries which have traditionally been known as "the Caribbean" - more so, the English-speaking Caribbean, joins with our traditionally "Latin" brothers in the clear recognition, endorsed by the Council, of one region - "Latin America and the Caribbean".

Trinidad and Tobago will continue actively to participate in the international struggle against famine and hunger. Government is placing heavy emphasis on domestic food production and our long-term planning ensures proper attention to the rehabilitation and expansion of our forestry resource.

At this very moment, we are particularly fortunate in having a multidisciplinary mission provided with the special assistance of the Director-General. This mission is engaged in an overview of our agricultural policy and programmes which we are certain will lead to the accelerated and sustained development of the agricultural sector.

There must be support for the operational activity intended to monitor and evaluate programmes. Monitoring and evaluation are indispensable elements in any meaningful development process. Demonstrated programme efficiency and acceptable levels of achievement will put contributing nations in that receptive frame of mind which will ensure that the Director-General gets a meaningful increase for his 1986-1987 budget. We can only hope that during the next biennium - and available information does not really suggest that we can wait until 1985 - donors will see the necessity and wisdom of boosting their contributions to FAO's activity.

We share the concern for the world food situation so poignantly described by the Director-General, and we support those measures designed to alleviate the pain and the suffering, especially of the children all over the world that are born to hunger and deprivation. In this respect, we recognize the gravity of the situation in the Sahel countries of Africa and the immediate urgencies of their need.

Failure to harness on a wider scale the "Green Power" of the tropical world, so that we can turn around the present course of events in food and agriculture in the developing world, may well lead us to a crisis worse than that which forced the world's leaders to meet in the World Food Conference in 1974.

But we must have hope - hope in the essential goodness of man, hope that despite his imperfections, despite his weaknesses, he will respond to the noble call of his spirit.

G. CUADRA (Nicaragua): Mi delegación desea hacer una declaración general en este momento. Nos unimos a las demás delegaciones en felicitarle por haber sido electo a tan importante cargo. Estamos seguros que los trabajos de esta Comisión se desarrollarán exitosamente bajo su dirección.

No cabe duda de que la actual crisis económica internacional es la enésima crisis del sistema económico capitalista impuesto en el mundo y que afecta más gravemente a los países en vías de desarrollo.

El actual orden internacional financiero, comercial y tecnológico es injusto y va en detrimento de las economías de los países pobres. Las voluntades políticas nacionales de transformar el sector agrícola y los sectores afines para el desarrollo y para la eliminación del hambre y la desnutrición de nuestros pueblos se encuentran frente al creciente intercambio desigual entre países desarrollados y países en vías de desarrollo, con su consecuente dependencia económica y política que obliga a los países pobres a permanecer como suplidores de materias primas baratas al mercado internacional y como compradores de bienes de capital a precios cada vez más elevados.

La tendencia actual de algunos países desarrollados en priorizar la asistencia bilateral frente a la multilateral en el contexto de la crisis económica mundial y de las crecientes tensiones políticas es en extremo preocupante a la luz de sus objetivos neocolonialistas y de los exorbitantes gastos en la industria bélica.

Por esto, señor Presidente, consideramos que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 es insuficiente para satisfacer las necesidades de los países en desarrollo. Nos manifestamos en contra de la política de crecimiento cero y esperamos que no sienta un precedente que frene el crecimiento adecuado de la Organización en el futuro, que le impida cumplir con los objetivos para los que la hemos creado.

Señor Presidente: Nicaragua apoya los objetivos y estrategias de la FAO a mediano y largo plazo dentro de la estrategia internacional de desarrollo para el tercer decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo.

Aprobamos las prioridades del Programa contenidas en la introducción del Director General al documento C 83/3. Asimismo aprobamos la prioridad que le da a la región de África.

Reconocemos los esfuerzos del Director General por haber logrado un crecimiento del 3,6 por ciento para el Programa Técnico y Económico, no obstante; que el crecimiento del Presupuesto global es solamente del 0,5 por ciento.

A pesar de que consideramos que el nivel del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la FAO para el bienio 1984-85 es inadecuado para satisfacer las necesidades de los países en vías de desarrollo, apoyamos el Proyecto de Resolución contenido en la página 46 del documento C 83/3.

H. MAURIA (Finland): In this discussion I should like to take up a few points which we believe deserve special attention. First, a few remarks on the programme of rural development which, in our view, is one of the key activities in the work of FAO: we note the rise of the extra-budgetary funds and the substantial part of the total resources available being allocated to the African region which is in great need of assistance. We support the establishment of regional centres for rural development and we also support the role of FAO's scheme for agricultural development called SACRED, given in the context of rural development. Nevertheless we would wish to see a further development of cooperation with all other relevant United Nations agencies regarding rural development.

Next, I would like to welcome, on behalf of my delegation, the emphasis being devoted to research and technology development. We believe that it is time for FAO to increase its efforts to work as a media for improving and encouraging of research activities and institutions in the developing countries. For this reason we support the establishment of a new unit in FAO, the Research and Technology Development Division.

My next point deals with forestry. I think that we must now feel a growing concern for the future of the forest resources of the whole world. Several alarming and, indeed, threatening elements are being reported about trends of depletion of forest resources. Many words of grave concern on this matter have been expressed already during this Conference, not to mention the key role of forestry which was formulated as a Conference resolution in the last Conference. My Minister stated today in the Plenary his concern for the forest situation, particularly in the tropics; and the Swedish Minister spoke yesterday about the serious consequences upon forests and people due to the depletion of resources, air pollution and lack of fuel wood in rural areas.

I am not going to repeat what has been said in the past many times by the Finnish delegation and by many others on the urgent need for action to stop erosion, to work extensively for more reforestation programmes, to strengthen forestry institutions, to integrate people in the rural areas with

forestry programmes and to develop appropriate forest industries in rural areas. This is a great challenge for FAO. Let me say that our concern in this context is that the development of resources for forestry programmes within FAO does not, in our view, correspond to the needs that exist now and will increase in the future, for substantially higher inputs in the forestry sector.

Finally, a few remarks concerning the TCP. I would like to say that we have come to be aware of the usefulness of the TCP. The Programme has obviously been working with projects of a more or less urgent nature which are small in size and short of time, and which respond to the immediate needs in the recipient countries. When demanding effectiveness of the Organization we think that TCP is now representing a line in the right direction. We are satisfied to learn that TCP is not competing with the UNDP-financed projects and our view is also that the TCP resources should not be a substitute for declined UNDP resources.

P. SCALIERIS (Greece): I would first like to express the appreciation of the Greek delegation for the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget, as now presented to this Conference.

This Conference in November 1981 suggested that the format of the document should be reviewed, in order to incorporate the Medium-Term Objectives document into the Programme of Work and Budget.

It goes to the credit of both the Programme and the Finance Committees that they studied and examined this question with great responsibility and efficiency and thus worked out a merging of the two documents, by incorporating sections dealing with the medium-term context. I would also like to emphasize that in line with the recent financial imperatives and the instructions by the Conference, the above Committees decided to reduce the size of documentation and to eliminate unnecessary duplication, thus enabling, along with substantial improvements in presentation, clarity, conciseness and also savings in documentation costs.

We believe that the Programme of Work and Budget not only is guided by the decisions of the Conference, but equally takes into account the work of Regional Conferences and the deliberations of both the Programme and Finance Committees.

To our opinion, the proposed priorities for 1984/85 take into account the repercussions of the current world economic difficulties, which affect all member countries, both developed and developing. It goes without saying that Greece will be counted amongst those who recognize how bigger is the burden which, from those difficulties, befall the developing countries. For, they are the ones with no reserve capacity and very little freedom of manoeuvre to counteract adverse economic trends.

Our representative to the Finance Committee, has always emphasized before that body - each time policies, programmes and priorities were reviewed - that almost all programmes deserve allocation of ever larger resources! And that in the face of too well-known limitations we should concentrate the available resources to the most important and urgent activities.

Consequently, we take due note towards a reduction of the administrative and support services cost, as far as possible. They have our endorsement. Yet, such reductions should not evolve to a point of becoming a "goal" in itself, thus negatively affecting approved programmes and activities of the Organization. This is the position that Ambassador Papageorgiou took in the Finance Committee.

We commend that increased resources be channelled to the Technical Cooperation Programme. We believe that this Programme is both efficient and effective. It meets the purposes for which it has been established. Its expansion becomes all the more relevant as it can alleviate the effects from the current resource curtailments of UNDP where, incidentally, Greece is steadily increasing her contribution. It should be allowed to ensure, when possible, continuity of essential field activities.

As regards the development support programmes we notice the reduction in the Field Programme Planning and Liaison. We regret the decline in UNDP resources and would like to reiterate our concern that such regression will affect the growth of the FAO/UNDP projects.

On the other hand we record with satisfaction that in the framework of the development support programmes, investment gains additional resources. The FAO work in this field is outstanding. Indeed the activities of the FAO Investment Centre generates a substantial amount of total investment annually.

Coming to the Major Programmes, allow me to comment as follows:

(a) The International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade has targeted an annual growth rate of 4 percent for agricultural production during the 1980s. This challenge cannot be successfully met without further expansion of land and water resources and greater emphasis on their rational use.

(b) Adequate attention should be given both to the problem of energy and environmental protection, including safeguarding of land and water resources against degradation. We particularly welcome the continued emphasis on direct assistance to governments and increased co-operation with national institutions in the implementation of this programme.

We also appreciate FAO's work on the improvement of soil fertility (sub-programme 2.1.1.3) which includes the operation of the Fertiliser Programme and the International Fertiliser Supply Scheme. In this respect we favour the recommendation of the Eighth Session of the Commission of Fertilizers in strengthening the operations of the International Fertilisers Supply Scheme, through increased support by donor governments. The expansion of the fertilisers programme must be seen as part of the efforts to improve production techniques, particularly to the benefit of poor resource small farmers, in order to increase farm productivity.

Crop losses caused by various pests are still a major constraint to optimum agricultural production. At the same time post-harvest losses must be prevented and the promotion of international and national cooperation still carries top priority.

We therefore endorse the programme for crops (sub-programme 2.1.2) as a major FAO assistance for food production. And we note with satisfaction that activities and priorities of this programme had met with support at the Seventh session of the COAG (Committee on Agriculture).

It goes without saying that the Programme on World Food Security (Sub-programme 2.1.8.4) is also of a particular importance in connection, on the one hand with new approaches for the achievement of a collective self-reliance of the developing countries in the food security domain and, on the other, with action especially in Africa. That is the continent where problems are most acute, as reflected in the tremendous fall of per capita food production.

Without disregarding the food agricultural and rural difficulties in other parts of the world, the problems of Africa call for immediate and comprehensive action.

In respect to the Research and Technology Development, the change of the organizational structure and the consolidation of the 4 units into a new Research and Technology Development Division corresponds to the suggestions and discussions in the COAG. We stress the necessity that under the programme on Research and Development (Sub-Programme 2.1.4), high priority must be given to the strengthening of the capacity of national research systems, and to better links between research institutions, extension systems and the farmer's community. Connected with the above orientations is also the importance of sufficient attention to environmental concerns; and we recall that under sub-programme 2.1.4.5, FAO's role and involvement in the problems of desertification could and must be very decisive.

(c) Major developments have shaped the evolution of world fisheries in the recent past: rapid technological improvements; new legal regime of the oceans; greater gap between demand and supply of fish for human consumption; greater operating costs of fish production, processing and distribution. We believe that the strategies and priorities of the FAO Fisheries Programme give us adequate response to these factors.

My delegation considers that priority attention should be given to the Fisheries Information Programme (programme 2.2.1). Under this programme, FAO can play a unique role within the UN system in the operation of such an information system to the benefit of all member countries.

Regarding next year's World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development (Sub-Programme 2.2.3.2) we are looking forward to it with justified interest. We note that this programme provides also for collaboration with other organizations and bodies concerned with marine affairs, which we endorse.

Besides, we would like to note the programme on Conservation and Wildlife (Sub-Programme 2.3.1.3) with its manifold aspects.

To sum up, we find that the priorities as outlined in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-1985, correspond to the prevailing critical world economic and food situation.

Under the present international economic conjuncture there is obviously a good argument for: (a) limiting the financial burden which befalls every Member Nation; (b) assuring a prudent management of available resources.

As a large number of developing countries are finding it difficult to meet their external financial obligations, this has had effects also on the levels of contributions to FAO. On the other hand, several of the developed Member Nations, because of economic difficulties of their own tend to curtail allocations for development assistance particularly through multilateral channels.

Under conditions as above, the Director-General made his proposals with a view to limiting this financial burden of both developed and developing Member Nations, notwithstanding the increased needs for FAO's services, particularly to developing countries. FAO responds to these needs essentially within the present budget level, through both shifts in allocations to priority programmes and further reduction of support services.

On the other hand, by suggesting a 0.5 percent increase of the present budget the Director-General succeeds to satisfy those who stand for "zero growth", as this minimal increase reaches almost "zero growth", if prevailing exchange rates are taken, as they should, also into consideration.

Therefore, the Greek delegation supports the level of the budget, appreciating that by drastic cuts in administrative and support services expenditure the Organization's technical and economic programmes will provide in 1984-85 a growth rate of 3.60 percent over their current level.

Finally, I would like to refer to the financial situation of FAO. Despite the fact that several Member Nations with arrears have disbursed substantial amounts during this year totalling more than \$ 10 million, there is still a number of Member Nations with outstanding arrears. Efforts on this matter should continue. Furthermore, efforts should be made so that all Member Nations fulfil their financial obligations in good time.

I would like to conclude by stating that we endorse the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. Furthermore, it is the hope of the Greek delegation that this Conference will put on this Programme of Work and Budget its seal of approval by consensus. This would represent a positive and encouraging message to the international community.

E. L. da Cruz (Cap-Vert): J'aimerais tout d'abord vous féliciter pour votre élection et féliciter également les deux Vice-Présidents et le Secrétariat pour les documents qui ont été mis à notre disposition. Je serai bref, compte tenu du fait qu'une grande partie des points de vue adoptés par le Cap-Vert ont déjà été exposés par les délégués qui m'ont précédé; je ne voudrais donc pas répéter ce qu'ils ont déjà dit.

Mon Ministre a déjà fait part à la Conférence de la totale adhésion du Cap-Vert aux priorités exposées dans le Programme de travail et budget présentés par le Directeur général. Je ne reprendrai donc que quelques points.

Premièrement nous aimerions proposer à la Conférence que le programme présenté pour le biennium 1984-85, les priorités et le budget soient en effet approuvés.

Deuxièmement, nous souhaiterions que l'attention soit vraiment attirée sur l'Afrique où la situation concernant la sécurité alimentaire est préoccupante.

Troisièmement, nous aimerions proposer que la priorité accordée aux programmes techniques soit maintenue.

Quatrièmement, que le PCT soit développé comme un instrument opérationnel dont l'intérêt et l'impact ne sont pas à démontrer, surtout dans des pays démunis comme le mien.

Cinquièmement, le Cap-Vert renouvelle sa totale adhésion au Directeur général et aux objectifs de la FAO. Mon pays consacre au développement rural 25 pour cent des investissements de son premier Plan national de développement en cours. Nos efforts en accord avec les orientations de la FAO nous mèneront pas à pas, nous en sommes sûrs, aux objectifs qui nous sont proposés.

E. PORTE (Liberia): My delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget as put forward in the document and is in general agreement with the priorities and strategies as outlined. However, we regret that more attention was not given to forestry in the Programme of Work and Budget. The importance of the forest in controlling erosion and providing protection to watersheds is just among the few benefits that we derive from the forest. We therefore hope that more importance will be attached to forestry in the next Programme.

My delegation accepts the Programme of Work and Budget as tabled to-day.

S. STDIBE (Mali): La délégation du Mali, intervenant pour la première fois dans le débat, se fait un agréable devoir de vous présenter ses félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection comme président de notre Commission. Nos félicitations vont également au Secrétariat pour le travail remarquable qui nous a été proposé.

S'agissant du document C 83/3, nous partageons entièrement les vues exposées en introduction par le Directeur général de la FAO. Nous sommes heureux que plus de fonds que par le passé soient, encore cette année, consacrés aux programmes de terrain et aux aides d'urgence du PCT. Nous savons malheureusement que l'aide internationale se fait plus rare, ce qui du reste contraint la FAO à adopter un budget presque de croissance zéro. Nous félicitons la FAO d'accorder une importance particulière aux problèmes du Sahel, notamment à la lutte contre la désertification, l'aménagement des pâturages pour leur utilisation plus rationnelle, la lutte contre la trypanosomiase animale permettant de libérer des terres pour l'agriculture, le soutien à la formation et aux instituts de recherche en vue de favoriser le transfert des technologies.

Nous remercions le Directeur général de la FAO d'avoir toujours été à nos côtés, tant par le Programme de coopération technique que par la mobilisation des aides multilatérales, pour nous venir en aide dans la lutte contre les effets de la sécheresse.

S'agissant du document, nous pensons que des efforts devront cependant être faits pour accorder une plus grande priorité, dans le domaine de l'élevage, à la lutte contre la peste bovine, maladie qui menace le cheptel de toute la zone sahélienne. Nous sommes inquiets d'assister à des réunions interminables, à des mises au point de stratégies variables dans leur contenu d'une réunion d'experts à une autre, cependant que la maladie continue de faire des ravages et que sont frappés d'interdit le bétail et les viandes d'exportation des pays ayant déclaré la peste. L'économie de ces pays, déjà asphyxiée par une production agricole insuffisante par suite des effets de la sécheresse et de la carence des facteurs de production, ne peut trouver les devises nécessaires pour faire face à l'équilibre de sa balance commerciale.

C. THOMSEN (Denmark): In continuation of our general remarks the Danish delegation wishes to make a few more specific comments related to individual programmes under various chapters of the programme structure. These comments will be limited to areas in which we feel that it may be helpful to indicate our views on priorities within programmes, especially in the medium term.

The first comment is related to the Programme on Natural Resources, 2.1.1, where we consider that continued work on the inter-disciplinary agro-ecological zone analysis, as it is called, deserves high priority. This seems particularly important from the point of view of the development of food production in various parts of the world.

The second comment relates to the Programme on Crops, and under this we attach particular importance to activities promoting increased production and availability of quality seed. Our Government gives special support under Trust Fund arrangements to the Seed Improvement and Development Programme, but we would like it to be fully integrated in and supported by Regular Programme activities.

As far as the Sub-Programme on Agricultural Engineering and Prevention of Food Losses is concerned, high priority should be given to action related to animal traction, including the development of the appropriate animal draught equipment. In many countries there is urgent need for progress in this respect.

The next comment refers to the Programme on Livestock, where we consider that high priority should be given to the integration of crops and livestock in farming systems. This would include improved utilisation of forest and field resources as well as the increased use of animal traction power.

In connection with dairy development, to which my Government has given special support over a long period of years under Trust Fund assistance to dairy training, we consider that increased priority should be given to the promotion of national dairy training institutions. We also consider that high priority should be given to the development of small farmer dairy production, including collection and processing, as we have here considerable potential income generation in many countries.

I come then to the Programme on Research and Technology Development. Like other delegations, we strongly support that high priority be given to strengthening national agricultural research systems, and in this connection to continue close collaboration with ISNAR under the CGIAR. In our opinion FAO should give special and particular attention to the liaison between research and extension as it is recommended in the evaluation report which was referred to this morning on national agricultural research and which we have just received.

We have noted the existence of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Science and Technology and we sincerely hope that it will play a very active role in the activities of the Organization.

Under the Programme on Rural Development we wish to support that high priority be given to agricultural training and extension systems directed to farm families and in this connection would suggest coordination on training activities again through the Interdepartmental Working Group, in this case on training.

We also consider the high priority to enlist people's participation and collaboration with non-Governmental organizations in this sector, as in our view they must play an important role in this connection.

As regards the Programme on Nutrition, we consider that the Organization by virtue of its Constitution has a fundamental responsibility which has not been sufficiently reflected in the allocation of its resources. It is by now generally accepted that increased production of food is not by itself sufficient if we want to alleviate hunger. We agree fully that first priority be given to the integration of nutrition considerations, inter-rural development activities, and we attach much importance to the preparation of the Fifth World Food Survey.

I come then to the chapter on Development Support, and under this our comments will refer only to the system of FAO Representatives at country level. We have supported this development as a step towards decentralization of the activities of the Organization. At the same time we have suggested that the increase in the system of FAO Representatives should make it possible to reduce the allocations to the Regional Offices. As suggested by our Minister in his statement in Plenary this morning, we consider that the time has come when it would be appropriate to review the long-term purpose and role of the Regional Offices. To achieve optimal use of resources there is need to look into the respective responsibilities and a proper delegation of authority to the different parts of the Organization structure.

My final comments are related then to the Technical Cooperation Programme. We agree that this Programme has become a very valuable element in the total Programme of Work of the Organization. Its main justification, in our view, is the possibility it provides for meeting urgent needs by action of an emergency nature. We have, like other delegations, noted that the Programme is intended to complement and not substitute other sources of finance. This, of course, means as has already been pointed out by other delegations, that the TCP should not be relied upon to make up for reductions in UNDP financed activities, but only to avoid disruptions of an emergency nature. It is against this background that my delegation is concerned about the relatively important proposed increase in resources for the Programme, as we believe that this may increase the risk that it becomes an entity of its own. We, therefore, believe it is appropriate to warn against further increases in the relative size of this programme, because we fear that it will make it more difficult to uphold the declared policy of not replacing our sources of finance, whether they are under the Regular Programme, or from extra-budgetary voluntary contributions.

I wish to finish by repeating that we are making these selective comments, particularly with a view to influencing the future orientation of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization. I thank you.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): After a comprehensive review of this document my delegation has well noted the extent of improvements in its content and the considerable modifications made in it, and this deserves our complimenting those who have prepared it. Nevertheless, we look forward to additional improvements so as to enrich this document's contents and thus make our discussions thereof more detailed.

Egypt considers FAO's ordinary programme as the basis on which development activities could be structured, and an initial step to several projects. This leads us to appeal to the richer countries and to international financial institutions to support this first priority programme and to provide it with additional resources in order to enable it to carry out its role. But we cannot ignore that the degree of effectiveness of this programme depends in the first place, on an active follow-up of its activities by the beneficiary countries and their continuous support thereof. It appeared to us from our review of chapter I of this document, that the programme of Agriculture, Programme 2-1, is the cornerstone of FAO's programmes oriented towards the achievement of higher productivity in agriculture and food resources in the least developed countries, and to a clarification of an improved employment of energy, conservation of resources, and support of the national potential for the implementation and management of food security programmes. Programme 2-1-3 on animal resources shows its importance to developing countries for it aims at an increase in pasture lands, and providing fodder for cattle. We wish to underline at the same time the importance of the two dairy development programmes, and the international meat development plan, be it from the point of view of the training opportunities provided by these programmes, or the rational meat consumption. This is in addition to FAO's constructive efforts in supporting the contagious disease analysis laboratories network so that these may cover all developing countries with respect to control of foot and mouth disease and rinderpest in addition to FAO's efforts in diagnosing the various epizooties.

Both the objectives and strategies of the main programme 2.2 on fisheries are in line with the objectives of Egypt's policy in supporting ocean and inland fisheries, incentives to fishermen, adoption of modern technology in fishing, and the reduction of after-catch losses. In this connection Egypt looks forward to increased cooperation with the friendly countries as well as FAO and international financing organizations, in view of Egypt's vast potential in this area.

As for the Technical Cooperation Programme, Egypt has always paid tribute in all international fora to the importance and effectiveness of this programme in the light of the services and assistance it provides to developing countries. Egypt attaches great importance to this programme in satisfying its requirements, either in the form of relief or such other development assistance that may provide relief to drought victims at Marsa Matrouh, and the sending of an adviser to diagnose rinderpest; this is over and above the financing of projects recently concluded in the area of the development of goats, the control of apian pests, and the support of agricultural survey activities. We look forward to increased support to this programme's resources in order to enable it to carry out its noble task. As for main programme 3.4 relating to FAO's country representatives, these representatives have given proof of the positive role they have played in the coordination of

assistance at the country level, providing advice to governments on the best measures for achieving food security, the relaying of a true picture on the requirements of developing countries to the responsible organs for achieving an effective utilization of the assistance provided, and their assistance to national directors in the management of programmes. We appeal to the Director-General to respond to the development countries wishes for the creation of regional representatives offices within the possibility of the available resources.

Egypt wishes to emphasize the importance of agricultural documentation systems AGRIS and CARIS, 5.1.3. Egypt has set up an agricultural documentation centre for agricultural research and the exchange of bibliographic references. We have published since 1975 7 500 researches in six volumes.

This centre now includes a group of specialists capable of providing technical assistance in this area to developing countries.

Mr Chairman, sub-programme 2.1.1.4 on water development and management has proved its effectiveness. Egypt is doing its utmost in achieving the objectives of this programme, in order to maximise crop yields.

Egypt is likewise interested in sub-programme 2.1.1.5 on soil conservation. This programme has assisted us in determining the problems of soil deterioration, and was the basis of one of the largest projects at present financed by UNDP. From an analysis of Chapter 12 of FAO's activities in the area of investment it appears that there is a fast growth in this Chapter's budget and in the number of employees working in the area of investment, as shown in paragraph 12.9 of this document. It also reflects a considerable expansion in its operations, as mentioned in paragraphs 12.69. Nevertheless, the limited resources still hamper this centre, and prevent it from responding to all the demands received for services. This leads to address an appeal to developing countries to determine their programmes' priorities, and to spare no efforts for achieving a complete coordination between the forms of assistance provided to them. It is worth mentioning here that the Investment Centre has assisted Egypt in identifying certain projects which were approved by international financing organizations, such as IFAD, for providing the required loans; in this respect we mention the Agricultural Development Programme in the Governorate of Menia, and the settlement programme to the West of Buhaira. In this connection, we have received a mission during last month to identify one of the projects which aim at the development of fishery resources on the Red Sea coast, and we hope that cooperation between Egypt and the Centre shall continue in other projects in future.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): As you know, the United Kingdom rather likes to come in very late in the day to hear what everyone else has to say first. This is being diplomatic I understand, but in response to your ruling I speak a little earlier this time.

We have already made our general views known, both in the debate yesterday here and in Plenary this afternoon, about the budget as a whole, and I would simply like to address one or two points chapter by chapter if I may.

First of all on Chapter 1, we would like to record our approval of the way in which audit, evaluation and monitoring are coming to be seen as part of a continuous process which increases the overall ongoing efficiency of FAO's operations.

Secondly, on Chapter 2, the Technical and Economic Programmes, we have a livestock point. We note the growing demand of livestock and feel that literally livestock is an expensive way of using scarce resources in some cases, so perhaps the development of additional livestock should be encouraged in parts of the world only where they are economically viable, and this brings me to the inevitable loss of land which is very useful for cattle through the scourge of Trypanosomiasis. On this we agree strongly with the high priority placed on the control of Trypanosomiasis and the stress on the need to consider land use priorities before attempting to control the tsetse fly.

However, as is well known here the eradication of the tsetse with insecticides is logistically difficult and expensive with cleared areas often subject to reinvasion. We think that further research is needed into cheaper control methods which can be applied as one component of rural development. We believe that more weight should be placed on the control of Trypanosomiasis through the use of chemo-therapy, trypano-control of livestock and approved management. Such systems could be of great value over large areas of tsetse infested Africa.

To turn now to fisheries, we appreciate the large increase in emphasis on fishery exploitation and utilization, and the plan to shift the priorities reflecting the need to make use to the best effect of the opportunities presented by the EEZs.

We appreciate also the continued interest in agriculture but would wish to remind this distinguished gathering that this is an area which demands a high degree of skill and involves quite considerable investment if the best results are to be achieved.

Next on forestry. We note the shift of emphasis towards forestry for rural development, and understand the social and economic concerns which prompt the selection of priority. At the same time we hope that FAO will not lose sight of the important role to be played by forestry industries and the development. Indeed the question of forestry has exercised a number of delegates both here and in the Plenary and I understand that at the Sixth session of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics many delegates expressed deep concern at the relatively low level of support for forestry in the Regular Programme. Some of the concerns were expressed at the Committee on Forestry, so I will join with other delegates on urging the Secretariat that they consider the increase of resources on policy in the next biennium. Of course if money is available in this biennium, in 1984-85, we should be delighted, but we know of the restraints that are imposed by the Director-General's own careful planning of the current budget.

Finally in Support Services we are glad to see that the introduction of new equipment and improvements in printing and distribution have enabled the Director-General to make substantial savings in implementation and documentation.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (langue originale chinoise): Mon intervention ne porte que sur les chapitres 2, 3 et 4 du programme de travail et budget. Le temps étant limité, je me bornerai à aborder de façon sélective quelques points de ces chapitres.

Le 2e chapitre comprend toutes les activités économiques et techniques de l'Organisation dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, des pêches et des forêts. Dans le cas où l'ensemble du programme n'augmente que de 0,5 pour cent les activités contenues dans ce chapitre connaîtront tout de même une croissance de 3,6 pour cent. Ceci traduit la continuité de la politique de la FAO visant à accorder une grande importance aux activités économiques et techniques. Il nous semble que les proportions de l'augmentation des ressources entre les différents programmes de ce chapitre sont équilibrées dans l'ensemble.

Pour le programme 2.1.2 - Culture, les ressources supplémentaires sont destinées essentiellement au sous-programme 2.1.2.2 Amélioration et conduite des cultures. Ces activités visent à aider les pays africains à développer en fonction de leurs conditions spécifiques la production vivrière, surtout celle du maïs, du sorgho, du mil et des plantes racines et des tubercules. Nous appuyons entièrement ces activités. Une des politiques agricoles de la Chine est de développer la production vivrière en fonction de conditions locales. Dans certaines régions du nord de notre pays, les céréales secondaires entre dans la composition de l'alimentation des populations locales. La production des plantes racines et tubercules sont depuis toujours comprises dans les statistiques de la production alimentaire de notre pays. La 8e session du comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale a également souligné l'importance des plantes racines et des tubercules pour la sécurité alimentaire. Par conséquent, nous pensons que l'augmentation des ressources pour ces activités sont pertinentes et opportunes.

En ce qui concerne le programme 2.1.4 Développement de la recherche et de la technologie, nous insistons sur le fait que les activités de la formation sont d'une actualité importante pour les pays en développement.

Nous n'avons pas de doute quant à la valeur de l'aide accordée aux pays en développement pour l'élaboration des politiques et des plans de recherche. Néanmoins, à notre avis, ce travail revient essentiellement aux pays en développement eux-mêmes de le faire en fonction des réalités de leur pays. Le sous-programme 2.1.4.9 connaît l'augmentation la plus importante, c'est principalement pour créer 4 nouveaux postes dans la Division du développement de la recherche et de la technologie. Nous attachons beaucoup d'importance au travail de cette Division. Mais les tâches et les attributions de cette Division n'ont pas été précisées dans ce sous-programme 2.1.4.9. D'après ce qu'a décrit le Directeur général dans son introduction, nous avons cru comprendre que les attributions de cette division ne sont plus celles des 4 anciennes unités techniques.

A propos du grand programme 2.2 Pêches, nous sommes d'accord avec les priorités données à l'aide aux pays en développement afin d'accroître leur capacité de captures. Nous voudrions souligner l'importance d'aider les petits pêcheurs et de développer la pisciculture en eau douce et la pêche intérieure. Ceci est dans l'esprit de la décision prise lors de la 16e session de la Conférence régionale de l'Asie et du Pacifique.

J'aimerais aussi dire quelques mots sur le grand programme 2.3 — Forêts. Nous appuyons l'allocation de la majeure partie des ressources supplémentaires nettes au programme 2.3.4 Forêts au service du développement rural. Cette activité répond aux besoins des pays en développement. Il importe aux pays en développement pauvres en ressources forestières de développer leurs ressources et de les exploiter de façon judicieuse afin de promouvoir un développement intégré de l'agriculture, de la sylviculture et de l'élevage. Nous espérons également que la FAO prêtera dans l'avenir une plus grande attention à l'aide au développement de l'industrie du bois des pays en développement riches en ressources forestières, notamment au développement de petites industries du bois et à la promotion de la coopération technique entre les pays en développement dans ce secteur.

Dans le chapitre 3, le grand programme 3.1 — Planification du Programme de terrain et liaison et le grand Programme 3.2. — Investissement, constituent les activités principales du programme ordinaire de l'Organisation, lui permettant de promouvoir le transfert de la technologie et des ressources. Elles ont des liens très étroits avec de nombreuses activités de terrain financées par les ressources extra-budgétaires. En exécutant ces deux grands programmes, la FAO a fait beaucoup de travail pour mobiliser les ressources extérieures et fournir l'assistance technique en faveur de l'agriculture des pays en développement. Dans l'introduction du document C 83/3 le Directeur général a évoqué les difficultés auxquelles se sont heurtés l'Association internationale de développement et le Fonds international de développement agricole dans la reconstruction de leurs ressources. Il a également mentionné la contraction des ressources du PNUD qui a fait souffrir l'assistance technique à l'agriculture. Cette situation produira des effets négatifs sur la production alimentaire et le développement rural des pays en développement au cours du prochain biennium. Donc, nous sommes d'avis que la FAO devrait dans le prochain biennium, renforcer davantage la programmation, la coordination et la surveillance des projets de terrain afin d'assurer une utilisation plus efficace des ressources limitées.

J'en viens maintenant au grand programme 3.4 — Représentants de la FAO. 74 représentations seront créées avant la fin du présent exercice biennal. Ce faisant, la FAO atteindra pratiquement l'objectif de la décentralisation en établissant des représentations dans les pays. Durant le prochain exercice biennal, on cherchera essentiellement à consolider les missions existantes au lieu d'en créer de nouvelles. A notre avis, dans le cas où l'augmentation des programmes ne représente que 0,5 pour cent, le système des doubles accréditations est souhaitable.

Enfin, je voudrais dire quelques mots sur le chapitre 4 Programme de coopération technique. Ce programme dont l'utilité a été reconnue par les Etats Membres, est largement apprécié par les pays en développement. La délégation chinoise marque son accord sur l'augmentation de sa part dans le budget total, passant de 12,9 pour cent à 13,5 pour cent. En même temps, nous espérons que le secrétariat de la FAO améliore la gestion de ce programme et la formulation des projets afin que le PCT joue un rôle encore plus grand, d'autant plus que les ressources du PNUD sont insuffisantes en ce moment. Quant à l'allocation des crédits entre les différentes activités de ce programme, bien que la part la plus importante soit encore réservée à la formation, elle est tombée de 41,6 pour cent en 1976-77 à 33 pour cent en 1983. Etant donné que la formation est d'une actualité importante pour les pays en développement, nous espérons que les activités dans ce domaine seront renforcées à l'avenir.

M.B. SY (Sénégal): Je voulais, en commençant mon intervention, rendre hommage au pays qui m'a précédé - la Chine - et évoquer un proverbe qui traduit la philosophie de ce grand pays, à savoir que pour aider un ami qui a faim, il faudrait lui apprendre à pêcher plutôt que de lui donner un poisson.

Si je procède à l'examen des chapitres du projet de budget, je me rends compte, ainsi que je l'ai déjà indiqué, qu'un grand effort a déjà été fait par la FAO pour se soucier des problèmes de développement rural des pays en voie de développement et notamment de l'Afrique, mais je constate à l'analyse de certains chapitres et plus notamment du chapitre 2 qu'il y a deux sous-secteurs particulièrement importants, qui, du point de vue des ressources, n'ont pas été privilégiés. Il s'agit d'abord du secteur des forêts et je rappellerai que, deux personnalités éminentes qui ont pris la parole en séance plénière, je veux parler de M. Bruno Kreisky et, ce matin, du Président, M. Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri, ont lancé un cri d'alarme en ce qui concerne le déboisement car la forêt recule de 4 à 5 kilomètres par an. Ce qui veut dire que certains pays qui sont proches du désert sont déjà menacés par un fléau particulièrement dangereux. Donc, dès maintenant, une action particulièrement dense devrait être menée en direction de ce secteur, sinon, à quoi servirait un programme agricole qui serait ensuite détruit par la progression du désert.

Pour en venir aux programmes de soutien du développement, je crois que le Directeur général en concluant sa déclaration en séance plénière a particulièrement insisté sur un facteur important, celui de la formation. Il semble, et je pense que personne ne devrait être en désaccord sur cette idée, que toute action de promotion en faveur d'un individu serait vouée à un rendement plus ou moins important si la personne à qui s'adresse cette action n'est pas à même d'assimiler le programme qui lui est destiné.

Il serait donc souhaitable qu'à l'avenir certains problèmes qui sont des préalables à toute action tendant à l'amélioration du développement rural, soient étudiés de manière qu'on n'en vienne pas à constater des détails très importants susceptibles d'annihiler les efforts consentis à très gros frais.

En regrettant de n'avoir pu étudier de façon approfondie ce document qui est particulièrement important, j'espère que ma contribution permettra d'autres interventions.

J. SAULT (Australia) : I take the floor to comment only on Chapter 4, the Technical Cooperation Programme. As I indicated in our opening general statement, we do generally support the programme strategies and priorities that have been identified by the Director-General. Australia has supported the TCP as a flexible, quick action programme for small-scale projects. We consider it certainly has a place in the technical assistance activities of the Organization. We see it as a complement to activities which are financed by the UNDP and from other extra-budgetary resources, but certainly not as a replacement for them.

In considering how much of the budget should be devoted to the TCP, we need to take account of a number of factors and among these are, first and most importantly: the Programme has the very strong support of the developing countries and we fully recognize this. Secondly, the TCP seems to be in pretty good shape from a financial point of view. In the Finance Committee we looked regularly at the rate of disbursement of funds against the allocations provided for the TCP, and it did not appear to me that there was any acute shortage of funds that was preventing the greater implementation of TCP projects. The third point I think we should bear in mind is that the TCP is a very cost-intensive programme. This derives from the large number of small-scale projects - different projects, diverse projects - that are being identified, designed and implemented; and it of course draws on resources not only under the TCP but from throughout the Organization.

The fourth point I would like to make is that it is an unprogrammed programme and this, of course, is an essential feature in enabling the programme to have maximum flexibility, but it does make it different from all the other programmes under the Regular Budget, where member governments are given an account of how and in what areas funds will be spent before the budget is approved. This means that there is an even greater need for adequate reports on how TCP funds have been utilized and an evaluation of their effectiveness; and the documentation before us for this and the following couple of items on our agenda does go towards meeting this need.

Taking all these factors into account, Australia considers that the Director-General has pitched the TCP at about the right level in his proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. However, we do think that now that the TCP has been in operation for some six years, there is a need for an even fuller and desirably external evaluation of the cost effectiveness of the use of the relatively limited resources of the Regular Programme for the TCP rather than for other, also very desirable and programmed activities.

H. REDL (Austria) (original language German): I had originally intended to address you tomorrow but I would like to facilitate your task, Mr Chairman; and therefore I shall make a brief statement today.

At times of economic recession it would seem to be essential for the Programme of Work to concentrate on special priorities. We welcome the initiatives to this effect taken by the Director-General of FAO and we fully support them. Any form of concentrated management and administration is welcomed by Austria. We therefore welcome the setting up of the new Research and Technology Development Division and hope that this new division will lead to new developments in research and technology and will be to the benefit of everybody.

The enhancement of national research, especially in Africa, seems to us to be an important step towards ensuring food security. Austria fully supports the proposed activities in the area of training and extension work, both in agriculture and the forestry sector. In this connection I would like to refer to the long collaboration with FAO in the implementation of training courses in connection with seeds, which is something we shall continue to do. The implementation of that kind of training courses in developing countries has proved to be very successful. However, again in the area of forestry, the training and extension work will have to be enhanced. We therefore welcome the initiatives of FAO and we shall support them actively as far as we can. Already in the Plenary Austria had suggested that 1985 should be the Year of Forestry. I would also like to refer to what Sweden, Finland, Senegal and others said, stressing the particular importance of forests. These problems must be seen in connection with soil conservation and therefore deserve our full support.

Now, a few comments regarding work in Europe. The next meeting of the European Commission on Agriculture will be held in Austria. In the course of this meeting we shall celebrate the tenth anniversary of the scientific cooperation programmes. These cooperation systems are an important element of international cooperation in the area of agriculture. Transfer of technology is one of the main ways leading to self help. If we speak of these European activities, then we must also remember the working party on Woman and the Family which is a group that has our full support.

I would now like to say a few words about forestry. Here too we pay particular attention to the work of the European Forestry Commission and its collaboration with EEC. We would also like to mention the importance of the Codex Alimentarius. It is particularly important that the National Food Standards should not turn into technical obstacles so that they prevent food from being exported. The projects which have been planned within the TCP have proved to be useful in the developing countries and should be continued.

In conclusion I would once again refer to a problem which we consider to be particularly important, that is to say the pollution of the air, which has become a world-wide subject. There are plenty of facts to support this. I would refer to the danger of acid rain. I am sure you are familiar with this problem and therefore in conclusion I would once again like to suggest that the FAO, in collaboration with those who are responsible for the environmental problems at the international level, should in the future concentrate on this complex of problems, air pollution.

U. SESSI (Italie): Qu'il me soit tout d'abord permis d'exprimer mes remerciements à M. Shah pour les explications qu'il nous a données ce matin. Elles ont bien éclairci les questions que nous avons posées et, à la lumière de ces explications, je dois dire que nous avons une bien meilleure lecture de projet de budget et que cela nous a facilité notre tâche.

En ce qui concerne le programme que nous avons maintenant à aborder, je me limiterai seulement à parler du programme exposé au chapitre 1. Je voudrais à ce propos souligner tout l'appui de ma délégation aux programmes qui sont contenus aux points 1.2.2 et 1.2.3 (pages 64 à 67 du texte français Planification, budget et évaluation du Programme).

En ce qui concerne la planification, nous avons noté avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'effort du Directeur général en vue de procéder à des choix rigoureux entre les nombreuses activités en cours ou potentielles de la FAO, qui doivent - comme on le dit au paragraphe 1 - se partager les ressources limitées du Programme ordinaire. Nous avons noté également le fait de l'évaluation des activités passées, c'est-à-dire l'élimination des activités périmées, dépassées, ou qui ont une utilité marginale. Nous accueillons avec beaucoup d'intérêt aussi l'effort qui nous est proposé au paragraphe 2 tendant à faire face à l'accroissement des demandes extérieures d'activités et de rapports, et enfin de centraliser les budgets des projets de terrain, de manière à s'assurer qu'ils sont correctement établis.

En ce qui concerne la vérification des comptes, je dois dire que nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec les propositions du Directeur général de créer de nouveaux postes et d'augmenter le personnel du Bureau de la vérification des comptes. Les commissaires aux comptes avaient demandé ce renforcement, qui permettra un meilleur résultat pour l'Organisation, cette méthode de vérification des comptes évitant surtout le double emploi.

J'ai noté avec beaucoup d'intérêt, au paragraphe 5, la proposition d'établir un manuel de la FAO pour le personnel de vérification des comptes, qui s'appliquera aussi bien au Siège que sur le terrain, et je serais reconnaissant à quelqu'un du Secrétariat M. Shah ou M. West, de nous préciser à quelle date pourrait sortir ce manuel.

A. GAYOSO (United States of America): I simply would like to expand the degree of outlook of the very dynamic presentation given by our Ambassador this morning in support of the work of FAO. As it is a tradition I would like to make some comments on some of the particular chapters and some of the particular activities. While they may not sound like a complete set of comments I will be issuing the Secretariat with a detailed paper with a complete list of comments that we have. I must warn you they are not tremendously serious or threatening.

The United States generally supports the proposed Medium-Term Objectives but we would like to underline our desire that FAO emphasize where appropriate the importance of policies to provide price incentives and for a larger role and to allow the role in the private sector on agriculture. When we talk about the small farmers we are really talking about the private sector and we should so recognize.

Secondly, our desire that the Secretariat's plans in commodities and policy recognize the adequacy of existing mechanisms for discussion on many food and agricultural development issues.

Thirdly, that the FAO's information and analysis activities be designed to benefit all FAO members.

Fourthly, their objectives should not be based on documents of reference that have not been endorsed yet by the member countries as a whole. In the policy area we would like to request that the Secretariat refrain from presenting certain activities or initiatives as universally supported when in fact no such universal consensus exists yet.

In terms of some of the chapters and because of the combination of medium-term objectives and proposed activities in the budget we have combined them.

With regard to Chapter 1, General Policy and Direction, we were very pleased and we would like to recognize that the reduction of four professional posts in the Director-General's Office was a courageous step to take and consider this a very good example to set the Organization as a whole. We support the proposed strengthening of the audit function, outlined for programme 1.2.3.

Regarding Chapter 2, the Technical and Economic Programme; the United States has commented extensively on these programmes as they were presented in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Our only other comments are as follows: all three major programmes, Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry are the heart of FAO's work and are warmly supported.

With regard to Natural Resources; we are very pleased to see the priorities listed on page 79 of the document. While generally endorsing them we would like to encourage FAO to elevate "improved management of tropical soils..." a step or two in the order of priorities. Tropical soils need attention and shifting cultivation is a real problem. Also we warmly support the priority being given to farming systems work which is vital to small farmers.

With regard to the section on Crops, we again like to support the continuing emphasis on germplasm and crop improvement through genetics and plant breeding and through management.

With regard to Livestock, the United States has been pleased with FAO's well-balanced livestock programme. We feel the Secretariat has correctly chosen the prevention and control of animal diseases, especially African trypanosomiasis as the highest priority in improving the livestock sector. Given its technical expertise we believe that FAO can make and will make a significant impact in this area.

With regard to Research and Technology Development, the United States has fully supported the individual components of the new programme. We particularly support FAO's providing its share in the cost of the joint FAO/IAEA Division and of the CGIAR/TAC Secretariat. Regarding the Medium-Term Objectives attached to this sub-heading we would emphasize the need for environmental considerations to become an integral part of all agricultural development efforts. We fully support FAO's emphasis on training manpower for national agricultural research, maybe I should say manpower and womanpower, especially in Africa and promotion of effective links between research, extension and delivery systems at the farm level for technology transfer.

With regard to Rural Development, this is a large and important programme worthy of continued support and very close to the heart of the US interest in foreign assistance. The Programme seems well-balanced as presented. In addition to training the sub-programmes on Women and Marketing are particularly supported by us. In fact we would note that among the sub-programme narratives the one on women seems the best for 1984-85 and therefore would seem a good model for other programmes to follow.

With regard to nutrition, the United States continues to support FAO's activities in nutrition and concurs in the order of priorities but would note that even the lower priority activities in the Programme are important ones.

Our comments regarding Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis are simple. The United States ascribes considerable importance to this programme and feels that the work on statistics, the State of Food and Agriculture and the Food Information and Early Warning System merit the continuing priorities indicated in the document.

Concerning Food and Agricultural Policy, we would note that this is a large programme but an important one which we endorse.

We support FAO's emphasis on improving national food and agricultural sectors, particularly increasing food production. As the premier technical international agency in food and agriculture this area is where FAO can make a substantial impact and where FAO should concentrate its efforts in the policy area as well as technical programmes.

Our Ambassador mentioned with tremendous warmth the concern we have about forestry, forestry and the impact upon the small farmer and the impact upon the national resource base and the impact on the climate. The US foresters find the decline in the priority given to forestry disturbing and not in line with the recommendations of the Committee on Forestry. We would encourage the Secretariat to keep in mind the need for a better balance between forestry and other programmes when the next Programme of Work and Budget is prepared.

Regarding TCP, my Ambassador was quite explicit this morning. We concur in the importance and usefulness of this programme and we like to see it not as a competitor but as a complement to that programme financed by the UNDP.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): We made our general comments yesterday morning and with the satisfaction that we showed with the way the Programme of Work and Budget had been prepared and presented, I do not have very much to add except to express our outmost satisfaction with the emphasis that the Director-General has given on technical and economic programmes. We find ourselves very satisfied with what is contained in Chapter 2 of the document. We are also generally in agreement with the other chapters. The other chapter I want to mention also very briefly is the chapter on TCP. We very much share the concern expressed by major donors and we very much agree that care must be taken to ensure that the programme does not compete with the other programmes that have been financed by other resources but I want to say that we have found it to be very useful and we fully support that programme.

To conclude, I want to say that the problems of food production, particularly in Africa, come about mainly because of the runaway population that we seem to be experiencing. In the speech delivered by our Minister yesterday at the Plenary meeting he suggested that the population objectives must be incorporated in rural development programmes in order to inculcate the need to manage population growth rates, which should be the one chasing the rates of food production and not the other way round. He further went on to suggest that FAO as a lead Agency in agriculture and food production should intensify its efforts to find practical ways of incorporating population objectives in rural development programmes. The programme as it is now, I think I am right in saying, does not contain very much by way of programmes of population control. When we spoke yesterday, and also in Plenary, we said that we think the resources are modest but we accept the position, since we very well know the economic situation of all countries who are Member States of FAO. I would also like to say at this juncture that there is need to think about that more seriously and to see if it could be included in the programmes at a later date.

F. BREWSTEP (Barbados): My delegation just wishes to make a few comments on programme 2.1.3 dealing with livestock. We consider that the area of meat production at the local level needs accelerated attention. While we observe that there is a net increase proposed in the programming as a whole, we feel that in the future more funds should be allocated here. This would enable countries to embark on a meaningful policy of import substitution in meat which will help to save some of the scarce foreign exchange for application to other areas of development. Increased local production of livestock foods has to respond to the effects of population and income growth. What we find is that the major costs of developing livestock programmes arises from feed costs, particularly when the protein elements of the feed has to be imported. The Barbados delegation therefore welcomes the additional expenditure on sub-programme 2.1.3.1 on grasslands, forage and feed resources. Barbados has been conducting trials in a various mix of local materials to find a low-cost high-protein indigenous feed which will make the cost of livestock development more attractive. The programme activities embracing at all levels training, control of animal disease, the development of animal genetic resource, meat and milk production and processing are endorsed. We think training in farm management should be strengthened. We find that systems are available but there is not an adequate number of trained persons available locally to deal with matters such as artificial insemination, animal health and pasture management.

As regards Chapter 2.2, my delegation wishes to lend full support to the major programme of fisheries. This emphasis and shift of priority is quite timely. This sector is viewed as a multipurpose vehicle which carries employment, food and nutrition, technology and science components, all vital and necessary for national development.

We agree with the Medium-Term Objectives as they relate to conservation of fishery resources, training, both in marine fishing and aquaculture. My delegation will address this aspect of the problems of small States in the control and use of the EEC in Plenary when it speaks there.

As regards the Technical Cooperation Programme, my delegation welcomes the increased provision for this Programme. This Programme has proved itself to be a vital and flexible tool which makes a meaningful impact on the programmes of its beneficiaries. We feel that it should be strengthened in the future without running into any conflict with Regular Programmes or other funding agencies' activities. The areas of concentration in training, emergencies, project formulation and follow-up, among others, harmonize with the urgent needs of developing countries. We are quite satisfied with the control measures which FAO has on this Programme and would suggest that the monitoring and evaluation of this project be constantly kept under review.

K. MEHBOOB (FAO staff): I would like to give some information on the question regarding the audit manual. Our plan is to have this manual ready by the latter part of 1984. In fact, it is going to be a manual covering three volumes. I believe it will be the most comprehensive and the first internal audit manual in all United Nations Agencies.

The three volumes would cover how we plan audits, how we execute audits, how we report on audits. The planning aspect would cover establishing the audit objectives, establishing the systems involved, determining the most appropriate way of testing those systems and executing the tests which are considered appropriate.

The second volume would be specifically the financial audit. It would be a comprehensive audit guide for dealing with each item which appears in the financial statement of the Organization.

The third volume would be management audits, functional audits, or operational audits, call them what you like. Those would be directed mostly at administrative systems and financial systems to ensure economical use of resources.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: There has been a lot of discussion, this afternoon especially, about TCP, and TCP particularly in relation to UNDP. So I would like to say a few words about that, because we seem to have been attacking a windmill or a castle in the air. There is no question, there never has been, nor will there be, of TCP substituting for UNDP. So when delegates say it should not substitute we presume that they are referring to the future and we agree with them. The UNDP is in a difficult situation, we know that, and nobody regrets it more than FAO, because we were and still are the main executing agent of UNDP. Unfortunately, our share has gone down from 33 percent in the past to under 20 percent now of the total UNDP programme, and whilst we appreciate that the UNDP must allow member governments through the IPF system to choose their own priorities, and those give preference in some cases to industrial projects executed by UNIDO, which has grown as an executor of UNDP projects, we do have some concern that part of the reason for our decline is that the UNDP itself has become a competitor in the business of implementation in the field of food and agriculture and rural development and is seeking to become a competitor also in other fields, including Trust Funds. We do not like that and we have made that clear in inter-agency discussions. But this does not detract from our support for UNDP and strong support for its efforts to attract more funds. From this point of view it would be unfortunate if we were being told today that the UNDP cannot have more funds, must have less funds, for technical assistance and no one must substitute for it so that there is an objective which will be secured of reducing technical assistance. But I do not think it was intended to suggest that, and in any case, as I have said, there is no question of FAO trying to substitute for or replace the UNDP or compensate for its function as fund raisers for technical assistance.

As to other aspects of the TCP, I do not think we need go into them deeply at the moment. We have taken note of what has been said about the proportion of the TCP to the total, including those who would like a larger proportion as well as those who have said they would like a smaller proportion. We have taken note of the comments about the allocations to training as compared with emergencies or other uses of the TCP. But I would like to say that I do not think on the basis of the record we would feel from this side that another evaluation, particularly a so-called external evaluation, of which we have had one already, is necessary. We have the widest possible support for the Programme, much wider now than at the beginning. It has been recognized as an efficient Programme. Certainly one major donor has made its own evaluation, which on the whole was positive, and the Programme and Finance Committees regularly pay careful attention to the performance of the TCP. We will continue to provide them and member country delegations with information on TCP projects. I cannot see why just because it is an unprogrammed short-term programme it needs more evaluation than others.

With that I should like to thank you and the delegates for their comments this afternoon. We look forward to receiving more tomorrow and I trust that our reply at the end will need to be only very short.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Una vez escuchados los comentarios de las diferentes delegaciones, quisiéramos llamar la atención sobre el Programa PCT, uno de los más discutidos en la tarde de hoy.

Se recordará que al intervenir en el día de ayer señalábamos la importancia de este Programa y la conveniencia de que sus recursos fueran aumentados. Este Programa, según nuestra experiencia, se ha comportado muy favorablemente, permitiendo abordar problemas urgentes en unos casos y problemas de capacitación en otros, donde encontramos una gran virtud, en el sentido de que produce un efecto multiplicador muy alto, sobre todo al capacitar y al movilizar recursos nacionales que muchas veces están latentes, y que sobre todo en nuestros países en desarrollo, al no contar con una asistencia a veces de emergencia o a veces una asistencia técnica apropiada, pues no somos capaces de poderlos movilizar.

Por otra parte, este Programa nosotros consideramos que tiene una gran virtud en el sentido de que propicia la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Este es una experiencia que se está poniendo en práctica en estos momentos en la región Latinoamericana con algunos resultados que pueden ser fácilmente constatables.

Nosotros queremos llamar la atención y reconocer el notable trabajo que ha venido realizando la Oficina Regional para América Latina, al promover este Programa de Cooperación, al promover la cooperación entre países donde en algunos recursos realmente importantes como es el de las leguminosas, se ha avanzado notablemente.

Se hablaba hace un momento por el distinguido delegado de Barbados de la necesidad de aumentar la producción de carne. También en esto se ha trabajado en el área y ya se obtienen resultados palpables.

En mi opinión, el criterio generalizado vertido por la mayoría de las delegaciones en apoyar este Programa realmente es contundente en el sentido de que no nos parece necesaria una evaluación del Programa y de los diferentes Proyectos que lo han venido conformando. Por consiguiente, confiamos que la FAO ha sabido expresar acertadamente este Programa y utilizar racionalmente el mismo a partir de la alta sensibilidad que tiene la FAO con nuestra propia opinión, y por lo tanto, si bien las limitaciones financieras existentes no permiten incrementarlo, creo que debe recibir el máximo apoyo de la Conferencia y hacer que siempre sea posible este Programa para respaldarlo, sobre todo con propósito de emergencia y capacitación. Y como señala la historia, hacia aquellos países con mayores dificultades.

U. SESSI (Italie): Excusez-moi de prendre encore une fois la parole mais je voudrais remercier les représentants du secrétariat pour leurs explications concernant les vérificateurs internes des comptes. C'est une oeuvre méritoire. Je ne peux que confirmer que c'est la première fois que l'on tente une pareille expérience dans une organisation de la famille des Nations Unies. La chose est importante et démontre les avantages du contrôle interne par rapport au contrôle extérieur. Je voudrais en signaler simplement deux. Le premier est que le contrôle est fait au jour le jour, et le deuxième est qu'il permet d'intervenir dans la phase gestionnaire de l'administration et non pas a posteriori comme peuvent le faire les vérifications extérieures.

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

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Twenty-second Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session

COMMISSION II

22º período de sesiones

COMISION II

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE
QUINTA REUNION

(10 November 1983)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours

C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence de

C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la quinta reunion a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia de

C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 11. Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)
- 11. Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)
- 11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y Objetivos a Plazo Medio (continuación)

H.L. CHAWLA (India): The Indian delegation has already extended its support to the priorities and Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. Today I will give comments on some specific programmes.

In our view Technical and Economic Programmes in Chapter 2 are the most important. We strongly endorse the observation made therein that, "progress in agriculture is still an essential prerequisite to sustain long-term development in most low and middle income countries". This sector needs to receive even more attention in these times of economic difficulties. As regards the presentation of programmes in Chapter 2 there seems to be some scope for revising the grouping of activities at least in the future. For example, activities bearing on post-harvest operations are covered at different places. Prevention of post-harvest food losses comes under the sub-heading Crops. Improved methods of handling, storage and processing figure under Nutrition. Marketing is counted among activities under Rural Development and so also is credit, although it is a vital ingredient for crop production. FAO's Secretariat may like to give thought to this aspect.

We endorse the high priority given to establishment and improvement of national and international food security systems. The emphasis placed on effective price and incentive policies for food production is timely. This is a factor of key importance in motivating millions of farmers, particularly small and medium farmers in developing countries, for raising production. FAO's studies on agricultural price policies and incentives and of analysis of global agricultural policy issues would also in our view be of immense value to various countries.

The importance given to livestock, fisheries, forestry and rural development in our view reflects the current need of food security, nutrition, conservation and ecology, etc. The growing value of TCP in supplementing the efforts made under UNDP has been appreciated by many countries and we also endorse this move.

Lastly, we would agree with the proposals made under major programme 3.4 regarding FAO Representatives at country levels. The principle of double-accreditation obviously represents a practical approach in the present circumstances. There has been a suggestion from a developed country in Western Europe that in view of the setting up of country offices the role of Regional Offices should be reviewed with the object of making reduced allocations.

Our delegation is strongly opposed to this suggestion. In our view the role of the Regional Offices of FAO should not be diluted. Actually the Country Offices are basically a small outfit and increasingly look to Regional Offices as a first point of reference for technical backstopping. Being nearer to the countries, technical backstopping by Regional Offices is necessarily more cost-effective.

In view of the universal support presently given to the objectives of TCDC, ECDC and collective self-reliance for food security in developing countries, the Regional Offices assume added importance. These offices are in a unique position to assess the needs of developing countries and to identify the common problems of a group of neighbouring countries and suggest areas of desirable common action. For instance, in the Asia and the Pacific region the Regional Office is servicing special bodies which undertake TCDC activities in sectors such as agricultural credit and food marketing. It also provides technical support to regional technical commissions in sectors such as food security, agricultural statistics, animal production, fisheries, forestry etc.

Another factor highlighting the importance of Regional Offices is the need for inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system at the regional level.

Even though many of the problems in this field of food and agriculture are country-specific, there are several aspects which are peculiar to the entire region. For instance, Asia and the Pacific region accounts for more than 90 percent of the paddy production. Therefore the problems of paddy production, transport and marketing are an important concern of the whole region. Regional meetings and consultations arranged by Regional Offices provide highly useful fora for meaningful discussions on common problems and in-depth studies by expert groups from neighbouring countries. In view of this India would strongly urge that the role of Regional Offices should continue to be important.

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): We stated in our first intervention that we have no real difficulties with the detail of the Programme of Work and Budget as set out for the forthcoming biennium. There are just one or two specific comments we might make which would tend to support some of the other comments that have been made during this session.

We would wholeheartedly support the COAG recommendation for the establishment of a new division to coordinate research and development activities. It is very tempting in times of financial constraint for an agency such as FAO to curtail projects with longer term benefits in favour of some short-term expedient.

In the area of livestock development we would like to join the delegate of the United Kingdom in sounding a caution. Our experience has been that many such efforts in tropical livestock areas can be excessively expensive if the scale of development is overly ambitious or if the schemes are not carefully integrated into existing farming schemes.

Finally just a word or two about the Technical Cooperation Programme. We feel that it is vital in an organization like FAO that we have programmes of this nature which enable quick and flexible assistance to be given in emergency situations. The programme is very well supported by this Organization and by this Commission in particular. But it must be regarded by some members with some unease. I think this is probably understandable. This unease may in fact be associated with the suggestion we made earlier to the Conference that there is insufficient quantitative evaluation.

We would like to suggest that the perceived problem needs attention. This is an area in which the returns could be very high and it could well be that more funds could be justified in this particular area.

We would like to support the Australian and the Japanese delegations in their plea for more external auditing of these activities. I have a feeling that some may see evaluation in a negative sense and as a way of cutting down expenditure generally. I would see proper evaluation in a very positive sense. I see it as a way of focusing attention on areas of high priority and a way of ensuring that these areas get the resources that they deserve. We have heard the Secretariat about the prospects for internal audit activities. These are very commendable and must be part of any internal management system. But like the delegate of Australia we do not think that this goes far enough. Evaluation should be a continuing process and it should be seen to be independent of a funding agency. It is our feeling that this would engender confidence and ensure that adequate funding for these activities was made available.

N.K. BASNYAT (Nepal): As suggested by you Mr Chairman, I would like to comment in general terms and will try to be brief. In my previous statement I did not touch much upon the topics themselves, apart from just thanking you. So I would like to touch briefly on that also.

In the Director-General's introduction of the Programme of Work and Budget he has very clearly explained the situation prevailing in the world and the need that has to be addressed and the strategies and policies that FAO should follow. The Director-General has very rightly pointed out: "A satisfactory flow of assistance will not by itself solve the production problems of these nations, but without adequate aid they have little hope of setting food production on a dynamic upward course." So there are times when developing countries do need assistance so far as improved technology in increasing food production is concerned.

The Programme priorities fixed do consider the most pressing requirements of the developing nations. However, we are a bit worried about the insistence on zero growth even at a time when the needs are ever increasing. This is where we think that the donor countries will come forward to save the plight of the poor.

Priority on research and technology development is a welcome one. The follow-up of WCARRD is of great relevance and it is gratifying to note that the greatest part of the additional resources will be channelled to the sub-programmes like agricultural education, extension and training, agrarian reform, rural institutions, etc., which we support.

The emphasis on agricultural and other rural development programmes, which is included in the regional programme, is well received. However, training should focus more on giving training to local people so that they should be able to take up managerial responsibility.

Promotion and development of small and marginal farmers' cooperatives to constitute the core of increasing agricultural production should receive managerial and other technical support.

The approach of an integrated system of management should be strengthened so that it will help increase the income of these small and marginal farmers.

The usefulness of the TCP programme is already felt and this should be further increased. Similarly, the TCDC and the ECDC approach should be continued at an increased rate.

Talking about the regional programmes, since women are a very important segment of the development programme and they are a partner not only in real life but also a major contributor in agricultural operations, special programmes for women in agriculture are highly commendable. Income generating activities for rural women we feel should receive a substantive support in the developing countries.

The approach of decentralization is a welcome one. The office of country representative of FAO has its own importance which does facilitate direct linkages between FAO and the respective government.

The Regional Office also has its own importance. I feel that the Regional Office provides very good linkages between the regional and sub-regional conferences, since they have a cadre of technicians who are regularly available for regional and sub-regional programmes.

Finally, the reduction of personnel may be one of the various factors that reduces the cost of the Organization on a temporary basis, but this should not be a permanent feature.

F. ROHNER (Suisse) : M. le Président, étant donné que ma délégation intervient pour la première fois dans ce débat, je tiens tout d'abord à joindre mes félicitations à celles qui vous ont été adressées par mes collègues pour votre élection à la présidence de la Commission II.

Mes observations seront plus d'ordre général que celles d'autres délégations et je serai bref.

J'aimerais réitérer nos remerciements au Secrétariat pour l'excellent document qu'il nous a préparé pour présenter les programmes d'activité des deux prochaines années. Aussi, souhaitons-nous féliciter le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs des efforts qu'ils ont faits lors de la préparation du budget pour répondre, entre autres, aux inquiétudes exprimées par bien des Etats Membres lors de la dernière Conférence générale en vue de mettre un frein aux dépenses budgétaires. Nous constatons également avec satisfaction l'accent mis sur les programmes techniques et économiques aux dépens du secteur administratif.

Pour ce qui est des activités de terrain, nous soutenons tous les efforts faits en vue d'arriver à une approche encore plus intégrée du développement rural, tenant notamment compte des aspects de l'environnement. Nous appuyons également sans réserve la priorité donnée aux pays les moins avancés et au continent africain en général.

Nous soutenons par ailleurs les efforts qui sont faits en vue de décentraliser la gestion et la supervision des activités de terrain. Nous estimons toutefois très important que cette décentralisation aille de pair avec un renforcement de la collaboration et de la coordination entre agences des Nations Unies, oeuvrant sur le terrain, et ceci dans un souci d'éviter tout risque de double emploi et en vue de profiter au maximum des structures déjà existantes.

Le renforcement du contrôle financier et de gestion des activités de terrain a notre plein soutien. Je m'empresse cependant d'ajouter que nous attachons une importance tout aussi grande aux efforts faits en vue de renforcer et de systématiser l'évaluation des résultats et des impacts des programmes et projets.

Permettez-moi de dire encore un mot sur le financement des activités opérationnelles.

Nous savons tous que le PNUD passe par une phase difficile. Nous en connaissons les principales raisons. Nous espérons pour notre part que les travaux du Comité intersessions et les résolutions passées par le Conseil d'administration du PNUD en juin dernier porteront leurs fruits et que la Caisse centrale du système des Nations Unies pour les activités de coopération technique - au maintien et au renforcement de laquelle nous devrions tous avoir un très grand intérêt - pourra progressivement reprendre sa place sur une base que nous souhaitons plus sûre, continue et si possible accrue.

C'est ainsi que nous considérons notre appui financier bilatéral à des projets spécifiques de la FAO dans les domaines notamment de la sécurité alimentaire, de la production de semences et de la formation agricole comme clairement complémentaire de l'effort que nous faisons vis-à-vis du PNUD et à travers lui.

F. J. CORTES SIMOES (Portugal) : Plusieurs délégations ont fait référence au Programme de coopération technique et au Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement.

Je pense avoir bien compris les explications données par M. West sur les difficultés qui empêchent d'augmenter le volume de l'aide sollicitée. Actuellement, je désire parler de l'efficacité de ces programmes en dépit des difficultés présentes.

La coopération technique entre la FAO et le Portugal pour la période 1981-1982 a été développée surtout par le Programme de coopération technique et le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement.

Dans le cadre du premier programme, ont été établis les projets suivants : renforcement des activités d'éducation en matière d'alimentation et de nutrition; consolidation des activités d'éducation en matière d'alimentation et de nutrition; étude pour la restructuration et la mise à jour des plans de cours à caractère agricole de l'université technique de Lisbonne.

Le montant reçu pour ces projets de la part de la FAO a été de 150 000 dollars. Il a été utilisé presque intégralement pour couvrir les frais de voyages au Portugal des spécialistes en ces matières.

Dans le cadre du PNUD, mon pays a bénéficié de deux projets : un projet de drainage et de conservation du sol dans l'Alentejo, et un projet de renforcement du service d'extension rurale. Ces deux projets font suite à des travaux précédemment commencés.

Pour ces projets qui sont actuellement en cours, la participation du PNUD a été de 610 000 dollars et mon pays a participé avec environ 60 millions d'écus portugais.

Les actions développées par les projets cités ont été d'une grande utilité et nous regrettons que notre agriculture n'ait pas reçu du secteur agricole du PNUD un traitement meilleur, de façon à permettre d'autres actions également importantes pour notre pays, comme cela d'ailleurs a été proposé par la FAO et par notre Comité national.

Durant la période biennale 1981-1982, le Portugal a coopéré avec la FAO en recevant un certain nombre de boursiers de pays membres auxquels ont été données des facilités dans leur domaine de spécialisation agricole et dans le secteur de l'enseignement agricole.

A.J. BINAMUNGU (Tanzania): My delegation supported the proposals on the Programme of Work and Budget during the introductory part of this Commission's discussions.

Nevertheless, we wish to make some comments on specific areas. In Chapter 2, which explains the technical and economic programmes, we appreciate the efforts which have been suggested in the programme to assist fisheries, forestry and agriculture.

On Fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones, we feel the anticipated four workshops in 1983-84 (as per section 2.57 on page 25) are adequate, but we suggest further support should be extended to them for following up deliberations from these workshops. We also hope that the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development to be held in 1984 will deliberate more on this issue.

On the issue of Forestry for Local Community Development Programmes, we find wood as the source of energy has been a big area of concern to most of the developing countries which face the problem of fuel shortages. Due to increased population and agricultural activities, and hazards of bush fires, natural forests are diminishing at a more and more alarming rate than their growth. Under such circumstances we feel some efforts to carry out reforestation should be given emphasis mainly by establishment of wood loss, plantations and controlled clearing of natural forests for agricultural purposes. FAO, in cooperation with the donor agencies, should increase assistance toward this issue.

In Chapter 3, on Development Support Programmes, specifically item 3.2, "Investments", we appreciate the emphasis that has been laid on carrying out investment in production. We feel the question of production should go shoulder to shoulder with marketing. I would not like to go into details concerning the scientific definition of marketing, but would like to emphasize that a good product should find its way to the mouth of the final consumer at the right time and at a reasonable price. With this, Mr Chairman, I would like to recommend the marketing projects under the FAO, such as the Marketing Development Bureau in Tanzania, should be strengthened.

The Marketing Development Bureau, which is the FAO project in Tanzania, has done a commendable job in carrying out price reviews for both food and cash crops, and this has, as of recent, resulted into giving incentives to the farmers in Tanzania. Such structures we feel, Mr Chairman, should receive more attention, and we thank the FAO for supporting such projects.

A. BERGQUIST (Sweden): Mr Chairman, much has already been said on the work programme for 1984-85, so I will not go into greater detail, but give some of our comments on the main chapters. To start with Agriculture, my delegation particularly would like to support activities aimed at rural development. Also we want to underline the importance of activities and programmes to adapt production techniques to different economic and soil conditions prevailing in different countries. Furthermore, we want to stress the importance of those activities that intend to improve the basic prerequisites for production, such as soil conservation and soil improvement, water management, seed supply, fertilizer use, plant protection, etc. Another priority area of ours is food preservation, and distribution. Women in many countries are the main producers of food. We particularly want their role as producers strengthened, and support activities to this end. We also support the view expressed by the Danish delegation yesterday on the need to strengthen

agricultural research institutions in developing countries. The regional cooperation in this field could be of great importance, as well as the strengthening of relations and exchange of views between institutions in different parts of the world. We support nutrition activities, but feel that there is a need for somewhat strengthening of these activities. As to Fisheries, my delegation finds the programme well-balanced and founded on recommendations from relevant fora. From our point of view it could perhaps have stressed even more the complex problems of small-scale fisheries ; problems that cannot be solved within the sector alone, but need action at other levels, and within other sectors.

The World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, that is to be held next year, could look at these aspects more in detail. We strongly support the conveying of this Conference. The recent meeting with the Committee on Fisheries, COFI, has to our mind laid a good foundation for a successful conference.

As to forestry, in his speech in Plenary the Swedish Minister of Agriculture voiced his concern for the meagre resources allocated to forestry. Within the priority sectors of the FAO budget 35.5 percent is allocated to agriculture, 6 percent to fisheries, and 4 percent to forestry. The relative budget increase compared with the current budget is greatest for agriculture and smallest for forestry. In real terms these differences are even more noticeable. We feel that the forest sector compared with the agriculture and fisheries has a long-term developmental potential that is considerably greater than its present share of the budget allocation. However, activities and inputs in the forest sector do not give the same rapid results as inputs in other sectors. There is consequently a risk that the potential of forestry to contribute to development permanently is being undervalued and underutilized. The proposed changes in the new budget compared to the present, seems to verify this thesis. Forests have great importance for the ecological balance and as a supplier of energy. The delegation of Tanzania so rightly pointed this out. The importance of the tropical forests, and our concern for the rapid depletion of forests was underlined by our Minister, as well as our concern for the rapid depletion of forests in Europe, where we now witness forest death in larger and larger areas. The sector on forest resources and environment deals with various environmental aspects. In this section we would have liked to see more stress on the ecological importance of the tropical forests. We strongly support, for example, sub-programme 2.3.1.1. on development and management of forest resources, and we are pleased to note the fruitful cooperation between FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

We are pleased to note that a number of activities are in accordance with the UN System-Wide Medium-Term Environmental Programme which has the strong support of the Swedish Government. Cooperation on environmental problems we should like to see even further strengthened and enhanced.

It is now the shared perception by many governments today that the wise use of resources and enlightened conservation strategies are consistent with the economic growth imperative, and should be considered as prerequisites for sustainable growth. This insight on the relationship between environment and development must form a basis for all activities in the FAO.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): My delegation has participated in all the sectoral committees and Councils that have provided the raw material for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget. As such we have had ample opportunity to pronounce ourselves on the detail of these programmes and this will limit our intervention to a few specific points that we believe need to be emphasized.

As regards agriculture we are pleased to note the restraint exercised in allocating resources to the agricultural policy area, an area of work that deals with issues such as commodity policy that are perhaps more properly dealt with in UNCTAD or in the GATT, while intensifying the efforts in such areas as soil conservation, water development and management and the programmes for seed development and fertilizer use.

In the fisheries area the recent meeting of the Committee on Fisheries that was combined extraordinarily with the technical phase of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development laid the ground work for the elaboration of five action programmes. These action plans if they are to be truly effective of the wishes and the collective wisdom of the membership will require much work and consultation prior to the policy phase of the World Conference next spring. Accordingly, we are pleased to note that a meeting of selected technical experts will be held to review the proposals early in the new year.

As regards the Fisheries Programme in the Programme of Work we welcome the increased resources being allocated to the sector, but would have hoped that the understandable emphasis being placed on production will be balanced with attention to conservation and management. The text of the documents in future we believe should communicate somewhat more clearly to the reader the relative priorities attached to specific strategies, and which sub-activities are linked to those particular strategies. We should also be given a clear indication of the rationale for the major resource decisions.

In forestry, as we stated at the meeting of the Council in June when we were reviewing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, given the importance of forestry from the point of soil conservation, watershed management, use of marginal lands, erosion control and the requirements of fuel, we would have liked to have a larger share of resources being allocated to this programme of activities.

In this context Mr Chairman, we would fully support the statements that have been made today and previously by our Scandinavian colleague.

Turning to Chapter 4, Canada has for many years held that technical cooperation should be funded through voluntary programmes or agencies, and thus we continue to be concerned about the growth of FAO's programmes in this area. The percentage growth in the TCP programme is one of the largest in the budget we are reviewing.

As pointed out by several delegations these are difficult times both for donors and the recipients. These are times when the government's budgets and expenditures receive more and more scrutiny, and every expenditure at the domestic level certainly requires full justification. Otherwise, in some subsequent periods credits become more difficult to obtain. It is against this background that we would echo the comments of our colleagues from the Federal Republic of Germany and others calling for more transparency in this programme.

In this context I would like to support the statements that were made this morning by our New Zealand colleague who made some very valid points about the need to deal with the perceived problem. We also believe there is a need to deal with the questions of confidence. We would urge the Secretariat to pause at this point in the evolution of this programme and have some cost effectiveness studies carried out, even perhaps by an external source. Further we believe that the membership of the FAO should have an opportunity to review periodically the activities of this programme beyond the rather sketchy or cumulative information that we are provided with. We should at least have some idea of where the money is being spent and on what. Some rudimentary breakdown would be very helpful such as how much is being spent on consulting services, equipment, travel, personnel costs etc.

We are further concerned that given the emergency nature of the programme that so much of the assets of the programme seem to be being spent on items such as training that could be encompassed within the activities of the Regular Programme.

I would like to say now a few words on the question about the Regional and the country offices. We would like to lend our support to the comments that were made yesterday by our UK colleague and others who, while fully supporting the concept of decentralization, believe that the time has come in the rapid growth of this programme to review the allocation of resources to Regional Offices with a view to determining whether these could not be spent more effectively on programme delivery through the existing network of country offices. This is not to say that we are looking for economies or a reduction of expenses in this area; we are only interested in seeing whether or not the expenditure of these funds would be more effectively channelled through the country offices rather than through the Regional Offices.

We naturally recognise that there will still be some need for regional cooperation and coordination but perhaps this could be more effectively handled in an ad hoc manner on a project basis, or alternatively in some instances through headquarters operations.

Finally we would like to touch on the question of support for Trust Fund activities. By this we are referring to the continuing and large support that is given for Trust Fund activities which are funded through the Regular Programme. Without prejudice to the value of the undertaken activities we believe that each of these activities should be fully costed and not subsidized by the Regular Programme. We have made a similar statement when the issue was raised in respect of the World Food Programme. It is only in this way that donors and recipients alike will have a clear idea of the cost of individual projects and be able to make some informed judgement on the value of those projects.

Mr Chairman, the above comments, as I said earlier, are those which we felt needed to be re-emphasized. Obviously at this stage in the evolution of the Programme of Work and Budget we can only hope that they will find some reflection in future programmes.

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): May I ask your indulgence for the following statement which my delegation submits for your consideration. Mr Chairman the development and evolution of the Regional Office began as early as the creation of FAO. The establishment of the Regional Office came from a feeling among the FAO Member Nations at that time that if they were to obtain many benefits from the Organization they would have to have an office nearby. This same feeling later led to the establishment of a United Nations Agency such as UNDP. Perhaps this old story might not have been necessarily repeated. However it is pertinent to refer to this matter once again, that there were some strong feelings before to prevent the Regional Office from becoming little FAO; and from duplicating work which could best be done by the headquarters.

There was also a strong recommendation made by a review team to abolish the Regional Office, but it was later rejected by the proven performances of important functions by the Regional Office. It is clear that FAO policy of decentralisation has been fully supported by FAO governing bodies and its Member Nations. The Conference at its Twenty-first session strongly supported the policy of organization decentralisation. The important role played by FAO representatives is well recognized. It is to ensure the full participation of the Member Nations in the Regular Programme activities of the Organization and to develop its field programmes.

This mandate as an outpost of a strong FAO headquarters is still valid and its technical programme in each region is still under the responsibility of the Director-General. While the concept of regional cooperation is gaining wider support, FAO has made a major step in incorporating TCDC, ECDC and new dimensions into its proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. This initiative should be commended when there is a downward trend in the multilateral assistances. It is believed that FAO Regional Offices would play a major role in executing this directive. Perhaps the establishment of the Commission for Food Security for Asia and the Pacific will be an example of this kind of cooperation. The first meeting of the sixteen initial members under the aegis of FAO through the Regional Office in Bangkok came out with the recommendations aiming at improving food security in the region. The first accomplishment responds directly to the Director-General's concept on world food security. This should be noted and appreciated.

Moreover this year the assignment of the B.R. Sen Award for outstanding work in the field went to a Malaysian expert in the Thai rubber replanting project, which attests to the useful service we receive from FAO through its Regional Office.

Turning to the country office, it is quite clear that the functions of the FAO Regional and country offices should be complementary. This idea was strongly supported by the Conference at its last Session. It is true that the addition of the country representative would help to strengthen the Regional Office activity in my opinion but not vice versa.

We would welcome a recommendation to improve FAO office efficiency, but to go so far as to abolish the Regional Office would depart from the objective of their establishment. Mr Chairman, may I add some points to remember also that the recommendations of the Regional Conference and the various Regional technical bodies are not only valid for the region itself but also useful globally as a whole.

Moreover advisory and technical assistance can be provided from the Regional Office more expeditiously and at lower cost.

In conclusion my delegation strongly believes in the usefulness of the Regional Office and strongly urges the Director-General to give even stronger support to further strengthen the role of such Office for the benefit of the members in the region.

A. BOTHNER (Norway): I would like to make some comments on specific items on the Programme of Work and Budget; first, on pages 25 and 121 where the very important question of advice for national agricultural planning is dealt with. In as much as this subject is, in our view, of basic importance, we are somewhat disappointed that a larger amount has not been devoted to Programme 2.1.8.5. Let me in this connection take up the somewhat tricky question of coordination, in this case, coordination of the various types of planning advice being offered to governments of developing countries. I have in mind such valid advice as follow-up of WCARRD advice on nutritional policies, policy advice under Programme 2.1.8.1. and the food sector strategies allocated by the World Food Council. I realize that this is a difficult problem but I would like to ask the Secretariat: how are these various types of aids coordinated at the national level?

My next point concerns page 107 on women in agriculture. My delegation of course supports this Programme and would like to see it strengthened. We feel that the various activities summarized in paragraph 30 and their inter-relationship should be re-examined, aiming at a flexible implementation of the Programme.

My delegation also supports paragraph 33 on cooperation between FAO and ILO in this field.

I would also like to comment briefly on the two programmes concerning Fisheries. It is our opinion that FAO in the future will play a very important role as advisor to governments having an Economic Zone. The programme on Fisheries Policies therefore has our full support. We also agree to the main priorities in the Programme concerning fisheries exploitation and utilization. It is our expectation that the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development which is to take place next year will, among other things, concentrate on fish as a tool to alleviate undernutrition. If the World Conference should recommend an action programme in this or other related fields, I hope that the present budget is flexible enough to allow such action plans to be financed. A major part of the net budget increase in nutrition is allocated to the preparation of a fifth world food survey. We are happy to note that this will not be a simple updating of the previous world food survey. The basic principles for energy and protein requirements will have to be thoroughly and critically revised in the light of the most recent advances acknowledged in this field.

My final point is on forestry. As indicated in the long-term policy considerations on page 102, the situation is indeed alarming, particularly with regard to fuel-wood and shifting cultivation. In our view, therefore, the entire field deserves particular attention.

K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): In view of the shortage of time the Bangladesh delegation will restrict its comments to some of the Programme chapters only. We shall address only those which we feel should be particularly underlined, while we generally approve the Programme priorities set out in the other chapters.

With little land left to be brought under the plough, particularly in the developing countries, it is only logical that use of natural resources be optimized. It is important that water resources be fully utilized, that fertilizer efficiency be progressively increased to reduce wastage and cost; that soil be conserved and land reclaimed wherever and whenever possible; that farming be integrated as much as possible and overall farming management be improved. In short, endeavours should be concentratedly directed at putting natural and other resources to the fullest productive use. We wish to record our approval of Programme 2.1.1., Natural Resources.

Many countries are trying to move from the cropping system approach to a farming system approach. It is important that small farm-holders be progressively developed into farming systems so as to increase their productivity and income and optimization of resource use. It is therefore gratifying to note the increase of allocation in this area.

It is rightly believed that a real stride will be made in ensuring food security if the small and marginal farmers can be raised above their subsistence level. It is therefore crucial that improved technology be transferred to them for production of staple food crops, horticultural crops and cash crops. Therefore, referring to Programme 2.1.2, Crops, we endorse the priorities set forth in this Programme.

We are happy to note that the Livestock Programme 2.1.3. gives adequate attention to the question of control of foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest and African swinefever. In the context of the depleting draught power and growing demand for livestock products it is vitally important that FAO activities directed at animal health should be of a higher order than reflected in the relevant sub-programme of the chapter on livestock.

We welcome the creation of a new Research and Technology Development Division. Many developing countries facing technological limits find it a priority to increase investments in agricultural research so as to be able to make desirable progress. The obstacles these countries face can be surmounted to a large extent by developing appropriate technologies and proper research and extension linkages. It is our hope that greater attention by FAO to research and technology development would benefit Member Nations in this vital area.

Lastly, we refer to the Technical Cooperation Programme, the TCP. The small-scale projects under TCP are indeed of great value to the recipient countries. The quick responsiveness of TCP projects in times of urgent need and their bridging quality reassures developing Member Nations that in times of emergency they will have a sure source of help to turn to.

As a country which has benefitted from TCP, Bangladesh would like to place on record its appreciation of the Programme. We do consider that the 12.7 percent allocation to TCP is by no means too much. In many countries timely formulation of investment projects is not taking place, causing project pipelines to dry up. TCP is an important source of assistance in the area of investment project formulation. Therefore TCP investment promotion projects are important to the developing Member Nations.

We believe that TCP is so designed as to complement other sources of assistance and not to compete with them. We trust that this quality of TCP will not be compromised. We do not see any ground for fear on this account. We expect the peculiar qualities of TCP to remain intact.

Finally, it is becoming increasingly obvious that ECDC and TCDC activities will have to be rapidly intensified in response to certain particular needs of some developing countries. Resource constraints often hinder the desired level of TCDC activities between countries. We particularly welcome TCP assistance in fostering TCDC.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): First, my delegation would like to thank the Deputy Director-General, Mr West and the Director of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, Mr Shah, for their brief and useful clarifications on the questions which have been raised. I would like briefly to draw your attention to three items: Medium-Term Planning, TCP and the Budget.

First, Medium-Term Planning. In my earlier intervention my delegation made some critical remarks concerning medium-term planning and expressed the wish for further improvement. Some other delegations did so too. In that context my delegation, supported by our Norwegian colleagues, considered General Assembly Resolution 37/234 to be a good basis for such an improvement. It is true that, as Mr Shah told us yesterday, UN agencies are not bound to resolutions of the General Assembly. My delegation attaches much importance to programme planning and budgeting and believes that harmonisation in that field within the UN organizations is necessary.

Therefore my delegation would like to recommend that the Finance and Programme Committees examine the applicability of General Assembly Resolution 37/234 to FAO programme planning and that they report thereon to the Twenty-third Conference.

It is proposed to increase the Technical Cooperation Programme's share of the total budget base from 12.0 percent to 13.5 percent. My delegation can support that proposal. I would at the same time like to stress, that TCP projects by their very nature cannot and should not replace UNDP and Trust Fund financed projects, and I am glad that Mr West assured us yesterday that this will be the FAO policy. The relatively simple and direct way through which TCP projects are approved can only be justified, in our view, because of the specific objectives which the TCP programme aims for. Furthermore, my delegation would like to insist on a transparent planning and review procedure of TCP projects, as well as a regular assessment of their effectiveness and efficiency. In our opinion, the FAO Representative could perform a prominent role in the identification and assessment of TCP projects. This would facilitate coordination of project activities at the country level with other UN agencies as well as bilateral donors.

Finally, a few words about the Budget. My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the responsible approach taken by the Director-General and his staff and the very real efforts that have been made to curtail expenditure and maintain operational programmes.

In view of the limited real budgetary growth in comparison with the 1982-83 Budget, the Budget proposal for the coming biennium, 1984-85, can be considered a fair compromise and has the full support of my delegation.

The meeting rose at 11.00 hours

La séance 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

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C 83/II/PV/6

Twenty-second Session

Vingt-deuxième session

22° período de sesiones

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE
SEXTA REUNION

(10 November 1983)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 15.30 hours

C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 15 h 30, sous la présidence de

C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la sexta reunión a las 15.30 horas bajo la presidencia de

C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continud)

II. ACTIVITIES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

11. Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)

11. Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

H. OGÜT (Turkey): As my delegation takes the floor in this Commission for the first time, please allow me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the Vice-Chairmen on your election. I wish in particular to express my distinct pleasure to have you, Mr Chairman, as an old colleague chairing the current session of this important Commission.

The proposed Programme of Work and Budget has been carefully studied by my delegation and been approved in general terms. It is a modest budget but is responsive to our current needs following the changes that took place recently in the global food and agricultural situation.

With regard to the technical and economic programmes, we wish to commend FAO for according more emphasis to these programmes. Thus we are happy with the extension proposed in the budget of these programmes. Also we see that priorities established for these programmes take into account the views expressed by the Member Nations during the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

On Natural Resources we have noted with satisfaction that FAO is according priority to the development of farming systems to be based on social and economic fact prevailing at the local and national level.

We approve the high priority attached to agricultural research and technology development, not only through the programme increase but also through some organizational improvements. Developing countries' research capabilities need to be strengthened by the support of the international agencies and FAO should play an important role in providing this support.

We believe that developing countries should utilize available technologies in agricultural activities. The gap between developed and developing countries can be filled speedily by the adoption of these new technologies. However, we also indicate that the technologies should be based on the resources available in the country.

In this connection I wish to refer to the commendable work of the Remote Sensing Centre of FAO and propose that the relevant programme be given higher priority during implementation.

Agricultural mechanization is also an area which developing countries can benefit from, provided that policies and strategies take into account the existing social and economic conditions in the country.

On programme 2.1.3, Livestock, we endorse the special emphasis given to animal health assistance. The support provided to International Meat Development Scheme from the Regular Programme is also approved by my delegation, in the light of the past achievements of this programme.

Mr Chairman, at this juncture we wish to underline once again the importance of links between research and extension based on a well developed information system, not only during planning and implementation of activities, but also with respect to the institutional set up. We suggest that this approach can also be introduced to the organizational set up of FAO. We also note that Regular Programme allocation to extension is modest, although extra-budgetary resources are at a high level. However, we think that high dependence of FAO's extension assistance on extra-budgetary sources is not satisfactory.

On the programme entitled Rural Development I wish also to refer to the recommendation of COAG in 1983 and the strengthening of activities related to productive work of rural women, which was then endorsed by the Council in 1983.

We approve the increase in the resources of the TCP, in the light of its past achievements and contribution to FAO's programmes in the field. This programme provides also possibilities for FAO to intervene in situations which require urgent assistance.

We fully endorse the priority accorded in the proposed budget of the TCP to training assistance, particularly that of a practical nature. The cost-effectiveness of the training activities supported by the TCP has been at the desired level, and is still on the increase. The support provided to countries on formulation of investment projects is also a reason for commending FAO, though its share in FAO's overall investment support is small. Another fact is that functioning of the TCP matches with the Organization's present policy of according priority to the needs of low-income

developing countries. Taking all these into account my delegation strongly supports the TCP activities proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

We only note with concern that within the TCP development support activities have been decreased to 10 percent of the total programme in 1983, while it was 15.9 percent in 1977. We also suggest that the initiative taken recently to support intergovernmental projects by the TCP be further realised and expanded in the coming biennium to serve the Organization's objective of promoting technical cooperation among developing countries.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, I would like to make some remarks on the activities of the European Regional Office of FAO. My delegation believes that programmes undertaken by this Office, particularly cooperative research activities at the country level, have contributed a great deal to our national efforts. We note with satisfaction that the activities of this Office also attract involvement of extra-budgetary sources, such as UNDP.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I wish to briefly say that my delegation approves the objectives set forth, and priorities established in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, as well as the resource levels established for the individual programmes. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): Mr Chairman, I wish to comment briefly on parts of Chapter 2 of the Programme of Work and Budget. The first is sub-programme 2.1.1, that is Natural Resources. The greatest problem facing farming in Africa and, indeed many other parts of the developing world, is the unpredictability of rainfall distribution. There is, in fact, growing evidence that total precipitation in the Sahel, the Sudan and Guinea Savannah regions of Africa is reducing. The conservation of surface water and the exploitation of ground water resources will, therefore, have to assume greater importance than hitherto. Less than 5 percent of the total crop area in Africa is under irrigation. FAO must in future biennia devote much more resources to the promotion of irrigation development.

The second area of concern to my delegation is Animal Health, that is sub-programme 2.1.3.2. The need to step up the work on the control of trypanosomiasis has already been mentioned by some other delegations, but other cases, like the recent widespread outbreak of rinderpest, brings to the forefront the need to devote more resources to animal health programmes. The recent outbreak of rinderpest cost us the loss of about half a million head of cattle in Nigeria alone. The financial losses on the continental scale are, therefore, likely to be astronomical.

My third comment is on Rural Development, that is programme 2.1.5. Although the WCARRD Programme of Action is explicit on what to do, the allocation of resources to rural institutions and infrastructures requires special mention. In many developing countries the rural areas where most of the farming takes place are in most cases retrogressing, rather than advancing, in terms of economic opportunities and the quality of life, hence it is difficult to arrest the rural exodus, and the consequent decline in agricultural production.

Fourthly, I wish to confirm my delegation's support for the present level of the TCP in the budget. Being a recent beneficiary of the Programme the promptness of response to the emergency that occurred in Nigeria demonstrated its usefulness. Its rather small proportion in relation to both the Regular and the Field Programmes makes it impossible for it to be a substitute to either. We, however, support the view that it should continue to be closely monitored and evaluated, as has happened in the past.

Finally, I want to say that the Nigerian delegation firmly believes that the present structure and functions of the regional offices should be maintained, as they, in our estimation, have continued to discharge very effectively the roles for which they were established. If they cease to be useful we shall be the first to ask for a review of their establishment. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

E. MARTENS (Belgium): Thank you, Mr Chairman. So many delegations have already expressed their appreciation to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85, and made known their views on the proposed priorities. They have pointed out these programmes and activities for which they want to receive an even higher priority. Our concern goes in the same direction. Therefore, I can be very brief and will limit my intervention to the following remarks on the programmes that retain the special interest of my delegation.

As far as the priorities are concerned: first of all, Development of Research and Techniques. This programme receives our full support, especially the fact that four existing units have been melted together into one new division for which we express our sincere desire that it may lead to an increased efficiency. We only regret that this operation needs an increase of personnel, whereas this type of coordinating existing forces normally results in a reduction of personnel.

Secondly, the follow-up on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. My delegation considers all actions on rural development as a very high priority. However, we have the impression that this programme is too heterogeneous and we are still confused about its contents; some more unity of actions in order to arrive at a consistent and global programme would be welcomed.

The third point: other agricultural programmes as well as other economic and social programmes. We fully agree on the importance given to local cereals and tuber crops, as well as to the horticultural crops. It seems to my delegation that too much emphasis is put on statistical data gathering and field studies. I simply would like to recall that as the Director-General stated in his opening remarks to the Plenary session on 5 November, neither statistics, though they are more abundant and more precise today, nor field surveys, are capable of changing the fate of the rural population; it is the mobilisation of the rural people that is essential. That is what was said by the Director-General. My delegation expresses its desire that special attention should be given to pricing policies as a way of mobilising the farmer, and hence we would like to stress the utmost importance of the marketing component of every technical support activity.

The fourth point. Ways and means of action. The TCP has been cited by almost every delegation, and I agree with the general point of view and will restrain from further comments on it.

I only would like to pick out one point that withholds our particular attention - training. We are fully aware of the need for it, and support the importance given to it. Just one reflexion; or rather a question: who needs it most, the farmer or the expert? Or, in other words, who has to learn from whom? We think that we can learn more from the farmer than he from us.

Mr Chairman, in order to stay within the time limit, I will conclude by mentioning only some of the special programme activities that receive our special support, and that we would like to emphasize in particular. The Food Security Assistance Scheme; fertilizer programme, with special emphasis on related inputs; prevention of food losses and plant protection; agricultural marketing and credit; and forestry development.

Before ending, Mr Chairman, I would like to record again our wish to see the tables completed with a column on extra-budgetary funding for the 1982-83 biennium, to the ones that already include, the extra-budgetary funding for 1984-85. My delegation believes that this type of information may add to the transparency of the document, especially after some other delegations made a point on the need for more transparency. I sincerely hope, Mr Chairman, that the Secretariat will take into account our well-intentioned comments. Thank you very much.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): Si la delegation du Cameroun demande la parole une seconde fois, c'est pour insister sur quelques points que nous croyons vitaux.

Ces points portent sur le sort des petits producteurs, qui constituent encore 60 à 80 pour cent des populations des pays en développement, et ce sont les petits agriculteurs, les éleveurs, les pêcheurs et tous les petits artisans ruraux. C'est à eux en fait qu'incombe la lourde tâche, l'immense charge de la production des aliments dont nos populations ont grand besoin, populations sans cesse croissantes et de plus en plus urbanisées. Devant l'ampleur de cette tâche, les caprices des facteurs météorologiques et la faiblesse des moyens des pays pauvres, nous croyons que les mesures envisagées ou prises par la FAO en vue d'améliorer le sort de ces catégories de citoyens constituent la base d'une amélioration de la vie de la masse générale de nos populations. C'est pourquoi les programmes relatifs à la fourniture des services à ces producteurs, leur organisation, les mesures amenant nos divers gouvernements à les associer à la prise de décisions qui les concernent sont des dispositions qui doivent guider l'action de la FAO dans les différents pays.

Aussi nous permettons-nous, une fois de plus, d'insister sur les programmes d'engrais, d'organisation des petits pêcheurs et éleveurs auxquels doit s'intéresser la FAO. Aussi également nous semble-t-il plausible de constater l'effort consenti par la FAO dans ce domaine. Nous insistons aussi sur les programmes relatifs aux activités féminines, car dans certaines parties du monde, et notamment en Afrique, la femme reste l'élément essentiel de la production vivrière, elle intervient dans la production elle-même, dans les réseaux de distribution, et elle participe activement à la transformation des produits. Dans certains pays, elle est pratiquement le seul pilier de l'alimentation de la famille, la grande famille africaine. Nous sommes, une fois de plus, heureux de constater l'intérêt que lui accorde la FAO. Puisse la FAO renforcer ses programmes pour mieux dynamiser l'activité des productrices rurales.

Enfin, notre délégation insiste sur la formation des encadreurs de base. Cette formation ne doit pas seulement se limiter aux colloques, séminaires et stages de courte durée. Il est bon que la FAO renforce son action d'octroi de bourses de formation aux cadres des pays en développement. Ce programme contribuera sûrement à améliorer la production des paysans africains.

Pour terminer, notre délégation insiste aussi sur le renforcement des bureaux régionaux. Je pense surtout à celui de l'Afrique. Nous croyons que la FAO, dans sa politique de renforcement des activités de ce bureau, répondra aux vœux des pays desservis par lui. Notre délégation réitère son appui aux priorités de programme qui lui ont été proposées et continue à confirmer le projet du budget qui lui a été soumis.

H. MENDS (Ghana): My delegation would like to comment briefly on the question of the FAO Regional Offices raised during the course of this Conference.

We find that several developing countries have indicated their appreciation of the work of the Regional Offices and have even gone to the extent in some cases of proposing their strengthening. This is supported by the fact that the Regional Conference for Africa last year adopted a resolution for the strengthening of the Regional Office in Africa.

Some of our colleagues from the developed countries have found it necessary, I am afraid, to suggest that in view of the FAO having set up country offices, the role of Regional Offices should be reviewed with the objective of making reduced allocations. We are all aware of the massive problems facing food production in the developing countries, particularly in Africa, and indeed, agricultural production faces its greatest challenge in these parts of the world, as we have been frequently told in the Plenary by the special distinguished speakers. We strongly believe that this Technical Commission of the Conference should come out with suggestions that will ameliorate these dire circumstances in the developing countries.

My delegation is therefore strongly opposed to such suggestions for time consuming reviews which merely tend to divert attention from the real problems in the field. We feel that the suggestion is misconstrued and we would like to point out that the need and justification for Regional Offices is in no way diminished by the fact that FAO has set up country offices. Indeed, the need for Regional Offices is all the greater now. Country offices, which are basically a small outfit, increasingly look to Regional Offices as a first point of reference for the needed technical backstopping. Being nearer to the countries, technical backstopping by the Regional Offices is more cost-effective, as we have been called upon to make sure that the FAO budget and its programme reflect.

The increasing importance of TCDC and ECDC makes the need for Regional Offices even more necessary. The Regional Offices, as we have found out, provide the -backstopping, both technical and secretarial, to the Regional Commissions in sectors such as nutrition and food security, animal production and forestry.

Another factor highlighting the importance of Regional Offices is the need for increased inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system at the regional level. With the increasing decentralisation to the regional economic commissions, the Regional Offices have increasingly served as FAO's focal point for contact and collaboration.

While food and agriculture have many problems which are country specific, there are also several aspects which are peculiar to individual countries or regions. FAO Regional Offices have a vital role in identifying such problems and assisting the countries in pooling successful experiences in dealing with such problems.

Mr Chairman, three Conferences ago the Technical Cooperation Programme was institutionalized as an item of the Regular budget. The impact of this famous Programme in the developing countries requests for increased food production is too well known to bring up here for discussion. In addition to the desired political will from the governments of the recipients, these developing countries need technical assistance and money to streamline their efforts in food production, and these often lead to long and painful negotiations and discussions, and the TCP, as timely seed money for the initiation of such efforts, has come in very handy. It provides the seed money only for the project to be taken over by national budget or external sources of financing when the necessary negotiations at the bilateral or multilateral levels have been completed.

Mr Chairman, in these days of austerity or global budgetary stringency, we are convinced that the allocation for this Programme in the next Budget and Programme of Work could be considered as the barest minimum. We believe that the training component is very very necessary because new technologies are being introduced and the appropriate training must accompany these projects, and I really do not see why a call should be made for review of TCP funds being used for training otherwise the whole thing falls through.

Mr Chairman, we also feel strongly that the existing institutional arrangements in this Organization whereby these projects and the TCP are subjected to critical reviews by the internal as well as the external auditors, and passed through the Programme and Finance Committees and then the Council, are ample enough.

The increasingly tearing despair of the recipient country, Mr Chairman, clearly forbids such blatant waste of scarce resources on theoretical views and studies.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation further supports, as we have already done in the Finance Committee and other fora, the Medium-Term Objectives as proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium as reasonably balanced, and the priorities for improved assistance to the needy countries. That is why we are surprised, Mr Chairman, to learn of the invocation of the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution and the call on FAO to carry out a review of its Medium-Term Objectives in line with the spirit and letter of the said Resolution. As far as I can remember Mr Chairman - I have not been able to lay hands on the Resolution because of the big programme we had outside - but as far as I can remember the said Resolution applies to the United Nations itself and has no application to the Specialized Agencies.

We think this Conference has the power, the will and the resources to strengthen actions that would bring hope and show the way to the light at the end of the tunnel to these needy developing countries of the world.

F. LARBI (Tunisie): Ma délégation voudrait porter son appui à ce qui a été dit par les délégués de l'Inde, de la Thaïlande et du Ghana, en ce qui concerne l'importance du rôle à jouer par les bureaux régionaux et les représentants de la FAO dans les pays.

De même, ma délégation souhaiterait appuyer ce qui a été dit ce matin par le délégué du Bangladesh pour ce qui est du Programme de coopération technique. Enfin, elle réitère son appui aux objectifs à moyen terme du programme qui nous est proposé.

ABDUL WAHID JALIL (Malaysia): My delegation has listened with great interest to the statements of the various delegations on this very important Agenda item. We do not intend to say very much more than what we have said before, but in view of the importance of the subject for the continued role of FAO in the region, my delegation would like to say something about the Regional Offices. My delegation feels the Regional Office has a role to play in the collaboration and promotion of regional programmes in food and agriculture. For example Malaysia has been pleased to be able to corroborate in many practical inter-country works of the Regional Office at its technical commissions in issues that have a direct tangible impact on our agricultural performance. We have, for example, worked with other countries through the Regional Office to control the outbreak of the deadly foot-and-mouth disease. The Regional Office activities in the field of post-harvest losses, a priority that has been recognized by all of us, have been carried out in my country on saving what has been called the second lost harvest, namely the qualitative loss in grains. Nature is collaborating with the Regional Office in the work of the Regional Commission in food security.

We are also working closely with the Regional Office in the ASEAN Population Rural Development Programme.

Mr Chairman, in running through the catalogue of practical and useful programmes of the Regional Office, our executives are backstopped by this Office. We find that the inter-country collaboration in food and agriculture is very substantial, and as has been mentioned by other delegates before me, the Regional Office is the focal point of these inter-country activities. The Regional Office is an invaluable tool for which countries in the region would use to strengthen the Development Programme.

S. PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): In endorsing the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 which we stated clearly during the first day of our deliberations, my delegation has taken into account the specific needs for some internal assistance in implementing our own agricultural development programme. Farming systems, fisheries exploitation and utilisation, and forestry for people are special fields to which we now have to give our attention. We are pleased to note that the proposed activities of FAO in those fields are supplementary to our own agricultural development programme.

Mr Chairman, training, research and technology we feel will remain the all-important means as the basis for true agricultural development. In this context I should like to point out that we should never lose sight of the principle that we are trying to help the people to help themselves. Hence all the activities in the different fields, and the functional activities, especially those of training should be geared to strengthening the role of agricultural development as well as to developing the active and true participation of farmers and fishermen, their families and their communities.

In implementing the external assistance we needed, one of the arrangements we appreciate very much is the TCP. We feel therefore the TCP should be maintained and strengthened. The demand is therefore the demand from the developing countries in general which is an expression of their felt needs. Since there is this need for TCP it should be met by sufficient supply. This is exactly in line with the duty of FAO.

Mr Chairman, progress in agricultural development has been made in many developing countries. Many of them are now in a position to modestly help their fellow developing countries. Therefore regional cooperation and/or sub-regional cooperation, and subsequently the TCP has become a reality. We may in this context, as an example, point to ASEAN, the Association of South-East Asian Nations. The very important role of backstopping and keeping these cooperative arrangements viable and beneficial is one of the roles to be played by a functioning, strong and effective regional FAO office.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia); Señor Presidente: al intervenir por primera vez en esta Comisión, deseo felicitar a usted y a los señores Vicepresidentes. Para mí, como representante de Colombia, constituye un placer, una gran satisfacción trabajar bajo su dirección, porque usted es un distinguido colega y amigo proveniente de un país de la noble región africana, a la que mi país, Colombia, está vinculado por nexos de solidaridad en el seno del Tercer Mundo.

Hubiéramos deseado tener ocasión de referirnos a muchos de los capítulos del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, pero vamos a acoger su llamada en materia de brevedad y limitaremos nuestras intervenciones esencialmente a dos puntos que fueron las bases programáticas del Director General actual, al asumir sus funciones en 1976, o sea, la descentralización y el Programa de Cooperación Económica Técnica.

Muchos colegas han hablado ya con conocimiento profundo acerca de la tradición que tiene en esta Organización la discusión sobre la descentralización y nosotros queremos recordar que hace ya muchos años los representantes de Colombia estábamos siempre opuestos a la situación en que se encontraba nuestra Organización, que en esa época era la más profundamente centralizada y la menos sensible a los cambios que se operaban en el contexto de la cooperación internacional. Era una época en que los tecnócratas de la FAO, sentados aquí, en Roma, en sus escritorios, pretendían desde esta ciudad hacer recomendaciones para nuestros países que no conocían porque no tenían, como ahora lo tienen, a través de la descentralización de las funciones de FAO, un conocimiento directo realista y pragmático de los países en vías de desarrollo.

Por eso, la delegación de Colombia piensa, Señor Presidente, que el hecho de que para 1984-85 no se asignen recursos para las Oficinas Regionales ni para más oficinas en los países, debe ser un hecho provisional y transitorio que no debe repetirse en los bienios futuros, porque consideramos que esta Comisión debe recomendar que la descentralización continúe y se complete adecuadamente.

Queremos referirnos brevemente a las oficinas de la FAO en los países, en primer lugar. Cuando los representantes de la FAO en nuestros países eran un factor del PMV, era obvio y hasta humano que no estuvieran en condiciones de sentirse directamente vinculados a nuestra Organización porque les pagaba otra Organización, porque eran funcionarios de otra Organización, y naturalmente, la posición que la FAO ocupaba en el seno del país era inferior y no estaba a la altura del respeto y del prestigio de nuestra Organización.

Hoy día, al iniciar el establecimiento de cuerpos de representantes de FAO, nuestros propios funcionarios de nuestra Organización, la FAO ha recuperado su propia identidad y ha logrado mantener una presencia viva -y permanente en nuestros países. Todos sabemos cómo son de importantes para nosotros las oficinas de FAO en nuestros Ministerios: inclusive para quienes trabajamos en Roma en esas oficinas son puntos de contactos valiosos, ofrecen una experiencia técnica a nuestros gobiernos y nos asisten muy válidamente para formular y ejecutar nuestros planes nacionales de desarrollo.

Creemos que las Oficinas de FAO en los países complementan la labor de nuestros gobiernos en relación con las asistencias de la FAO, y además, cumplen también la función de doble vía, puesto que tramitan a la Organización las informaciones sobre la situación de nuestra agricultura y nuestra alimentación. Además, las Oficinas de FAO en los países, como todos sabemos, sólo se establecen a solicitud de nuestros países, e inclusive pagamos parte de los gastos de aplicación o funcionamiento de esas Oficinas. Luego somos nosotros, los representantes de gobiernos, los que estamos en mejores condiciones para poder decir, como lo estamos aquí reiteradamente afirmando, que son útiles esas Oficinas, y que queremos, desde la FAO, seguirlas estableciendo en todos aquellos países que aun faltan y que lo soliciten y requieran.

Muchos de mis colegas ya se han referido a las Oficinas Regionales, y las intervenciones que ellos facilitan de la referencia de nuestras delegaciones en las Oficinas Regionales. Creemos que ha estado ya establecido, a través de los años, en los Organos Rectores, que esas Oficinas Regionales no pueden ajustarse a un modelo standard, sino que tienen que ser adaptadas a las condiciones, a

las posibilidades, a los recursos y a las características de cada región. Y en este caso también, obviamente, somos nosotros, los representantes de gobiernos de aquellos países donde funcionan las Oficinas regionales, los que estamos en posición mucho más adecuada para saber en realidad cuál es la importancia de esas Oficinas. Sería ingenuo, señor Presidente, pretender asignarnos nosotros la pretensión de que si esas Oficinas Regionales no fueran útiles desearíamos tenerlas solo por el lujo de creer que contamos en nuestra Región con una de esas Oficinas.

Nos ha llamado la atención una posición bastante curiosa e incoherente de algunos colegas en el seno de esta Comisión cuando han dicho que si hay Oficinas de países ya no se necesitan las Oficinas Regionales. Si aceptáramos ese concepto sería hacernos cómplices de la desvertebración de la política de centralización, porque las Oficinas de la FAO en los países estarían como ruedas sueltas en el contexto de cada región, sin que haya un punto de apoyo regional a esa Oficina nuestra, que significa el enfoque global, porque conoce las situaciones, las condiciones, las características y los hechos que están ocurriendo en todo el contexto de la región.

Ya uno de nuestros colegas anteriores, creo que el de Tailandia, se refería también a la importancia de las Oficinas Regionales en la cooperación técnica entre los países en vías de desarrollo.

Es obvio que las Oficinas Regionales están en magnífica posición logística para implementar el PCT, porque conocen las instituciones y los técnicos de nuestros países, porque pueden utilizar mejor esas experiencias y estos técnicos, porque conocen las características de nuestros Estados y, por lo tanto, pueden situarlas dentro del conjunto de cada región.

Señor Presidente: es indudable que en las Oficinas Regionales se ha logrado una red de cooperación, particularmente en América Latina y el Caribe, a través de la cual se comparte entre los países las tecnologías apropiadas y además se formulan y ejecutan inclusive programas de cooperación técnica en el marco regional y las Oficinas Regionales han contribuido a movilizar recursos extra-presupuestarios, lo cual es esencialmente importante ahora cuando todos estamos lamentando la reducción de recursos del PNUD.

De manera que desearíamos pedir a nuestros colegas que no nos hagan regresar al pasado, que no insistan en la supresión y ni siquiera en la debilitación de las Oficinas Regionales porque esas siguen contando con el más pleno apoyo de los gobiernos de países en desarrollo, como lo ha demostrado el debate en curso.

Sobre el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, señor Presidente, yo creo que la delegación de Colombia puede sumarse a lo que han dicho otros colegas: que es un Programa innovador. Fue propuesto por nuestro actual Director General. Es ágil, tiene efecto multiplicador, llena muchos vacíos frente a la carencia de recursos del PNUD y sigue vigente el criterio del aumento de la producción alimentaria, lo cual es singularmente importante para los países en desarrollo.

En relación con el Programa para América Latina y el Caribe, nosotros creemos que está muy bien que ese Programa para nuestra región se siga basando en la consideración esencial de aumentar la producción. Desgraciadamente, América Latina y el Caribe, después de haber sido una región exportadora neta de alimentos durante muchos años, es ahora importadora neta de alimentos, no obstante el gran potencial de que disponemos en nuestra región.

A través del curso de este debate, señor Presidente, y con estas observaciones voy a concluir, me ha llamado la atención la obsesión, la forma obcecada como alguno de nuestros colegas ha insistido en la evaluación. Esa forma tan obstinada nos hace pensar que, más que búsqueda de eficiencia, significa desconfianza, o puede ser un pretexto para seguir negando los recursos indispensables que necesita nuestro país. Nosotros estamos de acuerdo en que existan evaluaciones técnicas, evaluaciones científicas, que hay hoy día computadores y aparatos mecánicos para realizar esa evaluación, pero creemos que mucho más importante que toda esa clase de evaluaciones es una evaluación práctica, realista y pragmática, que en el seno de esta Comisión la estamos haciendo nosotros como representantes de gobiernos. Aquí estamos en una gran mayoría los representantes de gobiernos de países en desarrollo, que estamos diciendo que somos felices con nuestras Oficinas Regionales, que consideramos de gran importancia las Oficinas en los países y que queremos que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica se refuerce. Esta es una verdadera evaluación. Esta realmente es una evaluación que tiene significado y que debe causar impacto en el Programa de Labores y Trabajos de nuestra Organización. Creemos que no se puede aceptar el principio propuesto aquí por algunos colegas de una evaluación continua, porque esto sería un desgaste, esto sería desviar los pocos recursos de que disponemos, y que, en cambio, podemos utilizar en actividades que sean de verdadero beneficio para nuestros países. Siempre admiramos la actitud constructiva de los países nórdicos; creemos que ellos han asumido una posición que podríamos compartir en cierta medida en cuanto a la necesidad y la conveniencia de que cada vez se trate de mejorar las comunicaciones entre las Oficinas Regionales y la Sede, entre las Oficinas Regionales y las Oficinas en los países. Todo eso es muy sano y positivo, pero desde luego en un marco muy objetivo.

En cambio, nos preocupa la declaración particularmente de dos países, ya a esto se refirió nuestro colega de China, en relación con una Resolución que ha sido aprobada en el seno de las Naciones Unidas sobre los objetivos a plazo medio.

Nosotros creemos que la FAO tiene sus propios órganos rectores y que de acuerdo con los textos básicos que están vigentes, que hemos contruido todos nosotros, los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas se ocupan de aquellos asuntos que le transfiere el Consejo o el Director General; de manera que no creemos que sea procedente referir a nuestros Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, importantes órganos asesores del Consejo, una cuestión que ha sido debatida en el seno de las Naciones Unidas y que allá debe continuar su curso.

Nosotros tenemos nuestra propia experiencia, nuestros propios conocimientos, nuestro mecanismo que funciona bien y no creemos, entonces, que debe ser utilizado de manera distinta.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): En esta nuestra segunda intervención sobre el tema del Programa y Presupuesto, Panamá desea referirse específicamente al Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Nos hemos percatado, no sin cierta sorpresa, sobre algún cuestionamiento hecho al Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Y decimos "con sorpresa" porque en el capítulo 4 del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto propuesto por el Director General para el próximo bienio, queda, a nuestro juicio, plenamente justificado lo referente a la índole de este Programa, así como lo referente a sus objetivos y su plan de acción.

Además, esta Delegación tiene que manifestar que Programas como el PCT contribuyen muy concretamente a darle agilidad de respuesta a Organizaciones como la FAO. Agilidad en las respuestas que demandan nuestros pueblos y gobiernos, que en no pocos casos no pueden esperar perezosas tramitaciones de asistencia. El punto 2 sobre índole del Programa claramente lo señala y el punto 3 nos habla sobre la relación e hincapié de los PCT en el aumento de la producción de alimentos, así como su relación con las actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, la participación de la mujer en el desarrollo y la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Por otra parte, la evolución del Programa entre 1976 y 1982 nos demuestra que se ha hecho énfasis en la capacitación, urgencia, inversión y servicios de asesoramiento.

Es, pues, un hecho que los PCT son parte integrante de los programas técnicos y económicos de la Organización.

Otro aspecto a destacar en los PCT es que constituyen un medio de promover los esfuerzos de desarrollo de la fase de preinversión a la fase de inversión, así como que se ocupan cada vez más de actividades de fomento a las inversiones agrícolas por parte de los gobiernos u organizaciones de financiación.

También destacamos, por la importancia que le concedemos, la participación de los PCT en los proyectos interpaíses.

Señor Presidente: esta delegación conoce por experiencia nacional los beneficios que se obtienen del PCT e igualmente conoce del beneficio obtenido por un grupo de países, como es el caso por ejemplo de la Unión de Países Exportadores del Banano.

Como se ha dicho en estas reuniones, y tal como brillantemente lo ha hecho el distinguido Embajador de Colombia, cuando hemos tocado el tema de los PCT, que sobre los beneficios y las evaluaciones finales de estos proyectos conviene lógicamente escuchar la palabra de los Estados Miembros beneficiados de este ágil Programa de la FAO.

Es por todo esto que esta delegación se permite proponer que en el informe de esta Comisión quede claramente establecida la posición de los países beneficiados por el Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO.

Tesema NEGASH (Ethiopia): We have endorsed fully the details of the Programme of Work and the level of the Budget in our previous intervention. At this juncture I will only briefly touch on one or two points.

The proposals for a possible need for external evaluation of the TCP project has been made by some delegates. The same delegates and all other delegates, without any exceptions in fact, have lauded the effectiveness and efficacy of the project. First I find it personally contradictory commending the TCP on the one hand and at the same time indicating the need for external evaluation. Secondly, in our opinion the main evaluators should be the beneficiaries, i.e. the developing nations themselves and the implementing agency, that is FAO. If delegates need the opinions of the beneficiaries we have time and again expressed without reservation how effective and important it has been. What FAO feels about it could be further explained by the Secretariat. Of course, I know that documents containing details of how and when these funds have been spent have been distributed. Beyond this,

for further auditors and bodies to knock on the doors of developing countries for evaluation of the TCP's projects would be regarded as no less than an infringement in the affairs of these countries and we are therefore strongly opposed to any such attempts.

The need for the FAO Regional Office and country offices have been echoed by several delegates. In the interests of time I would not wish to go into the details of the valuable role these offices play, since the Representative of Ghana has highlighted extensively what we in Africa feel about these offices. Our worry in fact is some of these offices are too weak to effectively discharge the responsibilities expected of them. The Regional Office for Africa and some of the country offices need to be strengthened. This concern and the need for strengthening the Regional Office for Africa have been mentioned by several African Ministers in their statements in the Plenary. We wish to echo here again this same concern and request FAO to strengthen this Office.

P. OLMO MORALES (Uruguay): En n'uestra segunda intervención deseamos ratificar la posición de nuestra delegación en cuanto al apoyo al Programa y Presupuesto presentado por la Secretaría.

En cuanto a los comentarios particulares, mi delegación atribuye especial atención a los programas que tienen que ver con los aspectos agrícolas y ganaderos, en especial en lo que tienen que ver con los aspectos de sanidad animal. Ha sido uno de los aspectos en los cuales la cooperación recibida por el Uruguay de parte de FAO ha tenido mayores beneficios, y en ese aspecto mi delegación ratifica su apoyo a la propuesta formulada en el documento C 83/3.

Quisiéramos detenernos ahora en el análisis de dos puntos que han merecido la atención de muchos de los colegas que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, en particular en lo que tiene que ver con el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y de los aspectos de descentralización del funcionamiento de nuestra Organización.

En lo que tiene que ver con el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, mi delegación comparte lo expresado por otros colegas en cuanto a la necesidad de reforzamiento de este Programa atendiendo a la insuficiencia de otras fuentes, pero mucho más que eso a los aspectos referidos a la atención de problemas graves y urgentes y con rapidez de respuesta que han afectado en distintos campos a la situación de los países en desarrollo.

Como prueba elocuente del apoyo de nuestro país a este Programa debo mencionar que desde 1981 el Uruguay ha dispuesto no solamente apoyar con contrapartida nacional los Programas de Cooperación Técnica, sino que, además, a nivel de la representación de FAO el Uruguay ha otorgado un fondo permanente de 40 000 dólares que se van reponiendo anualmente a esa cantidad para, justamente, la utilización en programas de Cooperación Técnica. Creemos que ese es un elemento elocuente de nuestro apoyo a este tipo de sistemas de cooperación, y además por los beneficios que se han recibido en su ejecución.

En cuanto a los aspectos de descentralización, mi delegación mira con inquietud este problema, aunque no ha sido un problema nuevo en nuestras deliberaciones. En el anterior período de sesiones estuvo, más que nada, referida la discusión a los aspectos inherentes a las representaciones nacionales. En ese momento, en una discusión muy ardua del Programa y Presupuesto se plantearon por parte de los países desarrollados cuestionamientos con respecto al funcionamiento de las oficinas nacionales. En esta oportunidad el problema parece ubicarse en lo que tiene que ver con las Oficinas Regionales. Nuestra experiencia a través del contacto con la Oficina Regional para América Latina y El Caribe nos lleva a vocalizar la trascendencia de que las Oficinas Regionales mantengan su situación actual, y como lo decía el distinguido colega de Colombia, aún más, se vean fortalecidas. Su funcionamiento no es excluyente del funcionamiento de representaciones a nivel del país, todo lo contrario, han sido el complemento natural y lógico de las mismas. Pensamos que sería un tremendo error el creer que las oficinas nacionales pueden suplir las Oficinas Regionales; creo que sería para el presupuesto de la FAO mucho más gravoso tener la necesidad de que las oficinas nacionales cubran todos los aspectos y todos los temas que puedan ser cubiertos a nivel regional y en una forma complementaria según las necesidades acordes de cada región.

En el ámbito latinoamericano no solamente hemos tenido una experiencia en los últimos años de los programas regionales en distintos campos, en el aspecto sancario, de producción, de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural, de comercialización, etc., sino que desde hace ya más de tres años el funcionamiento del sistema latinoamericano de redes de cooperación técnica le ha dado una nueva dimensión y un funcionamiento mucho más cercano a los países, a la propia Oficina Regional. En ese sentido la experiencia de las distintas redes, sean en el campo de la producción vegetal, en el campo de la producción de biogás, en los aspectos vinculados a la preservación de los recursos naturales, han permitido que a través de las instituciones nacionales de cada país se fortaleciera y efectivamente fuera viable la cooperación horizontal entre países en desarrollo.

En cuanto a los requerimientos planteados de evaluación y análisis, mi delegación comparte lo expresado por otros colegas y en particular por el distinguido colega de Colombia. Consideramos que lo que se ha expresado aquí es una evaluación exacta y fiel de lo que piensan los países con respecto a este tema, y, más aún, yo pienso que a nivel de los distintos países en desarrollo la realización de las Conferencias Regionales constituye cada dos años un elemento esencial en el análisis del funcionamiento de los programas de acción y de las actividades de cada Oficina Regional.

Mi delegación, y creo que las delegaciones de los países en desarrollo compartirán mi criterio, no tienen ningún obstáculo en que aquellos países desarrollados que deseen conocer el funcionamiento de las Oficinas Regionales participen, a nivel de observadores, en las distintas Conferencias Regionales para de esa manera tener un cabal y directo conocimiento de sus actividades.

Por todo lo expuesto, mi delegación considera que sería sumamente perjudicial para el funcionamiento de nuestra Organización, y en particular para las relaciones y la trascendencia que los países subdesarrollados otorgamos a la FAO, cualquier medida que signifique un retraimiento en el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, o una supresión, o una situación de estancamiento a nivel de las Oficinas Regionales de las áreas en desarrollo.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippines have participated in the work of the various subcommittees of the Council, the Regional Conferences and the Council itself, all of which have provided inputs to the elaboration of the Medium-Term Objectives and the Programme of Work and Budget. Now the Philippine delegation would like to make some general and specific comments on the various items of the Programme of Work and Budget.

The Philippine delegation is glad that the Research and Technology Development Division has been bolstered in the 1984-85 Programme of Work and Budget. We believe that the development of technology adapted to the local conditions of the country or the region with adequate delivery systems is a key element in the increased productivity, which in turn can increase income and reduce poverty and malnutrition. As each bureaucrat will testify, each programme is a compartment. Each bureaucrat is concerned with his own field of competence, so much so that sometimes he sees the trees but loses sight of the forest. We believe that the transfer of appropriate technology can serve as a unifying theme within the medium-term objectives of greater productivity and increase of income and access to food. Increases in productivity in Asia area testimony to this. An example of this is the increase in rice production which had been previously developed in the research institute, developed with an adequate delivery system and transferred to the farmer and which has been successfully propagated not only in one country but in all the different countries of the region.

We are glad that the Research and Technology Development Programme, 2.1.4, has been bolstered. We believe that, as recommended by the Committee on Agriculture, this will serve as a conduit between the CGIAR research institutes, the technical divisions of FAO and the different countries and the projects and the programmes.

With regard to programme 2.1.7, Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis, we are glad to see that the statistics-related activities formerly included in sub-programme 2.1.8.5, Agricultural Planning Assistance, have been transferred to sub-programme 2.1.7.4, Statistical Development. The transfer of these important activities which primarily concern development or improvement of food and agricultural statistics at the country level is welcomed and supported by my delegation.

We are also glad to see that the national demonstration centres for training of national statistical personnel on agricultural censuses and survey, including related statistical subjects, will be intensified and expanded. We hope that the preparation of the programme for the 1990 census on agriculture is now in progress, as this should be presented for approval of the 1985 FAO Conference. My delegation would like to know the status of the preparation of this programme.

We support the continuation in 1984-85 of the development of a national programme of socio-economic indicators as follow-up to the WCARRD Programme of Action for assisting developing countries in establishing systems of forecasting, particularly for food, to strengthen their food security.

We likewise support the expanded work in the assessment of crop and population supporting potentials of the land. In fact the Philippines, together with Malaysia and Thailand, has already done preparatory work consolidating climatic data for country level application of this project. In this the collaboration of the Regional Offices is essential.

The Philippines participates in a range of inter-country activities, including, for example, the preparation of the common ASEAN forestry policy, livestock projects and the population and rural development programmes in food security. In this area we believe that the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific plays an indispensable role. We therefore support the work of the Regional Offices and we do not share the views of those who expressed that the work of the Regional Offices should be curtailed, because we think that they do important work in the inter-country, inter-regional projects which my country believes in and participates actively in.

N.V.K. WERAGODA (Sri Lanka): I do not propose to get into a detailed discussion of the documents that are under consideration. I wish to say a few words on three issues which I consider important

First the Technical Cooperation Programme. The Sri Lanka delegation commends the Director-General in initiating a programme for providing FAO assistance to meet the immediate and urgent needs of the Member Nations. I am happy to say that Sri Lanka has greatly benefited from this programme in its catalytic effect in advancing urgent development needs of the country. Therefore the Sri Lanka delegation fully endorses the Technical Cooperation Programme as provided in the budget.

The second point I want to highlight is the proposal to create a separate Research and Technology Centre in FAO. This I think is a long-felt need to cater adequately to the needs of the developing countries. The centre will, I hope, be able to create the necessary research environment in the developing countries that could facilitate the dissemination of new technology to help in increased production. This would also help in providing the necessary infrastructure for adapting research and would help countries to adapt their traditional know-how to be in harmony with modern knowledge.

The third issue is about FAO Regional Offices. Different opinions have been expressed on the merits and demerits of the continued usefulness of the FAO Regional Offices. It has been suggested that in view of the availability of country offices, the role of Regional Offices should be reviewed with the objective of reducing allocations.

The Sri Lanka delegation feels very strongly that a regional FAO office should not only continue but its activities should be strengthened. We see no reason to sacrifice the Regional Offices for lack of funds on the argument that country offices are adequate. On the contrary, the usefulness and importance of Regional Offices is seen all the more now. Country offices, which are basically a small outfit, increasingly look to Regional Offices as a first point of reference for technical backstopping. Being nearer to the countries, technical backstopping by Regional Offices is necessarily more cost effective.

Another factor highlighting the need for a growing role for Regional Offices is the increasing importance of TCDC. The Regional Offices are in a unique position to assess the needs of developing countries and to match them with the capability of other countries in the Region. In the Asia and Pacific Region, the Regional Office has promoted and also services regional special bodies which undertake TCDC activities in sectors such as agricultural credit and food marketing. Again, the Regional Office provides necessary technical backstopping and secretariat support to various regional technical commissions in sectors such as food security, agricultural statistics, animal production, fisheries, forestry, etc.

Another factor highlighting the importance of the Regional Offices is the need for inter-agency cooperation within the UN system at the regional level.

We would like to point out that while food and agriculture has many problems which are country specific, there are also several aspects which are peculiar to individual regions. For instance, the Asia and Pacific Region accounts for nearly more than 90 per cent of paddy production. Hence problems of paddy production, processing and marketing are almost entirely the concern of that region. Therefore, the FAO Regional Office has a vital role in identifying such problems and assisting the countries by pooling successful experiences in dealing with such problems. If there are deficiencies in the working of the Regional Offices, then they should certainly be identified and rectified. But what is necessary, I think, is a closer collaboration in the implementation of a unified FAO programme, therefore, jointly or partly, by the Regional Offices and the country offices.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Comme c'est la première fois que nous prenons la parole au niveau de cette Commission, nous voudrions tout d'abord, M. le Président, vous féliciter de votre élection et pour la manière efficace dont vous menez les débats.

Je voudrais intervenir sur trois points. D'abord sur le Programme de coopération technique, le PCT. Il est intervenu cette année dans notre pays de façon très efficace, dans une zone où 30 000 hectares de cultures étaient menacés de destruction, toute la région septentrionale de mon pays, le Bénin, était menacée de famine sinon de disette. Grâce à l'intervention rapide du PCT, le mois dernier, nous avons pu sauver toutes nos cultures. Je pense que ma délégation, mieux que toute autre, ne peut qu'apprécier l'efficacité du PCT. Nous pensons au contraire qu'il faudra renforcer ses ressources afin qu'il puisse mieux remplir sa fonction.

S'agissant du bureau régional de la FAO, je crois qu'au niveau du Plan d'action de Lagos, soutenu par tous les chefs d'Etat de l'OUA, la nécessité de la coopération régionale a été soulignée sans ambiguïté. Nous pensons que le bureau régional de la FAO joue un rôle bien différent de celui de la représentation au niveau de chaque pays. S'agissant de l'Afrique, le bureau régional a des fonctions spécifiques par le fait de son intervention dans les organisations régionales africaines. De plus, il intervient pour appuyer certaines actions de la représentation FAO sur place.

Enfin le Programme de travail et budget reçoit l'appui sans réserve de ma délégation, et le Ministre du développement rural de mon pays, en intervenant tout à l'heure en plénière, a bien souligné ce point de vue. De plus, nous appuyons sans réserve le programme à moyen terme.

K. TRAORE (Guinée): Tout d'abord, M. le Président, nous vous félicitons pour votre élection à la présidence de notre importante Commission

Notre propos aura d'abord trait à la revue proposée sur les activités des bureaux locaux et des bureaux régionaux de la FAO. Le point de vue de ma délégation est que ces bureaux sont complémentaires. Le fait d'avoir sur place une représentation assure un meilleur suivi des projets par des personnes plus familières avec les problèmes de toute nature que l'on peut rencontrer sur le terrain, et nous pensons que ce genre de suivi est le garant d'une meilleure efficacité des actions sur le terrain.

Les activités des bureaux régionaux devraient, à notre avis, être renforcées pour mieux assister les représentations locales, sur le plan technique en particulier, ce qui est possible par un réaménagement judicieux du personnel entre autres.

Envisagé dans ce sens, le renforcement des bureaux régionaux apportera plus d'efficacité à notre action et le renforcement de ces bureaux s'inscrit en droite ligne, comme vient de le souligner la délégation du Bénin, sur les objectifs du Plan d'action de Lagos, et nous apprécions hautement le concours du bureau régional africain dans le cadre de sa réorganisation régionale notamment en vue de la mise en valeur du fleuve Zambie.

En ce qui concerne le PCT, nous pensons qu'il permet, par des actions ponctuelles, de résoudre des problèmes brûlants, et permet souvent aux gouvernements de conduire des actions efficaces et financièrement intéressantes par les économies que ces projets PCT font réaliser sur certaines opérations. Nous citerons entre autres exemples les résultats enregistrés par les projets PCT pendant les dernières flambées de peste bovine dans de nombreux pays africains.

Pour conclure, ma délégation approuve les orientations du Programme 1984-85 et le niveau du budget afférent.

J.D. SANDY (Sierra Leone): Thank you, Mr Chairman. My Minister at Plenary did indicate salient support of the Programme of Work and Budget presented by the Director-General. He, however, expresses certain reservations about the effectiveness and fulfilment of the work programmes of developing countries. We have noted that there has been a minimal increase of 0,5 percent on the budget. This we understand has been done because of the present economic situation. We also understand that some developed countries would have preferred to see a zero budget increase. Be that as it may we, however, want to crave the indulgence of developed countries that our aspirations are many, and would want them to understand and be sympathetic to the cause of the developing countries. We only trust that the 0.5 percent will only be effective for this biennium, and perhaps in subsequent biennia that percentage would be increased.

With that, Mr Chairman, I have very few points to touch on. First of all, I would want to mention very briefly the view expressed on regional offices by the developed countries. My delegation is strongly opposed to the suggestion of a review with the hope of decreasing the function of the Regional Offices. The duties of the Regional Offices will not be diminished in any way by the creation of country offices. In fact, Mr Chairman, it is our opinion that the work that country offices should, in fact, do is look to Regional Offices as a first point of contact and reference for technical backstop, and you will note with the increased importance of TCDC the Regional Offices are in a unique position to assess the needs of developing countries, and to match that then with the capabilities of other countries within the region. The importance of the Regional Offices, therefore, cannot be overemphasized. With more decentralization of the Regional Economic Commission, the Regional Offices have an increasing role to serve as FAO's focal points of contact and collaboration. It, therefore, seems strange to my delegation that while the West European countries have benefited a great deal from regional cooperation in the areas of agricultural policy and agricultural programmes, some of these countries seem to be advocating a contrary relationship for developing countries. We plead with them not to make suggestions, Mr Chairman, that will weaken or undermine the effectiveness of the FAO Regional Offices.

In that vein, Mr Chairman, I would like to comment very briefly on the suggestions that have been made on TCP. We, the developing countries, which benefit immensely from this Programme, request that whatever review is being made it should not affect the effectiveness of implementation of our programmes. Mr Chairman, you will note that we developing countries very often every year have certain programmes which we want to add to our old programmes, and if we do not have this TCP programme, Mr Chairman, I do not know how our national budgets will be able to effectively carry out its programmes. I would, therefore, plead with those who hold the view that TCP should be reviewed - it should be reviewed not with an adverse effect on developing countries.

Mr Chairman, I wish to support my colleague from Ghana in connection with the suggestion of the Netherlands for the Finance and Programme Committees to examine the General Assembly Resolution 337/234. We do not think that it is necessary, as the Secretariat has already examined this Resolution. The Secretariat has put to the Governing Bodies items of interest to the FAO emanating from the General Assembly.

LI HYOK CHOL (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Thank you, Mr Chairman. As in the first intervention we expressed our full support to the Programme of Work and Budget, at this very juncture I would like to express our position on two specific items.

The first is about the TCP. In helping the developing countries to attack many unforeseen emergency problems the TCP has played an important role in the past, and we are convinced that with increased TCP programme in the next biennium the Member States could benefit a lot from FAO. We consider TCP as one of the most effective and essential parts of the whole programme, and fully support the proposed increase of the Programme. As a member country who benefited in the past few years from TCP we highly appreciate the effectiveness and promptness of the Programme.

The next point is on the Regional Offices. We feel that the Regional Offices have a long way to go with important duties of identifying the actual situation problems of the region, and give most suitable guidance and assistance to solve the problems and promote the cooperation among the countries in the region.

With these few words our delegation would like to associate itself with those who supported the improvement and the strengthening of the Regional Offices. Thank you very much.

WIN HTIN (Burma): Mr Chairman, since this is the first intervention by the Burmese delegation we would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important Commission. We also would like to express our appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for the effort they have made for the preparation of this excellent document before us. Mr Chairman, the Burmese delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

I would like to make a specific remark with regard to the Regional Offices. The Burmese delegation shares similar views with the delegations from other developing countries such as India, Thailand, Ghana etc. therefore the Burmese delegation strongly supports the establishment and continuation of the Regional Offices.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Lors de notre intervention d'avant-hier, nous vous avons assuré que nous soutenions le Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 présent par le Directeur général de la FAO.

Après l'audition des différentes déclarations faites jusqu'ici, nous sommes heureux de constater que la plupart des délégations appuient comme nous ce Programme de travail et budget de 1984-85 présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO.

En principe, nous n'aurions plus rien à ajouter à nos déclarations précédentes, mais ayant malheureusement enregistré quelques fausses notes concernant le rôle des Bureaux régionaux et le Programme de coopération technique de la part de quelques délégations, nous ne pouvions demeurer indifférents. Concernant le PCT, il revêt à nos yeux une importance capitale, car pensons-nous, c'est le seul moyen pour faire en sorte que l'interdépendance entre les différentes nations ne soit pas vécue passivement par tous, mais se transforme en une autodépendance active et dynamique.

Concernant le rôle des bureaux régionaux, nous voulons réaffirmer qu'il ne peut plus être remis en cause, tout au contraire. Nous pensons qu'il faut lui donner les moyens nécessaires pour faire en sorte que ces bureaux deviennent de plus en plus dynamiques et soient plus proches des préoccupations de terrain.

Nous avons jeté un coup d'œil sur l'ensemble des programmes proposés pour le biennium à venir. Nous nous rendons compte que ces programmes sont très nombreux et nécessitent des moyens fort importants. En même temps, nous nous rendons compte qu'il y a une sorte de contraction des participants à l'allocation des fonds nécessaires pour le financement des programmes.

Profitant de cette occasion, nous voudrions une fois de plus lancer un appel vibrant à tous les donateurs potentiels pour que toutes les ressources soient mises en oeuvre, que personne ne puisse ménager un effort pour appuyer davantage tous les programmes, et que les organes et les institutions qui oeuvrent pour lutter contre la faim et la misère puissent bénéficier de plus en plus des fonds nécessaires pour réaliser les programmes.

S. SCHUMM (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Mr Chairman, first of all I would like to thank Mr Shah very much for the fact that he has so readily and competently answered our questions in connection with the budget. We are pleased to take up the suggestion that we should still clarify a few technical details on a bilateral basis also in order to save time.

My delegation in its General Statement before this Commission made relatively detailed comments on the Programme of Work and Budget. In so doing my delegation expressed the view that the sharpening of priorities undertaken by the Director-General is considered right. In this connection I would like to add that in the opinion of the German delegation the Work Programme covers all the essential tasks and responsibilities of the FAO

It is an advantage to take the floor towards the end of a discussion because you have a clear overview of the various views which have been expressed by previous speakers. We noted with satisfaction from the discussions that in principle we agree with the other member countries in our assessment. We have already mentioned in detail the areas whose suggested strengthening of activities we particularly welcome. These areas also include the expansion of the follow-up measures of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as provided for in Programme 2.1.5. in particular the strengthening of the role of women in the rural social and economic fields. Another area which finds our full support is the fact that on a regional level one of the focal points of the activities of the Organization will continue to be Africa

The attitude held by my delegation on the TCP is shared by a number of other delegations who have already spoken and that is why I can refrain from referring to a number of detailed points in this connection. However, since in this connection UNDP and its important role as a central source of financing has been mentioned by several speakers, I would like to make the following brief comments:

The Federal Republic of Germany will increase next year contrary to the general trend its national contribution to the UNDP. This is proof of a policy consistent in itself. The field programmes of FAO will benefit from it indirectly. Since perhaps not all the delegates present here in Commission II were able to follow the discussions in Plenary I would like to briefly quote from the statement made by my Minister. Among other things he stated the following, and I quote: "We welcome the fact that it has been possible, despite a low real budget growth, to expand the Technical Programmes to promote agricultural production and rural development. This sharpening of priorities is, in my Government's view, a step in the right direction. We would like to encourage the Director-General in his intention to work towards an even greater efficiency in the work of the Organization"

To sum up let me state - questions and criticism on individual areas of the Programme of Work and Budget do not change the basic assessment - that the Director-General has submitted a balanced proposal which, both in its technical aspects and in its financial impact, takes into account the interests of all the Member States of the Organization.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan) : In our earlier intervention we gave our general comments on the Programme of Work and Budget and we expressed our strong support for the proposals contained in it. At this point I would merely like to comment on one or two specific issues. First, on research we highly endorse the emphasis on research in this Programme of Work and Budget and we strongly feel that what is required is the strengthening of research activities of FAO and particularly the linkages between FAO and national research systems. In this context we are happy to read in the Programme of Work and Budget that the Director-General proposes closer cooperation between national and regional research institutions. We feel this is very important, if the research institutions of developing countries are to be strengthened with the help of technical assistance from FAO.

We therefore strongly support the establishment of the new Research Division by merging the four existing units of the Research Development Centre.

The second issue on which we want to speak is TCP. We have spoken on this in our general statement. We feel the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO is a unique source of technical assistance to developing countries and that the importance and impact of this programme have been almost universally recognized. There is very strong support to this Programme from all developing countries and, as is evident from the reports of the Regional Conferences, practically all Regional Conferences not only supported and endorsed the TCP but desired and asked for additional resources in this Programme. Although the programme change is the same as anticipated by the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, yet we still feel a little concerned about the fact that the total percentage of the TCP in the Programme is lower than the 13.5 percent as envisaged in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We are firmly convinced that TCP actually does respond very efficiently to the needs of developing countries because of its short intervention and because it responds to the specific needs of the developing countries. It also elicits a positive response from the developing countries themselves for that reason and perhaps the best judges of such programmes are the recipient countries.

Although I may be anticipating a little here, if we look at the Review of Field Programmes, on page 26 there is paragraph 2.1.0 which very particularly describes the impact of TCP and it says that TCP projects continue to be accorded generally higher performance rating as compared to Trust Funds and UNDP-supported projects. At the end of the paragraph it says that "TCP projects' usually receive more immediate attention by recipient governments" and I thought that perhaps is the host evaluation of a certain project or programme: that recipient countries respond immediately to them and give counterpart funds and administrative support for implementation and execution of these projects. And since TCP projects also respond to emergency needs of developing countries we feel that TCP funds should continue to be given high priority.

We also feel that the Director-General in his introductory statement was right, at page 11 of this document, in mentioning that the Director-General required no further convincing of the needs of developing Member Nations for more assistance under the TCP because we believe that the Director-General has responded to the needs of the developing countries in this particular area, particularly with reference to all the developing countries expressed wishes which they articulated in various regional conferences and in various fora of FAO.

We are therefore of the opinion that perhaps the best evaluation done so far of this Programme is the response of the developing countries, and perhaps the fact that there is a constant demand for TCP resources is in itself a proof of the efficacy of the Programme.

Now some brief remarks on Regional Offices. The thought has been expressed during the morning session that perhaps because of the field representative offices, there is no need for the Regional Offices. We beg to differ because we feel that the role and functions of the Regional Offices are very clearly defined and are absolutely different from those of the Field Representative offices. I was looking at some of these documents and they do have specific functions in member countries in relation to regional bodies, regional meetings and conferences. They again have specific functions in relation to inter-country projects and programmes; and then, of course, they have specific functions in relation to the Headquarters. I will not go through all these functions but some of them, we find, are of vital importance to developing countries, particularly the technical back-stopping and the promotion of TCDC.

Technical cooperation among developing countries by its very nature has to be promoted more at the level of regions than at the global level because only at that level can you have effective cooperation, and that can be done most effectively on a regional basis. In this context we strongly endorse the statement made earlier this afternoon by the delegate of Sri Lanka.

Similarly, the Regional Offices not only conduct the regional conferences which give a huge amount of feed back and input into the Programmes of Work and Budget; they also have acted as the focal point, as follow-up to the session. We therefore feel not only that the Regional Offices are doing very effective work; we are personally of the opinion that they should be strengthened and we particularly endorse what was said by so many delegates from Africa : that the Regional Office of Africa should be further strengthened so that its facilities can really be effective in that region. We find that almost invariably all members have agreed, for example, that Africa needs high attention. If that is so, we find it a little self-defeating to say that the mechanism to do so has to be weakened. We feel that the Regional Office in Africa is the correct vehicle for concentrating activities in Africa and that therefore that Office should be strengthened. Similarly, however, others should be made more effective and perhaps, over a period of time, there should be more decentralization in this direction.

As far as expenditure on Regional Offices is concerned, we feel that it is very effective expenditure; and perhaps I may be allowed to ask a question from the Secretariat. I was under the impression that as far as the brick and mortar part of the Regional Offices is concerned, that is the responsibility of the Host Government of the country where the Regional Office is located and that the responsibility does not come from the FAO Regular Programme of Work and Budget itself. Of course, there would be expenditure on the administrative set up and so on but I thought the physical infrastructure had to be provided by the Host Government. If that is correct, then I think it would not be very tenable to say that there is expenditure on Regional Offices which is not really going to the field activities of FAO. We keep speaking of decentralization, not only in FAO but of activities at the regional and sub-regional level both in the agricultural sector and in other sectors. And if we do so then we need the administrative set up to undertake these activities.

It is therefore very important to have these Regional Offices and to strengthen them. Particularly in Asia and the Pacific region we have been strongly appreciating the activities of FAO in the Regional Office and setting up of Commissions on Food Security and others which have to be serviced by the Regional Offices. We shall therefore conclude by saying that we find them very effective, very useful and would wish them to be strengthened. We would also like to see more decentralization in this direction.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia) : My delegation was very tempted to go deeply into most programmes and sub-programmes. but in view of the need for brevity I shall skip over most of the things I had intended to stress.

Natural resources : we have traditionally supported programme 2.1.1. and we specially value its stress on national institutions and the TCDC approach in general. We warmly welcome the steps taken recently to increase internal coordination through an inter-departmental working group on planning which incorporates all FAO land activities including forestry. We also attach very great importance and give our full support to the orientation farming system and to correct some past imbalances.

Furthermore, we attach importance to framework, especially as it has now spread through a number of developing countries' institutions, to our knowledge more than thirty. Concerning water development, within that orientation development is fully justified.

Crops : we welcome this very much. The Director-General was able to propose additional strengthening of the programme with reference to roots and tubers. While on crops, I would just touch on seeds, which represent one of the core activities of FAO within the programme. This was reviewed in depth some two years ago and we wish to express our full satisfaction with its overall thrust.

With regard to plant protection, we welcome very much the global strategy and hope it will lead to better coordinated FAO work in this field, on the code of conduct, on distribution and use of pesticides we wish FAO the very best and support this step.

Livestock : briefly we wish to express our traditional view that the whole programme is very well structured. In particular we support its orientation and core structure, i.e. disease control including African and animal trypanosomiasis, rinderpest, African swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, various tick diseases and so forth. We very much welcome FAO's very close cooperation with various national and international institutions in this regard and also the very heavy reliance of the whole programme on national institutions from developing countries.

On research I have already spoken and we fully agree. It has been my delegation's traditional position that FAO should at least change its structure to better effect overall support. Now we are very happy that the Director-General also proposed some adjustment in the Organization's scheme, with the same aim. On rural development where a substantial part of training is located, we only want to stress that FAO should always be very much aware of its limited resources and needs to make a maximum possible impact. Having said this, I obviously refer to the need for the closest possible cooperation with national systems. We feel it is the only way to maximize FAO's impact.

With regard to the sub-programme related to women in agricultural production, we wish to indicate our full support and to echo the thought presented a few minutes ago in Plenary : that we have been very much satisfied with the cooperation already established with FAO and look forward to strengthening our cooperation with special reference to the follow-up action to the seminar held in Ljubljana. In addition, only two more points, very briefly.

We welcome the joint FAO/WHO work on the definition of energy protein requirements and the priority attached to the Fifth World Survey. On statistics : I can hardly overstate the importance of statistics. I have been disturbed by the views expressed in this regard. We feel that the statistical work of FAO really justifies even further relative strengthening. I am referring first of all to the national statistical systems which are the basis, and also in particular to the world census.

As for food and agriculture policies, I shall make a brief reference just to indicate our support for the orientation and study of agricultural prices and incentive policies. On fisheries, I cannot be specific but this has traditionally had the full support of the Yugoslav delegation. We have always felt it was very well structured and able to adjust to new realities. The Economic Zone Programme is full witness to that. Forestry : we feel that the whole programme has been streamlined in recent years and is now well oriented.

Briefly, on TCP : it is difficult to say anything new here but I hope that the traditional position of my delegation is quite well known. We do not regard TCP merely as a technical assistance programme. For us TCP is first of all a vitally needed flexibility margin to organizations such as FAO. In that regard, we enthusiastically continue to support the TCP. We do not believe external evaluation in general in this particular complex is valuable but in our understanding, in a number of interventions external evaluations have been stressed. Since the matter was discussed four years ago by the Conference and the Conference decided on evaluation structures as methods in the House, we still remain in the same position.

Now, Regional Offices : I am afraid there is still some misunderstanding in regard to the role and function of Regional Offices. We cannot see any link between regional and country offices because of the structures and concepts; the Regional Offices are totally different from FAO representation in countries.

I would only recall the very simple fact that in recent years the United Nations General Assembly has adopted a number of resolutions calling on the UN Systems to provide more regional support. In that light it really sounds quite strange, some idea that the Regional Offices of FAO should be downrated in the future.

B. PAREDES RANGEL (México) : El propósito de esta intervención es reiterar algunos de los puntos específicos que planteó la delegación de México en su intervención antecedente.

Subrayamos entonces sólo los aspectos que consideramos de mayor importancia en función del tenor de los comentarios de esta sesión.

A juicio de la Delegación de México los programas de Cooperación Técnica han sido instrumentos útiles y funcionales para propiciar el desarrollo, que es el propósito prioritario de la FAO. En este sentido la agilidad y la flexibilidad de los PCT los constituyen como instrumentos que propician la resolución de problemas en el corto plazo y que enriquecen las expectativas de atención fundamental-mente a los países en vías de desarrollo.

Por otra parte, la forma de operación de los PCT, la agilidad que les permite concurrir con mayor oportunidad a planteamientos de los países solicitantes y su funcionalidad para cubrir aspectos prioritarios nos llevan a destacar su importancia y el interés de la delegación de México porque se considere el planteamiento de incrementarlos, en su caso.

Además, entendiendo la conceptualización de la FAO en torno al desarrollo regional y la cooperación regional e interregional, esto debe reflejarse en una lógica de operación que lleve a cabo dicha conceptualización.

En ese sentido, la importancia de las Oficinas Regionales ha sido ya subrayada por diversas delegaciones. Es evidente que la naturaleza y alcance de sus funciones se diferencia de la naturaleza y alcance de las Oficinas de carácter nacional y la estructura de la FAO así tiene una lógica de descentralización que especialmente a los países en vías de desarrollo les interesa profundizar, dado que considerando a las Oficinas Regionales como un instrumento más para propiciar la cooperación regional y para preparar la prospectiva de proyectos regionales de desarrollo, este instrumento debe ser fortalecido.

Los aspectos de evaluación de los proyectos que ha establecido FAO cubren actualmente una serie de elementos que los hace válidos y suficientes. Creemos que la evaluación es un instrumento útil, pero no debe ser un instrumento que se utilice para justificar mecanismos rígidos que en lugar de estimular la adecuada operación de los proyectos los carguen de burocracia o de controles innecesarios.

Pensamos que la evaluación es simplemente un soporte más, y cuando el planteamiento del desarrollo está bien implementado de inicio es una de las líneas adicionales que pueden enriquecer su posibilidad de ejercicio correcto.

Estos comentarios son únicamente precisiones que la delegación de México considera útil insistir y subrayar.

M.E. RONDANZA DE FILIPPO (Argentina): Luego de escuchar las interesantes observaciones que se han efectuado al tratar el tema del Presupuesto, la delegación Argentina desea especialmente sumarse a algunos representantes que han señalado el porcentaje relativamente tan inferior de fondos que se asignan a América Latina.

Evidentemente es motivo de cierta preocupación que dicha región, con los serios problemas de pobreza y desnutrición que afronta, reciba, según las estimaciones del presupuesto 1984-85, solamente el 9,3 por ciento del total de los fondos.

Esta situación se viene reiterando en los últimos bienios con disminuciones progresivas que van del 13 por ciento en el período 1978-79 al 9,3 por ciento en el período actual.

Nuestra intención al manifestar esta inquietud es a efectos de que la misma sea tenida en cuenta en futuras asignaciones de recursos, aun cuando somos plenamente conscientes de las situaciones coyunturales de emergencia que puedan afectar a otras áreas.

En otro orden de ideas la delegación de mi país desea destacar su especial apoyo a dos programas del Proyecto de Presupuesto: el primero es el 2.1.4 Fomento de la Investigación y la Tecnología dentro del programa principal de agricultura. Consideramos especialmente importantes los aspectos referidos a la conservación de suelos.

El segundo es el programa dedicado a Pesca, y dentro de él creemos adecuado que se priorice en materia de planificación pesquera en particular.

D. OLET (Uganda): The Ugandan delegation wishes to make brief remarks on specific chapters, namely chapters 2 and 4, both of which are extremely tailored for the benefit of developing countries, Uganda being one of them.

In chapter 2 the Ugandan delegation endorses the activities of the livestock programme and the corresponding element of the financial resources for 1984-85. We are particularly happy to note the increase on livestock and crops which is a common feature prevailing in Uganda and many other developing countries. This approach often results in multiplying effects. As regards Forestry, my delegation notes with appreciation the siting of two problems, namely growing fuelwood scarcity and the rapid rate of destruction and degradation of forests. In order to mitigate this phenomena we would require more assistance from FAO. We hope that subsequent Programmes of Work and Budget will attempt to accord more emphasis to this sector, like others.

In chapter 4 I can only summarize by saying that the level of the budget for TCP as presented in the Programme of Work and Budget is reasonably high enough to accommodate the pressing requirements of the Third World countries.

As far as the Regional Offices are concerned, we support their continuation because they have facilitated the smooth running of FAO.

A.R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation ne veut pas manquer l'occasion qui lui est donnée ce soir d'appuyer le Programme de travail et budget présentés par le Directeur général de la FAO; elle regrette toutefois que la croissance de ce budget ne soit que de 0,5 pour cent. Cette stagnation risque de signifier un recul si elle devait persister. Néanmoins, nous devons nous féliciter des économies qui ont été réalisées surtout sur les dépenses administratives, au profit d'un renforcement des activités de terrain et notamment du PCT. Au Cap-Vert, nous avons toujours bénéficié de ce programme et nous estimons qu'il a joué un rôle très important et que le fonds de ce PCT devrait être augmenté. Nous estimons que le PCT est extrêmement utile pour tous les pays du tiers monde et sommes étonnés de voir combien de pays développés ont suggéré qu'une évaluation de ce PCT soit entreprise alors que les délégations du tiers monde unanimes soutiennent sans réserve ce Programme.

Il faut dire qu'il y a deux approches différentes de ce problème et que les pays du tiers monde subissent quotidiennement les effets de la faim, de la sécheresse, du sous-développement. Ils savent donc ce que c'est.

Qu'il me soit aussi permis de dire quelques mots sur l'agriculture régionale. Dans ce domaine, il ne faut pas oublier l'action de l'OUA et du Plan de Lagos qui définissent les grandes priorités.

Quant aux actions sur le plan régional, M. Michel Rocard, Ministre français de l'agriculture, dans son discours de mardi devant la séance plénière a lui-même indiqué que son pays appuie toutes les activités sous-régionales. Il a même évoqué l'action de la CEE à l'appui de son intervention.

Quelle suite aurait la proposition formulée par certains pays développés tendant à l'évaluation des activités des bureaux régionaux? Je rappelle que M. Kreisky a brillamment plaidé la cause du dialogue Nord-Sud. Or, quelle n'est point notre déception de constater que certains pays du Nord veulent remettre en cause certains acquis parmi les plus profitables.

e veux dire que la coopération régionale, pour ne pas parler de la coopération Sud-Sud, a un rôle fondamental à jouer. Les bureaux régionaux constituent un bon appui aux Etats Membres, et sont créés pour aider les Etats Membres qui le désirent, pour stimuler une coopération régionale, e; faire en sorte de développer la solidarité entre les pays et promouvoir un échange d'expériences.

CL. QUANCE (Director, Statistics Division): There were several comments and questions relating to statistics and particular statements of general support. These comments and questions have mainly related to four points; the Fifth World Food Survey, the 1990 World Census of Agriculture, the use of socio-economic indicators for managing agrarian reform and rural development and a combined concern for making FAO's statistics as complementary as possible for national statistical efforts

and needs for policy analysis and concern, and the need for obtaining the balance between more data collection and such things as price policy analysis and other means of motivating rural people and resources. All of these points relate to kind of a inflection point in the statistical work of FAO. A culmination of countries' statistical capabilities, the shortage of UNDP and bilateral funding for statistical programmes, advances in other areas of statistical development, including computers and information technology, all call for significant changes in the areas of concern you have indicated.

First, with respect to the Fifth World Food Survey, and I believe here the delegate of Norway raised this point; we can extract this following statement from a Report of the Forty-fifth session of the Programme Committee which directly answers his question "the Programme Committee noted the survey would be completed in 1984 and published in 1985, that it would not consist of a simple updating of the Fourth World Food Survey but it would contain a more thorough analysis of the causes and consequences of undernutrition by utilizing most recent advances and knowledge of nutrient requirements, more information on food consumption and nutritional status and socio-economic determinants of undernutrition".

With respect to the 1990 World Census of Agricultural Programme, once each ten years FAO revises its Agricultural Census Programme manual. It assists Member Nations in hosting national demonstration centres for training country personnel in the planning and conducting of an agricultural census and it encourages country efforts for conducting an agricultural census, including the recruiting of field experts for UNDP and other census projects.

The 1980 World Census of Agriculture Programme refers to national agricultural censuses taken during the period 1976 to 1985, and the 1990 programme will cover the ten-year period from 1986 to 1995. As of this year 74 countries have conducted an agricultural census under the 1980 programme and by 1985 we expect an additional 15 censuses to provide a total of 89 countries conducting a census under this ten-year programme. This compares with 81 countries taking an agricultural census during 1966 to 1975 under what we called the 1970 World Census of Agriculture Programme. So there has been a slight increase in the number of countries taking agricultural censuses from one ten-year programme to the next. Thus this Programme continues to be the cornerstone of statistical development in food and agriculture. But the situation is changing. Many countries, including many developing countries, have developed a statistical capability to a very high level and are capable, with very limited FAO assistance, of planning and conducting any kind of census that they judge their country needs. Here FAO efforts are concentrated mainly on collecting methodology and data from these countries to assess the needs of the community and to encourage such countries to share their experiences through hosting national demonstration centres with other countries. But many other countries have not reached such a high threshold of self-sufficiency and statistical capability, due both to such countries tending to regard a census effort as a one-shot opportunity to collect basic statistics on food and agriculture and our own secretariat tendency to add more and more detail to each subsequent revision of the World Census of Agriculture Programme. We have experienced a significant number of agricultural censuses that fall far short of the mark and there are increasing demands for more current statistics of such things as prices, production, food consumption, access to rural services, resources, income and other socio-economic indicators on agrarian reform and rural development, not always best suited to be collected under an agricultural census, which is usually conducted every ten years.

Further, we do not seem to have obtained the right integration of policy concerns, statistical programmes, economic analysis and monitoring evaluation. Thus our plans are for the new World Census of Agriculture Programme to be developed in the context of an information system for decision making in food and agriculture. Further, the census programme will encourage a flexible approach under which a country will evaluate its statistical needs for policy purposes and then design a multi-year programme, including the agricultural censuses and annual surveys to complement each in providing basic data. We would also encourage countries to devise commodity supply utilization accounts, food balance sheets and economic accounts for agriculture, a system of price and production index numbers and a matrix of socio-economic indicators, especially for disadvantaged socio-economic groups of population, such as women and the landless. The current pause in the funding of large-scale statistical projects and the transition from the 1980 to the 1990 World Census of Agriculture Programme is giving FAO an excellent opportunity to revise and update the statistical development manuals and training materials and technical assistance guidelines. By 1985, when the 1990 World Census of Agriculture Programme is presented to this Conference, countries should be in a position to better review and evaluate the statistical needs of food and agriculture to develop or update a long-term development plan, and hopefully the UNDP and other funding organizations will be in a position to respond favourably to countries' needs in this area of statistical development, processing and analysis. Statistical development needs are certainly in need of more and better information.

J.P. BHATTACHARJEE (Director, Policy Analysis Division): A question has been asked about coordination of agricultural policy advice and planning assistance activities of FAO. My reply addresses directly to this question. FAO missions in the field of agricultural and rural development, as you will all understand, are carried out at the specific request of member governments. Food and agriculture strategy review missions and WCARRD review missions generally encompass more than one area of discipline and are therefore of a multi-disciplinary nature. There are of course missions which deal with a more narrowly defined area of activity, but these are missions undertaken at the specific request of a government and in particular some of these missions deal with advice and project monitoring and evaluation or nutrition intervention projects and fields like that.

You will appreciate that because of the diversity of the activities thus carried out the timing and nature of the missions depend on the request of the government and are influenced, since most of these missions are carried out with extra-budgetary funds, by the nature and conditions related to the different funding sources. Harmonization of different kinds of missions is done through a continuing process of consultation and in-house coordination in FAO. We have inter-divisional and inter-departmental arrangements for this purpose. Cooperation amongst the various units is ensured by the participation of experts in different disciplines in advisory missions and their participation in other missions as well, depending on the nature of the missions. For example, WCARRD follow-up missions seek to include experts who are involved in activities in such areas as policy and strategy formulation, planning, nutrition, women's participation in development and similar areas. Food and agricultural strategy missions receive inputs from experts in rural institutions, nutrition and other disciplines. It is in such ways that we try to ensure that the various segments of FAO expertise are appropriately incorporated in the policy advice that the missions provide to member governments on request. We keep under constant review the ways in which we can improve such coordination at the country level, and in this we naturally receive assistance from the FAO country representatives.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): As we come to the conclusion of this debate on the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85, let me first reiterate on his behalf his regret that he could not be present during this important discussion in this Commission. However, I would like to assure you that he has wanted to follow very closely and with great interest your deliberations, and Mr West and I have kept him fully informed.

On behalf of the Director-General I would like to express thanks, his sincere appreciation for the warm support accorded by all delegations which took the floor on this item, and the ready consensus on the form, the content and the financial implications of his proposals.

There are very few points to which I need to address myself now in the final reply. There were two subjects which formed the basis for considerable discussion, almost during the entire day, and those were the subjects of the Technical Cooperation Programme and the role and the importance of regional offices. On both subjects delegations have expressed themselves fully and clearly and on both subjects there is very little for the Secretariat to say. In this sense it has been a true debate of the Conference, where Member Nations themselves as sovereign Member Nations have exchanged views and perceptions on their needs and requirements.

There was only one specific question about the Regional Offices. The delegate of Pakistan enquired from the Secretariat what were the facilities provided to Regional Offices by the host governments. The host governments provide, of course, the site, the building, the local facilities for the Regional Office, and also certain local staff. He was quite correct in making this assumption. The debate shows clearly the understanding of the Member Nations of the role and importance of the Regional Offices and their support for the Director-General's proposals.

On the Technical Cooperation Programme the debate has again received its own answers on the suggestions made as regards, for example, evaluation. May I just add one comment? There are some 2 000 projects under the Technical Cooperation Programme which will have been approved by the end of the year. The average size of the TCP project is now about \$60 000 and the average duration is about 6 months. I think the Conference is fully able to draw its own conclusions on whether and in what way any evaluation of individual projects could be cost effective.

Mr Chairman, I will not presume any further on your time and patience. Thank you again, sir, very deeply on behalf of the Director-General.

CHAIRMAN: We have now come to the end of our discussion on this topic, Item 11 of the Conference Agenda. Very briefly, our discussions were cut into two portions. The first part was general statements on the Programme of Work and Budget, and then the detailed discussions on the different chapters. The delegations who spoke commented on the improvements that have been made in the format of the presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget, even though other delegations did indicate that there was room for more improvement. There was full agreement on strategies and priorities proposed by the Director-General. In particular there was full support for research and technology development; the focus on Africa; farming systems development; the

enlarged concept of world food security, and agricultural extension and rural institutions, and for implementation of these the policy of decentralization at the country level, and at the regional level, were widely supported.

The Technical Cooperation Programme was also at the level of general discussions widely supported. There was expression of satisfaction with the budget, despite the symbolic increase in the real programme growth. The technical and economic programmes would receive an increase of 3.6 percent. The Commission commended the Director-General's continued effort to enhance efficiency and economy. However, many members stressed that the administrative and support services were essential to the Organization's capacity to deliver technical assistance, and thus could not continue to be cut indefinitely.

There was a request for clarification by several delegations regarding the method of calculation of cost increases, and the Commission was generally satisfied that these were based on realistic and prudent assumptions regarding developments in the coming biennium, and had been carefully reviewed and endorsed by the Finance Committees and the Council.

At the level of general discussions the Commission expressed full support for the Director-General's proposals, which were considered realistic and moderate in meeting the needs of Member Nations, while at the same time respecting the constraints on them. Nevertheless, many members hoped that this would not be considered a commitment and a precedent for zero growth in the future, and they would have preferred greater additional resources.

In conclusion, and in general terms, the Commission did endorse the Programme of Work and Budget.

In the final part of our discussions, the discussions received attention chapter by chapter. On Chapter 1 there was general support for the audit and inspection activities.

On Chapter 2 there was general support, and in particular as it was stated in the general discussions, on farming systems, including work on animal traction; water management and conservation; seeds, genetic resources and plant breeding; livestock development, with emphasis on animal diseases such as trypanosomiasis and rinderpest, and small family dairy development. National agricultural research programmes were stressed, including support for the new division, although some delegations did indicate that they regretted the fact that after the consolidation of research units in the Organization, the implication was increases in staff, whereas they would have expected a reduction in staff.

The WCARRD programme was supported, especially women as producers, and in the support of their activities marketing was heavily underlined.

Training at grassroots level was also stressed, and the importance of nutrition programmes. Agricultural information and policy development work at country level was emphasized, but especially on food production.

There was support for FAO's statistical work, particularly in assisting developing countries. In fisheries, particularly small-scale fisheries, aquaculture, inland fisheries, and fisheries information were stressed and there was strong support for the forthcoming World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

There were expressions of the wish for greater emphasis on forestry, in particular fuel wood and shifting cultivation and there was stress on the fight against desertification, the need for reafforestation, and work on environment, including coordination with institutions like the United Nations Environment Programme. There was, however, some dissatisfaction with the level of resources allocated to the forestry programme, and the hope was expressed that in future biennia this programme would receive greater attention.

On Chapter 3 there was support for the decentralization programme, both at the country and at the regional level although, as discussions began on the Regional Offices I looked at the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom, who was among the first who started registering some reservations or indications of the need to evaluate these Offices, and as one delegate stressed that the evaluation was intended to make cuts in the allocation of resources, he shook his head, and I thought this meant that he had been misinterpreted, and I hope this is the case. He is still shaking his head, agreeing with me. There was a very lengthy debate, and I think many delegations expressed themselves very clearly on this matter, and what it indicated was that if anyone were ever to come up to suggest that 'Regional Offices should be closed down then heaven would fall down on us.

It was also stressed that the roles of the Regional Offices, and those of the country offices could not be regarded as identical, therefore the two were not mutually exclusive. The need remained for the Regional Offices to be strengthened, having a very clear indication of their impact and effectiveness.

There were expressions of concern about the decline in the UNDP resources, and this brought considerable discussions of the Technical Cooperation Programme, Chapter 4. Again there seems to be a possibility of some misinterpretation. On the whole all delegations almost without exception did express their support and their understanding of the need for the TCP. However, some delegations did say that they wished it would not grow beyond the point to which it had grown. At the same time most stressed that the growth was satisfactory. In essence there was no departure in terms of the need for the programme, and in terms of how it should be utilized. However, some delegations felt that it was necessary to monitor the programme very carefully, to make sure it would continue to be properly utilized.

I should now finally say that I would like to express my congratulations and my thanks to all delegations that have participated in this Commission. I should specifically indicate that even though there were many very small delegations, which fact would not permit some people to participate in this Commission while Plenary was going and, of course, we know that they have to pay attention to their Ministers while they are here. Still we were able to get 85 delegations to intervene on this Commission in this discussion, and we have been able to receive 129 interventions, all of which were in support of the Programme of Work and Budget, and despite the two interruptions of our proceedings yesterday and today, I am happy to note that we have been able to finish only 25 minutes later than the scheduled time, and I think this is a record performance. For that I thank all the delegations very warmly, and I am sure that you would like me to convey through Mr Shah to the Director-General our gratitude that he had been able to present a very clear Programme to us, which we were able to accept and endorse and, therefore, that we would be getting a report of the Drafting Committee, which would indicate that we recommend that Conference should adopt this Programme of Work and Budget as presented.

On that note I should indicate that the Drafting Committee will meet on Saturday morning at 9.30 hours. There being no other business I finally want to thank you, and we will start promptly at 9.30 hours tomorrow, to consider the other blue documents, namely the Review of the Field Programmes and Review of the Regular Programme. We have the Regular Programme first and then the Field Programme afterwards.

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 83/II/PV/7

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE
SEPTIMA REUNION

(11 November 1983)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at: 10.15 hours,

J.Schwarz, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 10 h 15, sous la présidence de

J.Schwarz, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la séptima reunión a las 10.15 horas, bajo la presidencia de

J.Schwarz, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

12. Review of the Regular programme 1982-83

12. Examen du programme ordinaire 1982-83

12. Examen del programa Ordinario 1982-83

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): This is the third review of the Regular Programme to be presented to the Conference, and as in the past this document has been reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees at their autumn session this year and by the Council at its Eighty-third session. The outline of the review, was presented to the Programme Committee at its Forty-third session in September 1982, and the Comments of the Programme Committee endorsing our proposals for part of its report to the Council.

In preparing the document we have been guided by the comments and suggestions made by the Conference itself at its Twenty-first session when it examined the review of the Regular Programme for the biennium 1980-81. As a result the Commission will find that a number of modifications, and what we hope will be considered improvements, have been made to the document.

Firstly the Performance Report which constitutes Part One of the document covering the pages 1-119 - I refer to the English text, this part has been made more analytical with a focus on major achievements as well as the major constraints, and drawing attention to the issues which need to be considered in the future. This has involved eliminating or cutting, curtailing certain sections such as those on objectives and resources, but this has been done precisely because it was requested by the Conference. At its last session the Conference found that information of this nature was largely repetitive of that contained in the document on the Programme of Work and Budget, and in fact delegations still find that it is useful when considering Part One of this document to refer, if they find it so necessary, to the relevant programmes in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Part Two of the document, has, on the other hand, been strengthened and expanded, and the time-frame has also been extended to include activities over the past five to seven years to permit a better identification of the results. Some of the reviews in this Part Two of the document are of programme elements and this is in response again to the Conference's own request for more information on impact than it was possible to see from any assessment of broad programme activities. It will be seen thus, that in Part Two of the document for each of the major programmes for Agriculture, Economic and Social Policy, Forestry and Fisheries, you have two specific sub-programmes with activities evaluated at that level and below.

Then finally we have Part Three of the document which cuts across activities across programme lines. This type of study was initially requested by the Programme Committee in its discussion of the first review and we have three chapters this time. The first in this part, Chapter Ten, is a chapter on selected activities of the Regional Offices. It covers five regions' specific programmes in which the Regional Offices played a particularly important role. In Africa we have considered the programme for the control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Developments. In Asia and the Pacific we have considered small farmer development. In Latin America and the Caribbean - African swine fever, in the Near East the improvement of water management, and in Europe the cooperative research network.

The overall contribution of the Regional Offices in implementing FAO's Programme of Work is also brought out much more clearly than in the past, and information is presented in both text and tabular form, not only in this chapter but in Part One of the document.

The second chapter in this particular part of the document covers the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food LOSSES, and this is based on the first overall evaluation of this Programme since its inception. The evaluation was carried out during 1982 and the earlier part of this year through missions to selected field projects as well as through study at headquarters. We feel that such studies, which are part of our ongoing programmes of evaluation can only enrich such a document . as the one before you, and we do have in mind pursuing these activities in the future.

The last chapter, is the one on FAO's investment activities. This covers activities since 1966, almost 20 years. In view of the continuing high priority which is accorded by Member Nations to FAO's investment activities, - a priority fully shared by the Director-General, - we felt it appropriate to review the experience in this area over two decades.

Let me say a word at this point about the tabular information. In the performance report of Part One of the document we have presented quantitative information on the major means of implementation of our activities. You thus have tables on training courses, workshops, study tours, meetings, seminars, expert consultations, publications, technical backstopping of field projects and direct support to member countries at their request. These activities are common to all programmes, all technical and economic programmes, although some programmes make a greater use of one means of action and then of another. This information was collected for the first time two years ago and its inclusion was well received by the Conference. This time we have updated it and expanded it.

It will be seen that although the document is about the review of the Regular Programme, in a number of cases activities funded from extra-budgetary resources are also included in the figures. This is something which does not need an excuse but in fact is a proof of the links that we have always emphasized between regular programme and field programme activities, and even in the debate on the Programme of Work and Budget some delegations referred to and emphasized this point. These activities are so linked that to attempt to separate them would be to present an incomplete picture of what various programmes are doing.

Elsewhere in the review, in the in-depth chapters in particular, you will find that the work of field projects is covered in order to ensure a comprehensive analysis and to assess the impact of individual programmes at the field level. In this way, Mr Chairman, it will be evident that the review of the Regular Programme provides a link with the review of the Field Programmes which you will be considering under your next item as well as with the Programme of Work and Budget.

In conclusion, FAO has always held a special position, if I may say so a leading position in the UN system in the area of evaluation. This is not only recognized by yourselves but it has been recognized by the Joint Inspection Unit which has complimented us on the fact. We are still in fact the only major organization to submit such a review covering Regular Programme activities to our governing bodies. Of course there is always room for improvement, and as we continue to refine our management information system, methodology and data, we hope to be able to introduce further improvements in the future reviews. In the meantime, sir, we look forward to the reaction and such guidance as you, the Conference, may wish to give. My colleagues and I will endeavour to do our best to answer any questions or to provide further clarifications that may be requested.

A.SALGADO SANTOS (Brasil) First of all I would like to thank Mr Shah for his excellent introduction of Item 12. The Brazilian delegation welcomes the document that is before us, C 83/8, the Review of the Regular Programme 1982-83, as a valid mechanism for reviewing the effectiveness and efficiency of Regular Programme activities. In our view the document provides valuable background information for delivery to the Commission and the Conference. Together with the Programme of Work and Budget and Review of the Field Programmes it forms part of what we consider to be a very useful group of documents, and we appreciate the efforts that have been made to improve the format and the structure of this paper. My delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for such a good job.

As for Part One of the document I would like to reaffirm the support of my Government to the so-called major programmes as well as its satisfaction with the priority areas selected within each of them and with the results achieved.

Not meaning to go specifically into the different programmes of interest to my country, I will just mention some of them which refer basically to the already mentioned major ones. As far as agriculture is concerned, my delegation would like to express its agreement with the emphasis given to nutrition, programme 2.1.6 specifically referring to projects and project components for nutrition improvement.

Coming to the next major programme, Fisheries, I would also like to express the agreement of my Government with the correct treatment of the question, stressing the development of medium and small-scale fisheries as well as the improved utilization of fish catch to increase the supply of locally caught food, both of extreme importance for coastal states under the new regime of the sea.

In Chapter 3 of the document with reference to forestry, my delegation wishes to express its support of the great emphasis given by FAO to forest investment and institutions with the aim of building up and strengthening the institutional basis for forest development and improving national capabilities for the preparation and implementation of sectoral plans, investment programmes and projects.

My delegation would also like to express its support for the programme on forestry for rural development, where FAO stresses the provision of a consistent framework of forestry activities at the community level which contribute to rural development and meet local needs.

Finally, the Brazilian delegation wishes to commend the Organization once again for its efforts to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. It is undoubtedly a difficult task to reconcile the manifold and often conflicting desires of more than 150 nations. Brazil hopes that FAO will continue to enhance the special priorities it has been providing to developing countries and is certain that benefits are derived by all Member States.

KYO-EUN KIM (Korea, Republic of): First of all I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Director-General and his staff for the excellent work done in the Review of the Regular Programme. My thanks also go to Mr Shah for his excellent and comprehensive introduction of Item 12. The third Review, compared to that of the second, has been improved remarkably as to format, contents and evaluation. The improvements are, I believe, successful enough to meet a large proportion of all requirements expressed by the Twenty-first Conference. In this connection I would briefly express my Government's views on the Review.

The Government of the Republic of Korea understands that the Regular Programme is a seed project to promote awareness or to generate the minimum output required to test the feasibility of wider development action, and consequently to induce planned change and to sustain momentum. On the basis of this understanding, my Government is happy to find that a number of Regular Programme projects have been or are being implemented with excellent performance during the current biennium. Among these, my Government highly appreciates the excellent performance of the following projects.

First, we welcome the completion of the regional studies on agro-ecological zones and rainfed production potential in 117 countries in five regions. My Government holds the view that the studies completed provide basic information for the evaluation of population potentials and potential food self-sufficiency in developing countries. Therefore the information could be an important aid to agricultural development planning. My Government is therefore willing to support the FAO's proposal to begin the follow-up studies on the assessment of crop and population-supporting potentials of land at the country level. In this connection I hope the study can also cover Member Nations in East Asia.

Secondly, CPCL activities aimed at assisting developing countries in the formulation, appraisal and implementation of agricultural commodity policies and trade strategies is also our important concern. The activities should, in our view, be expanded even though in some cases the recommendations made by CPCL have not been accepted by government because of financial and socioeconomic constraints or for political considerations. However, I expect that in the near future CPCL activities can make an important contribution to stabilizing agricultural production and farm prices at both country and world level.

Thirdly, according to our experience the essential elements of strategy for small farmers development planning and implementation contained in the document at page 213, are well defined and identified. In this connection, I wish to emphasize the importance of the multipurpose type primary agricultural cooperatives as one of the key elements in the institutional arrangement for small farmer development. The rapid development of the multipurpose agricultural cooperatives in Korea has made it possible for all farmers to have equal access to credit, input supplies and agricultural marketing.

In conclusion, I would like also to emphasize the fact that the effectiveness and impact to FAO's programmes are to a large extent determined by the supportive and follow-up actions of the recipient countries.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Qu'il me soit tout d'abord permis de remercier M. Shah pour sa brillante présentation du document en discussion. Nous voulons rappeler également que lors de sa vingt et unième session la Conférence avait formulé un certain nombre d'indications quant à la présentation du programme ordinaire de l'Organisation que je voudrais rappeler.

Premièrement, concernant la première partie, il avait été suggéré une réduction de la partie relative à la performance, de façon à l'orienter davantage vers les résultats.

Deuxièmement, concernant la deuxième partie, il était souhaité qu'on développe le passage consacré aux examens approfondis en limitant toutefois l'analyse aux sous-programmes et éléments de programmes.

Troisièmement, la Conférence avait souhaité l'inclusion d'une quantité accrue de rubriques spéciales portant notamment sur les activités dans lesquelles les bureaux régionaux jouent un rôle de catalyseurs.

A cette date, le résultat est que les prescriptions de la Conférence ont été observées dans la mesure où les parties 1 et 2 du présent rapport couvrent maintenant 4 sous-programmes, 4 éléments de programme et 3 rubriques spéciales, et que des efforts notables ont été faits pour axer le contenu analytique de l'examen, davantage sur les résultats obtenus et l'impact produit.

L'intérêt des évaluations d'une action ou d'un programme d'action mesurait le chemin parcouru par l'identification des progrès accomplis qui constituent les points forts et des écueils rencontrés et non surmontés, qui constituent les obstacles à franchir et les points faibles, et le but final : procéder en permanence à des ajustements et à des rectificatifs de tir rendus nécessaires par la conjoncture sur la base de l'expérience vécue.

Ainsi, c'est grâce à ce genre d'exercice qu'il a été possible d'identifier que l'application du droit de la mer est insuffisante concernant particulièrement l'exploitation des zones économiques exclusives dont on attend beaucoup de la prochaine Conférence mondiale des pêches. Dans ce même genre d'exercice on a pu mettre en évidence la nécessité de développer aussi les pêches continentales. De même, cet exercice a permis de mettre en évidence la nécessité absolue de la mise en place de la banque phytogénétique en ce qui concerne les forêts, menacées tant par l'homme que par les calamités naturelles. Grâce à l'évaluation, a été mise en évidence la nécessité d'organiser de plus en plus le réseau de luttas zoosanitaires en ce qui concerne l'élevage, de même la nécessité d'une libération des échanges, en ce qui concerne le commerce mondial, a été mise en évidence; la relance du dialogue Nord-Sud sur des bases plus équitables en ce qui concerne la coopération technique Nord-Sud, le désarmement, etc.

Même si pour des raisons de commodité de présentation nous avons été amenés à examiner en premier lieu le Programme et budget 1984-85 de l'Organisation, il n'en reste pas moins vrai que, dans le processus de l'élaboration de ce dernier, c'est par l'évaluation de l'action précédente que nous avons dû passer pour tirer profit des expériences antérieures aux fins d'amélioration de celles à venir.

Ce faisant, il ne nous reste plus qu'à prendre note du présent document rétrospectif et à engager le Directeur général de la FAO à suivre le chemin déjà choisi étant entendu que les consignes ont été observées dans le Programme et budget 1984-85 que nous avons déjà soutenu.

O.BILBEISI (Jordan) (original language Arabic): I wish to congratulate on my own behalf and that of my delegation, the Organization's head the Director-General and his staff for the efforts made in preparing this document C 83/8 which presents the activities of the Organization in detail and contains an objective assessment of these activities. In the light of present circumstances and since financial resources for projects are limited in developing countries, we encourage and endorse the trend adopted by this Organization in the field of training and research development, dissemination of information and documentation. Many developing countries may not lack resources but they may lack the technical knowhow to manage these resources - hence the importance of training which was recognised by the Organization. In Jordan we successfully cooperated with FAO as an executing agency in such activities. Training as an educational process is important and as I mentioned earlier, we would like to ask FAO to concentrate on training, especially in scientific research, since this a considerable investment.

M. KHORAYCH (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation de mon pays félicite le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs pour cet important document. Nous remercions également M. Shah pour la présentation très claire et objective qu'il a faite. Certaines activités des bureaux régionaux auxquelles se réfère le document C 83/8 dans son chapitre X montrent l'importance de ces bureaux ainsi que celle des représentations auprès des pays membres dans le processus de développement. Ceci nous amène à traiter cette question déjà évoquée par d'autres collègues. En effet, Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Colombie a mis en évidence son importance. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord sur ce qu'il a dit. Nous pensons que le Comité de rédaction dans son rapport à la Conférence devrait mentionner l'importance de cette question. Nous appuyons tout à fait les bureaux régionaux et pensons qu'ils doivent continuer leurs activités. Pour ce faire il faut les aider matériellement pour renforcer leur capacité et leur efficacité. En effet beaucoup de projets de développement ont été exécutés grâce à ces bureaux. Ils constituent un instrument fondamental pour le développement agricole intégral que nous recherchons tous. Nous voulons rappeler aussi ce qu'a dit le délégué du Liban en séance plénière en mettant en évidence l'importance des travaux de la représentation de l'Organisation dans notre pays, et réitérons par la même occasion notre gratitude à l'Organisation et aux responsables dans cette représentation.

G. NIELSEN (Denmark): My delegation has only a short intervention on this item. We have read the Review of the Regular Programme 1982-83 and find it a useful handbook of FAO's broad activities at the moment. It contains an immense amount of information which is presented as requested by the previous Conferences. We find it valuable to continue with the present format in the coming years. We would however suggest to the Secretariat to point a little more clearly to the problems that FAO has had in its own part of the Programme in the paragraphs on Outlook and Issues following each Chapter.

We would hereafter comment on a few selected Chapters. In Chapter One, Agriculture, we would like to point at one of our priorities, namely the Fertilizer Programme because it is a combined technical and extension programme that works for getting the research findings to the farmers' fields through field demonstrations, etc, and trying out new roads of information and education for farmers. Therefore the Danish Government has continued and will continue to support this Programme.

In the Annex to the same Chapter, Table 3, page 45, in the English text, Technical Backstopping of Field Activities, we would like to ask if it is possible to show us to what extent the technical backstopping is coming from the Regional Offices.

In Chapter Four is mentioned the progress and achievements of the TCP. Here we would like to ask for further explanations on why training is taking up as much as one-third of the Programme that is supposed to deal with urgent problems. We find training is a long-term thing.

In Chapter Five Supporting Services, we would like to compliment FAO for its documentation system AGRIS, which has proved to be a useful tool for all of us and would like to support what is mentioned in paragraph 5.35 where it says "to improve the subject coverage of AGRIS and make it more responsive to the needs of participating countries".

In Part Two I only have a few comments. We appreciate very much the information given in Chapter Six about the two very important sub-programmes on Water Development and Management and on Soil Conservation and have read with interest what is mentioned in Outlook and Issues for these two sub-programmes.

In Part Three, Chapter Ten, we are dealing with Selected Activities of the Regional Offices and some really good information is given about the five different and all very good Programmes. We appreciate that. However, none of the information given gives background for increasing the budget for the Regional Offices. As mentioned in the previous statement from our delegation we therefore request FAO to review the long-term purpose and role of these Regional Offices. I can repeat this, to review the long-term purpose and role of the Regional Offices. We are not talking about cutting down on the Regional Offices.

J. NEETESON (Netherlands): I would first of all like to thank Mr Shah for his good introduction to this item.

The Netherlands delegation attaches great importance to reviewing and assessing the Regular Programme on a continuous basis. In our opinion the present review document C 83/8 has gained in clearness compared to the previous two documents. We appreciate that. We feel, however, that the system of monitoring and self-evaluation used by FAO lends itself too little to an assessment of the results achieved. This applies, among other things, to reviewing the Technical Cooperation Programme. Other instruments of evaluation are available as indicated in the document. My delegation attaches special importance to reviews carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit and to independent missions to field projects.

I should now like to make some specific remarks on a few Chapters in Part Two. Concerning Water Development and Management, we welcome the establishment of the International Support Programme for Farm Water Management. The Netherlands carries out a number of projects in this sector under its bilateral aid programme and is at present studying the possibilities to support the FAO Programme as well. In our opinion FAO could play a stimulating role in the various aspects of small-scale irrigation development such as investment studies and training programmes at the various levels.

In the Chapter on Soil Conservation the serious situation with regard to land degradation is described, which calls for action, especially at the level of catchment area conservation and rehabilitation. The overall context for specific activities has been provided by the World Soil Charter, which was endorsed by the Twenty-first session of the Conference in 1981. Close cooperation with other United Nations Agencies in this field, such as UNESCO and UNEP, which has designed a World Soil Policy, is however needed.

My delegation appreciates mentioning World Food Programme Assistance under this and other Chapters of the document. As far as Soil Conservation is concerned this assistance could further be directed to land rehabilitation programmes per catchment area. Through "Food for Work" projects, in this sector opportunities for sustained local food production can be established which are difficult to bring about by means of commercial sponsoring.

M FAIZUR RAZZAQUE (Bangladesh): I will wholeheartedly join the previous speakers in placing on record our sincere appreciation for a brilliant presentation on the subject by Mr Shah. We have noted Mr Shah's presentation and my delegation therefore also thank FAO as a major United Nations system Organization and its Director-General for producing such a well-prepared evaluation work.

I now make two very specific points. May I draw attention to paragraph 1.16, page 9, Chapter One, where my delegation is very glad to see that the major role of the Regional Offices has been shown to be very clear. I quote a sentence from here which says that the Regional Offices "accounted for over 20 percent of the total input, a significant rise".

Point Two is on paragraph 2.32, page 62 of the Report. We are also glad to see that especially the inland fisheries and aquaculture programme has been emphasised in this paragraph. As we have already pointed out during the Council this is a subject with which we are very intimately related and we are glad that this emphasis has been placed on this. We are also very happy to see that rural development-orientated activities have been shown to be based on systematic analysis and understanding of the constraints related thereto

O.AWOYEMI (Nigeria): My comments can be all very brief and of a very general nature. I join other speakers who have congratulated the Secretariat for a very thorough and comprehensive Review of the Regular Programme.

Frankly speaking, it requires quite an effort on the part of delegates, especially those, of course, who come from our Capitals, to study and understand the details contained in document C 83/8. However, one can make an observation and that is it is not quite clear to what extent FAO achieved the objectives and targets it sets for itself, in the 1982-83 Programme of Work and Budget which was approved at the last Conference, although some comparison is made of achievements made during the previous biennium, that is in respect of several tables in the Report. It is not clear to what extent the activities that are set out in the current biennium have been matched by the achievements in the same biennium. I admit that many FAO activities do not lend themselves to quantification, but even a subjective assessment of achievements as compared with intentions would be helpful. It is possible to focus on reviews, probably at the country level, if the FAO country offices were to be given some resources to do a forecast assessment of activities within the country, probably using local consultants either on an annual basis or a biennial basis. This would prepare delegations to see the overall programme on a global scale in a better perspective.

M.A. MEDANI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I would like to congratulate the Director-General and his staff on the praiseworthy efforts they have made in preparing document C 83/8. It is quite clear that there are very good ideas in this document, but we would like to make the following comments nevertheless.

The accent should be placed on the increase of the productivity of agricultural projects. Our problem is one of low productivity. This problem faces many countries. We feel that the activity of the Programme should concentrate on the increase of project productivity and not on the increase of cultivated areas. Agriculture and forests have to be well planned, otherwise there is a deterioration of nature. Therefore the activities of the "Programme should be orientated towards re-planting of pastures affected by wild grazing and drought. The Programme should concern itself with forestry and the organized cutting of trees as well as reafforestation. In each country there should be a mechanism set up dealing with land management, because areas cannot be cultivated without planning or without an evaluation.

I would also like to speak about animal resources and livestock, especially in Africa. The document has stressed trypanosomiasis and swine fever. The document also speaks of rinderpest. I think that rinderpest in Africa is even more important and dangerous than swine fever and trypanosomiasis. Programme activities must be channelled in this direction. We know that OAU has a regional programme for control of rinderpest in Africa, the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign. We feel that such a project needs assistance. I would like to ask FAO to give assistance to the Organization of African Unity to speed up implementation of this project since diseases know no frontiers.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Para la delegación de Colombia es muy grato participar ahora en los trabajos de esta Comisión dirigida por usted esta mañana, su colega y amigo a quien nos unen nexos de amistad y de simpatía. Además es grato también, ahora, cuando tenemos múltiples participaciones en las distintas Comisiones de la Conferencia, asistir a esta sala roja porque está usted rodeado de tan distinguidas damas en la Secretaría, todo lo cual hace más atrayente nuestra presencia aquí.

La delegación de Colombia desea manifestar que este tercer examen del Programa Ordinario que se nos presenta ahora refleja muy bien las necesidades y las prioridades que los representantes de Gobiernos hemos venido tratando de definir, a través de nuestra participación, en los distintos Organos Rectores.

Creemos que los cambios que se han introducido en la estructura y en el contenido son muy acertados y mejoran notablemente el documento.

Deberían observar en nuestro informe, tal como lo anotó adecuadamente el Comité del Programa que, no obstante Las limitaciones de fondos en el Programa Ordinario viene confirmando e intensificando su eficacia. Y, por lo tanto, será necesario que en los bienios futuros el Programa Ordinario siga contando con recursos adecuados para que pueda llevar a cabo las importantes tareas que le corresponden.

Nuestros colegas del Líbano y Bangladesh particularmente se refirieron al capítulo 10 de este documento C 83/8 sobre las actividades seleccionadas que se llevan a cabo en las Oficinas Regionales.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que es muy acertada esta participación de las Oficinas Regionales en los Programas con el apoyo técnico de la Sede. Porque esa acción conjunta conforma la integración que hemos venido propugnando entre el Programa Ordinario y el Programa de Campo.

Nosotros creemos que este concepto de integración es muy importante y que debemos consignarlo en nuestro informe. Reconocer a la FAO ese enfoque integrado con que trabaja a través del Programa Ordinario y el Programa de Campo; apoyar ese enfoque integrado y pedir que se mantenga y se fortalezca esa integración que, sin duda, asegura la presencia, la imagen, la acción unificada de nuestra Organización.

Creíamos que con la discusión del tema de ayer habían concluido las referencias propias a las Oficinas Regionales y a los Programas de Cooperación Técnica salvo, naturalmente, el capítulo 10 a que nos hemos referido. Y por eso nos extraña que hoy algunas delegaciones hayan vuelto a plantear observaciones ligeramente negativas sobre las funciones de las Oficinas Regionales y los objetivos de cooperación técnica.

Nosotros creemos que eso ya terminó ayer en la discusión del tema, que ocupó varias sesiones de esta Comisión y que quedó ampliamente demostrado a través de todas las intervenciones, que esas Oficinas Regionales y esos Programas de Cooperación Técnica son de interés vital para los países desarrollados. De manera que esperamos que en el curso de los debates de esta Comisión no se volverá a hacer referencia a estos aspectos.

Nosotros creemos que el Programa Ordinario debe seguir, como lo dice el documento, asistiendo a los países a establecer o reforzar sus sistemas de seguimiento y evaluación en materia de programas de desarrollo rural, y si es posible también, lograr fondos extrapresupuestarios para que esos países puedan cumplir de manera más eficaz esas actividades.

Compartimos plenamente la declaración en este campo del distinguido colega de Dinamarca quien, como representante de uno de los países nórdicos, hizo hincapié en la orientación social y humana que debe tener el Programa Ordinario de la FAO. En ello estamos de acuerdo. Hay que dirigir el funcionamiento de nuestra Organización en favor de los pequeños y medianos agricultores, que son los más necesitados.

La delegación de Colombia piensa también que esta Comisión debe recomendar a los gobiernos que por todos los medios ofrezcan su apoyo y su colaboración al Programa Ordinario de la FAO, para lograr la mayor eficacia, a través de esa común participación, porque el Gobierno de Colombia aprecia muy positivamente el apoyo directo que recibe del Programa Ordinario, así como el apoyo técnico que el Programa Ordinario ofrece a los proyectos de campo que se ejecutan en nuestro país.

Para concluir, pensamos que este documento tan eficaz e ilustrativo presentado por el señor Shah confirma la eficacia y la coherencia de la política de la FAO, que merece el reconocimiento de esta Comisión.

MOHD. YASIN bin MOHD. SALLEH (Malaysia): First my delegation wishes to thank Mr Shah for the introduction on this item, which amplified some of the points we had in our minds. My statement will comprise some general comments only.

My delegation welcomes the document that is before us and finds it a very useful mechanism for reviewing the effectiveness and efficiency of Regular Programme activities.

The document represents an improvement over the last two reviews and the information provided is very impressive.

We regard the format of the presentation as satisfactory, and its emphasis on major programmes and the detailed assessment of some programmes should be continued. We would welcome any further improvement which may be possible in this direction. It is reported in many parts of the document that close collaboration between governments and institutions exists, and we hope this will continue in the future.

My delegation also welcomes the Director-General's foreword, which stated that the evaluation of the Regular Programme should be a continuous process of assessment leading to progressive improvement of FAO's work and also the importance the Director-General attaches to a joint evaluation with other UN agencies, especially with UNDP

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): En primer lugar, mi delegación desea felicitar al Director General y a la Secretaría por el valioso documento que nos han presentado. Asimismo queremos agradecer al señor Shah su clara presentación del tema.

Mi intervención será de carácter general, en el sentido de que hemos recibido una detallada información, donde los temas principales han sido tratados con un enfoque objetivo y crítico a la vez, sirviendo como experiencia base para fomentar las actividades de la FAO en el contexto de su Programa Ordinario hacia la solución de los problemas agudos.

En términos generales, la ejecución de los programas y subprogramas en agricultura, pesca y montes han marchado satisfactoriamente; sin embargo, queremos poner de manifiesto la necesidad de alcanzar una mayor interacción y coordinación de los elementos participantes en los diferentes programas y subprogramas entre todos y entre sí, para poder abordar un mayor campo de actividades y aumentar la eficacia en el empleo de los esfuerzos y de los recursos. La perspectiva de fomentar el programa hacia la conservación y un mejor aprovechamiento de los recursos naturales, particularmente el aprovechamiento y coordinación de aguas, la conservación de suelos y el desarrollo y coordinación de los recursos forestales, en nuestra opinión constituye un criterio apropiado y merece nuestro apoyo. Las actividades relativas a la evaluación alimentaria y nutricional deberán continuar el seguimiento que hasta el presente han venido realizando, para ofrecer el marco de referencia que demandarán las decisiones políticas para la búsqueda de soluciones a los problemas del hambre.

Merecen un comentario aparte las actividades realizadas a través del programa para combatir la fiebre porcina y orientar los aspectos marítimos en la América Latina y el Caribe, el cual debe mantener una permanente vigilancia en estos aspectos. De cualquier forma, el programa de acción para el porvenir merece especial atención, dado que sería paradójico que se perdiera lo poco que tenemos.

Teniendo en cuenta las limitaciones financieras que fueron expuestas y analizadas en la tarde de ayer, mi delegación cree que se deben estimular y desarrollar las redes de cooperación en el marco del Programa de Cooperación Técnica entre los países en desarrollo. En la región de América Latina hemos tomado una cierta fuerza y debemos reconocer el trabajo que ha venido realizando la Oficina Regional en tal sentido.

H. REDL (Austria) (original language German): I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for submitting this document, and thank them for the document, but I would not like to fail to thank Dr Shah, in particular, for the excellent introduction he gave to this document. Since this Third Report has now been submitted, I think we can see that this document has given us an opportunity to review the activities of the FAO which have been carried out, and also allowed us to portray and describe better how its activities are adapted to needs and requirements.

The improvements since the first Report was submitted have made it possible to describe more clearly and succinctly the activities of the FAO. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Report which is sure to be drawn up for the period 1984-85, should take into particular account the priorities laid down in the Programme of Work and Budget for the same period.

Now I would like to make a few comments on various specific points. Obviously training, and continued training and education are of particular importance. That is something I hardly need emphasise. The number of participants per training course has been reduced, and this appears to us to be a useful suggestion, because this will enable us to produce better training results. The holding of further training courses, particularly in the developing countries, where the necessary infrastructures already exist, should be supported. However much we support the work done in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius, nonetheless we feel that a more stringent concentration would be useful in this field.

We saw with regret as from page 13, 1.26, in reference to the developments in the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, Austria in the past has always followed the activities of the FAO in the field of seed grain, and is satisfied to notice the developments in this connection in point 1.39.

In connection with forestry we feel that particular priority should be given to the field of training, and further training. Therefore it was with particular interest that we noted what was said in this connexion on page 77, item 3.20. In this connection I would like to go on to report that only a few weeks ago the FAO Committee for Forestry Technology and Forestry Training Facilities, which was held within the field of ergonomics facilities in Austria was successful. Forestry activities, however, should not by any means be seen in isolation, because close cooperation between this field of activities and in the overall field of agriculture should be provided for, especially as far as paying due attention to measures to prevent erosion.

I would like to refer to 3.31, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, and my comment on this will be as follows: the activities of the FFHC should be particularly adjusted to the focal points of the programme of the FAO, and the FAO office should only really play a consultative role in supporting the national committees. Here direct contact should be established between the national committees and the individual divisions within the FAO. This would be useful, and I feel it would be possible in this respect to save some funds in FAO and organize the administrative side more efficiently.

As far as recruitment procedure is concerned, I would also like to make a critical comment. We believe that recruitment procedure, particularly for associate experts for FAO, takes up too much time at the moment. In our view it should be possible to shorten the time between which the application is made, and the time when the expert is appointed. I think it should be possible to shorten this period, and there is still quite a lot that can be done in this connection.

As far as chapter five, Information and Documentation is concerned, I think we should make an effort to use as few resources as possible, to try and obtain a maximum of success. In other words, when a document is printed all possibilities for economic administration should be fully exhausted and considered.

S. ZAHARIEV (Bulgaria): It is my pleasant duty to congratulate you for your very able leading of our meeting this morning, and I fully associate myself with the distinguished delegate from Colombia for saying kind words about yourself. I hope your good example will be followed here, and we will see much more often than now people from our part of the world taking part in the leading of such distinguished meetings like this. The present document, as usual for FAO Secretariat, is very well prepared, and we congratulate them on it.

Our special compliments to Mr Shah for the presentation of the document to us this morning. My delegation has not a problem in agreeing with the present Regular Programme of FAO. We find that their objectives are clearly determined. The needs of meetings and seminars carefully balanced and the work is oriented mostly to the support of FAO's prime aim, which is the increase of agricultural production in the world.

My country is very much interested in the development of the Forestry and Fishery sections at the international level, and feel that FAO has a great role to play in this, and we are happy to see that special emphasis now is placed on these items in the FAO Regular Programme. In the meantime we continue to be happy that other activities like for instance, water management, irrigation and soil conservation, continue to enjoy great support from the FAO Secretariat in the Regular Programme. We Strongly believe that the full intensification of the whole process of the agricultural development is the only way for its best performance.

F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): On behalf of my delegation I would like to express our entire satisfaction and great appreciation for the review of the Regular Programme 1982-83 document which is now before us. We feel that this document is a unique and, indeed, valuable source of information and evaluation on the various important activities of the Organization as a whole, and it also gives us a breakdown of the programmes and sub-programmes, and assesses their effectiveness.

We are in favour of the new improvements which have been introduced in the form of this document. The improvement was a direct reaction to the proposals made at the last FAO Conference. We wish to point out that the structure of this document is balanced and reasonable in its presentation, and this was what was recommended by the Programme Committee, of which Kuwait was a member. A recommendation was also made by my colleagues to the Council, to see to it that this structural equilibrium should be maintained in the future reviews. We particularly welcome in-depth reviews bearing on the assessment of the sub-programmes and programme elements. These reviews clearly indicate the nature and scope of the Regular Programmes of the Organization aimed at solving the problems of agriculture and food at the national, regional and international levels. There are four activities we wish to commend. These are implemented on a level below the level of sub-programmes Part Two. These four activities we feel are the proof of the far-reaching scope of the efforts made by FAO in the field of development. This depth of assessment is also to be found in an examination of the various items which are broken down and shared out among the various programmes. My country feels that the field of research can be a good example of the value of these assessments. We hold that the various in-depth reviews have emphasized the results obtained by the Organization through its efforts, and have also drawn attention to the solutions found to various problems during the implementation of the programmes and sub-programmes. In particular we would like to express how much we appreciate the importance attached by the Organization to one: water management, on the farm level and the renewal of irrigation projects, which are among the most important problems facing the Organization. Two: Evaluation of nutrition, as well as planning, extension and training activities. The same applies to the field of development, where the Organization plays an important role, as well as to the various aspects concerning fishery, and fisheries management, and this also applies to the field of shifting agriculture and the role of forests.

I would like to emphasize one concern we have about various activities of the Organization, which depend on extra-budgetary resources; these have to be guaranteed to allow the Organization to carry out these activities. My delegation would also like to express its appreciation for the addition of a special chapter on some of the Regional Offices, and I am convinced that an assessment of the activities of these Offices will give us information valuable to all of us. Nevertheless we feel in the future we should emphasize more strongly the role to be played by the Regional Offices in planning and implementing the various activities of the Organization.

As I have already done in the past I would like to thank the Secretariat for all their efforts, and, of course, Dr Shah, for the very important statement he made on this document this morning. Of course, this word of thanks is also addressed to his associates as well.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): On behalf of my delegation I would like to thank the Secretariat for producing this document which reviews FAO activities over the last two years. It is an excellent document as it keeps Member States abreast with FAO activities and Regular Programmes.

While we are generally satisfied with the review, I wish to point out particularly that we are very happy with the FAO IBPGR project on genetic resources as is indicated at page 75, paragraph 3.14.

I particularly refer to this because, as we all know, Kenya is about 80 percent arid, and we think such projects are very valuable to us as they go a long way in helping us to solve some of our forestry problems.

We also very much welcome the review on the programme for the control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and other Related Developments which is given in the review as an example of what the Africa Regional Office is doing.

While we are happy with that review I want to make some specific points on the Regional Offices with particular reference to the Africa Regional Office. I very much support what the distinguished delegate from Colombia said this morning, that we thoroughly addressed ourselves to the question of Regional Offices yesterday and we very much agree that they are necessary, and looking at the documents before us at page 204, paragraph 10.4, the Secretariat has very well spelled out the activities that these Regional Offices should get involved in. We very much support this and we think that when they get involved in, these, the Region, and in this case particularly the African Region will have a lot to benefit from.

When the leader of my delegation addressed the Plenary on Tuesday of this week he specifically said that we feel in Kenya that there is need for the FAO Regional Office covering the African area to be restructured in order to enable it to respond more effectively to Africa's pressing food problems.

In conclusion, what I am asking for is that we need to restructure the Africa Regional Office to make it effective. We tend to be dealing direct with Rome, and Rome looks after problems for all Member States, and we feel that if we continue doing that we may not get the attention we require, so my delegation would like to point out that there is need for a strengthening of that which is currently based in Accra, Ghana, so that the activities that that Regional Office should address itself to in the African region are accomplished.

H.L. CHAWLA (India): At the outset I will join my other friends, other distinguished delegates, in thanking the FAO Secretariat for bringing out a very comprehensive document giving a review of FAO's Regular Programme. In the introduction to this document it has been clearly mentioned that FAO's Regular Programme resources are extremely modest in relation to the priority needs of Member Nations. This is an important fact and I think we have to be very careful that when the opportunity comes these resources should be extended. Probably this has been mentioned in the context of the discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget.

Another aspect which is closely related to this is that we focus our attention on those urgent things where the activities in the various member countries can be stimulated towards increasing production at the earliest. In this context the building up of infrastructure marketing, processing, storage, input supplies, delivery systems, to cope with the present-day challenge is an important element on which attention should be focused.

Then it has been rightly mentioned that fertilizer use, which is an important vehicle for increasing production, should get close attention. Optimum results on fertilizer use is something to which the various countries as well as FAO have to give close attention.

Then in the matter of irrigation particularly, I would say all efforts which help to maximise the use of available resources and optimise production from available irrigation facilities, particularly for the small farmers and marginal farmers in the developing countries, would I think have the greatest impact on the development in the low-income food-deficit countries.

In the same category of priorities comes this area of prevention of food losses. All the important elements have been defined here and I think the strategy is certainly on the right line. Here I would like to suggest that considering the present day challenges, FAO could seek to a greater extent the involvement of other international organizations like Unesco in spreading the message of conservation of resources, of improving and increasing food production, nutrition, and maximising the use of the available supplies that the countries have. In case that is already being done I would not like to repeat again, but in case there is scope this might be explored.

I would also like to mention that the focus on production is very important, and even where relief is being given we should try to see that the relief to deserving countries is mobilized in such a way, or is arranged in such a way, that it helps to create assets for increased production and to have medium- and long-term benefits for the people for whom the relief is being given. This might mean the creation of resources for irrigation, development of markets, roads, soil conservation and whatever works are feasible under different situations, and we should try to see that relief is mobilized to medium-term and longer-term benefits.

I would also like to endorse the point made by the distinguished delegate of Nigeria that the achievements under the Programme might be indicated somewhat more explicitly as far as possible. Perhaps brief reports could be obtained from the beneficiary countries and a small summing up might be given in terms of their own assessment of the situation or the benefits which are accruing to them.

Lastly, I would mention that we are very happy at the new presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget, and I believe that when subsequent assessments on development programmes are presented to the Conference they should be in relation to the priorities indicated in the new Programme of Work and Budget so that it will be possible for members to see how far we are able to move, to progress, towards the objectives which we have set before ourselves.

A.BOTHNER (Norway): On behalf of the Nordic countries I have the privilege to make a few comments on the Nutrition Programme in Chapter One. Since a number of years the Nordic countries have given high priority to nutrition. It is a very important field and a field that in our opinion deserves a great deal of attention by FAO. The work in the last biennial period has mainly been concentrated on collecting data and preparing manuals and guidelines for integrating nutrition into agricultural and rural development projects. A substantial piece of work has been carried out in this respect and we support these activities.

In the future, efforts should be made for selection of interventions for nutrition improvements in the field so as to bring a fast and lasting relief to the malnourished people in the world. The prepared manual should be further developed to serve field nutritionists, and guidance to the field workers should be intensified.

We also want to point out the relation between these activities and the WCARRD follow-up programme. Properly introduced, these nutrition programmes could effectively contribute to people's participation, the role of women in family nutrition and to the needs of the most vulnerable groups within the families. This applies not only to agricultural programmes but also to fishery development programmes. It is our opinion that fisheries should play a greater role in alleviating under-nutrition and malnutrition in the world. To obtain this, it is essential to merge parts of fisheries' activities with the objectives and the strategies of food and nutrition policies.

The Food Security Programme has an important nutritional aspect that should not be overlooked, nor should the inter-relation between food:safety and food security. Food in international trade and food stored under different conditions need standards of safety and quality to secure nutritional value. In this respect we wish to stress the importance of the work done by the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and its technical committees. Over the past years nutritional matters have been on the agenda in the Committee on Agriculture. The Nordic countries would like to raise the question as to whether this arrangement is satisfactory and has given sufficient policy guidance in this important field. We feel that greater emphasis should be placed on nutrition in the Committee on Agriculture. The role of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition should also be examined in this connection.

E. MARTENS (Belgique): Sur le document C 83/8: Examen du Programme ordinaire 1982-83, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier les services compétents pour la nouvelle formule de présentation. La refonte du présent document constitue une amélioration et je voudrais citer en particulier la deuxième partie que procède à des examens approfondis. Ces examens nous permettent de prendre connaissance des activités de la FAO d'une manière réaliste et ont comme avantages de nous identifier plus étroitement avec le travail effectué par les services intéressés.

Je me bornerai à poser une question: Il est mentionné que le système d'évaluation comporte 5 éléments principaux dont 2 attirent notre attention particulière. Le premier: auto-évaluation par les responsables des programmes; le deuxième: examens spéciaux. Nous avons l'impression que les textes explicatifs des programmes ont plutôt une tendance descriptive. La question est celle-ci: Serait-il possible d'incorporer davantage de conclusions émanant de ces éléments d'évaluation? Cela ajouterait, je crois, à la compréhension de l'impact des activités.

En conclusion, ma délégation réitère son appui au Programme ordinaire.

Je voudrais profiter de cette intervention pour me référer au document C 83/5: Rapport et état financiers pour 1980-81 en ce qui concerne le Programme ordinaire, et je voudrais évoquer deux points: Une augmentation sensible du montant des contributions ordinaires non recouvrées est constatée. Elles représentaient en 1978-79 environ 2 pour cent du total et, en 1980-81, plus de 5 pour cent. Prévoit-on une amélioration de cette situation pour le biennium 1982-83? Deuxième point: Une grande importance est attachée au travail de vérification intérieure. Ce fait s'est traduit d'ailleurs par une augmentation du budget assigné à la surveillance du Programme et à un meilleur contrôle de la question. Cela a conduit au développement des services de gestion où l'accent est mis sur l'informatisation des systèmes. Ma délégation appuie cette évolution.

En conclusion, nous accueillons avec un très grand intérêt ce type de document qui est présenté de façon très claire et constitue une lecture enrichissante.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): The Barbados delegation appreciates the thorough introduction of document C 83/8 given by Mr. Shah. Secondly, my delegation wishes to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for the excellent work contained in the document. It reflects the wishes of the Conference for an improved presentation of the review of the work of FAO in the past biennium.

As regards Chapter Eleven, Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses, my delegation finds the review most stimulating. It gives several major areas of activities in this subject which is most crucial to efforts in food production,

My delegation supports the follow-up action and the emphasis in this area.

As regards Chapter Ten on Selected Activities of the Regional Offices, my delegation has no doubt that the work of these Offices is fundamental to the whole work of the Organization. The review of the major projects carried out by these Offices reveals their heightened activities. This is particularly so in the case of the Latin American and Caribbean region. We have there currently a cooperative network of the Programme's specific areas of interest and are looking forward to the follow-up on these programmes. My delegation has already given its support for the activities of the Regional Offices. We feel they are doing precisely what they have been set up to do, which is to complement the work at Headquarters.

As regards technical cooperation, I was not in my place yesterday when this matter was being discussed but I would wish to say that the priority areas set out in paragraph 4.6 at page 93 of this Programme are endorsed. This Programme is well reported on by its beneficiaries in their various stages of need. We have heard repeatedly of its value and impact on the development of countries participating in the Programme and I can only state what my Minister said yesterday in his address at the Conference: that he feels that the time has come for the skeptics and critics of this Programme to give it their full support.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Avant de commencer je voudrais remercier M. Shah pour l'exposé assez clair qu'il nous a fait, et je voudrais remercier aussi tous les collaborateurs du Directeur général qui ont permis de sortir un document aussi limpide.

Je voudrais intervenir sur trois points essentiellement: les problèmes concernant la nutrition, le problème des pêches, et celui de la foresterie.

En ce qui concerne la nutrition, mon pays accorde une importance capitale à ce problème, et depuis des années une aide substantielle est accordée au Bénin dans ce domaine. C'est le lieu, ici, de remercier tous les pays amis qui nous ont aidés dans ce sens avec comme chef de file la FAO, Cette action nutritionnelle a eu un impact si important dans mon pays, que, présentement, tous les projets de développement rural comportent un volet nutritionnel très important.

En ce qui concerne les pêches, mon pays fait des efforts louables pour développer ce secteur, afin de diversifier les sources de protéines animales. La pêche hauturière, et surtout le développement de la pêche continentale et de la pisciculture procurent des sources financières supplémentaires aux populations qui les pratiquent. Dans ce domaine, la FAO nous a aidés à monter surtout des coopératives de pêche artisanale dont le succès a permis de généraliser ce mode d'exploitation des ressources halieutiques.

Concernant la foresterie, c'est un domaine prioritaire pour mon pays qui subit les effets de la désertification, surtout dans les régions septentrionales, et, là encore, la FAO est intervenue avec un certain nombre de pays donateurs pour monter un programme de reforestation, afin de limiter les effets de la désertification.

Nous souhaitons qu'au niveau du programme et du budget ces actions soient encore amplifiées et soutenues, pour que d'autres pays, surtout des pays africains, puissent en bénéficier.

M. MAZOYER (France): Le délégation française félicite le Secrétariat pour les grands progrès accomplis par rapport au précédent document 1980-81, en ce qui concerne la présentation des résultats et activités du Programme ordinaire, sous la forme d'une récapitulation quantitative et d'une annexe statistique qui couvrent une période plus longue de cinq ans au lieu de trois. Cette nouvelle présentation permet de comparer les résultats obtenus en 1981-82 à ceux du biennium précédent, et d'insister davantage sur l'efficacité des activités entreprises. En particulier, la ventilation de ces résultats entre le Siège et les bureaux régionaux qui ne figurait pas dans les précédents documents, est très précieuse.

Le tableau 1.2 fait ressortir (p. 6 du texte français) que le bureau régional pour l'Afrique n'a organisé qu'un seul cours de formation en 1981-82, alors que les deux bureaux régionaux pour l'Asie et l'Amérique latine en ont organisé 7 et 20 pendant la même période. Peut-être le Secrétariat pourrait-il nous en indiquer les raisons.

Il convient aussi d'appuyer par ailleurs l'augmentation régulière de la part des manuels de formation et de recherche dans le total des publications de l'Organisation. Enfin, il est indiqué au paragraphe 1.95 que les renseignements dont dispose l'Organisation continuent de souffrir des lacunes que présentent les séries de données nationales et du manque de précision des statistiques fournies par quelques pays. Nous pensons que des visites supplémentaires seraient nécessaires dans ces pays pour aider les autorités locales à combler ces lacunes. Ce paragraphe mérite donc d'être souligné et appuyé. En effet, l'amélioration des statistiques agricoles dans les pays en développement est tout à fait essentielle pour calculer les déficits alimentaires, et, d'une manière plus générale, elle sera également nécessaire au diagnostic que la FAO porte sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, nécessaire également aux projections qu'elle peut être amenée à faire dans ce domaine. L'Organisation dispose d'un réseau exceptionnel de techniciens dans les pays en développement, et elle est particulièrement bien placée pour apprécier les résultats réels des agricultures de ces pays. Elle ne doit pas se contenter, bien entendu, d'enregistrer les chiffres qui lui sont transmis. Des missions d'assistance doivent donc être mises sur pied par l'Organisation pour permettre aux pays de fournir des statistiques améliorées dans le domaine agricole.

Les paragraphes du document analysant les perspectives et les problèmes (pages 32 et 33 du texte français), sont très intéressantes, et on ne peut qu'être d'accord avec les remarques qui concernent la nécessité de définir les priorités précises, de concentrer les efforts de l'Organisation sur l'économie paysanne la plus démunie, d'accroître l'efficacité en évitant les doubles emplois, et ceci en renforçant la coopération avec d'autres institutions des Nations Unies ou d'autres donateurs bilatéraux.

Il est également rappelé à juste titre au paragraphe 1.109 que c'est aux pays en développement eux-mêmes de rationaliser leurs politiques nationales concernant les prix, les subventions, la commercialisation, et que c'est à ces pays également d'entreprendre les réformes foncières éventuellement nécessaires.

En ce qui concerne l'appui direct aux Etats Membres, on souligne également que les pays doivent limiter les demandes aux besoins les plus urgents, regrouper ces demandes dans une seule Division de la FAO. A cet égard, la proposition du paragraphe 1.114, qui prévoit la participation du personnel de terrain et surtout celui des projets interpayes aux missions consultatives et techniques, permettra de limiter les coûts, et elle mérite d'être appuyée.

Il en va de même pour le soutien technique des projets. Il faut encourager le soutien interprojets dans un même pays qui représente un coût inférieur à l'envoi d'experts du Siège. Au chapitre quatre, Coopération technique et soutien du développement, nous aimerions faire les remarques suivantes.

En ce qui concerne la planification du programme de terrain, Grand programme 3.1, il est précisé à juste titre au paragraphe 4.27 qu'il y a certains retards dans le système actuel, et que les délais entre l'identification, l'approbation et l'exécution des projets sont plus longs pour les fonds fiduciaires que pour les projets financés par le PNUD. Une analyse plus poussée, une révision des procédures internes, semblent donc nécessaires afin d'améliorer l'exécution des programmes financés par les fonds fiduciaires. Pourrions-nous obtenir du Secrétariat certaines précisions à ce sujet? En ce qui concerne les représentants de la FAO dans les pays, Grand programme 3.4, nous pensons que nous pouvons appuyer tout particulièrement les points suivants:

- le renforcement de la coordination de l'assistance de la FAO avec les autres sources d'aide au développement, notamment les représentants des donateurs bilatéraux dans les pays (paragraphe 4.47);
- l'identification des lacunes dans l'efficacité de la FAO au niveau des pays, par des rapports semestriels sur la situation économique et agricole du pays
- l'état d'avancement du programme de terrain de la FAO, les priorités du gouvernement et l'aide à l'agriculture fournie par d'autres sources (paragraphe 4.48);
- l'appui aux missions d'identification et formulation des projets, principalement les missions d'investissement organisées par le Centre d'investissement de l'Organisation (paragraphe 4.51);
- le soutien des directeurs nationaux des projets de la FAO dans leur tâche de coordination et de surveillance, pour accélérer les autorisations nécessaires à l'importation des matériels (paragraphe 4.54);
- enfin, et surtout, l'évaluation des besoins d'importation des denrées, les risques de mauvaises récoltes et de pénurie. A cet égard, le paragraphe 4.55 précise que dans 23 pays sujets à la sécheresse les représentants de la FAO peuvent évaluer en toute liberté l'évolution de la demande alimentaire locale dans des rapports mensuels. Ces représentants, qui ne disposent pas d'un personnel de soutien local suffisant, peuvent compter sur un appui financier limité de la Division des produits et du commerce international, en vue d'engager des auxiliaires pour la collecte des informations. Cette activité, tout à fait prioritaire, devrait recevoir un soutien important du Siège à l'avenir.

Encore un point, l'ampleur des tâches confiées aux représentants de la FAO dans les pays, et leur rôle décisif quant à la réussite de l'ensemble des programmes de terrain de l'Organisation justifient pleinement la priorité qui leur est accordée au cours des trois derniers exercices.

Au chapitre cinq, Services de soutien, nous voudrions faire quelques remarques également. Comme le soulignent les paragraphes 4.52 et 11.16, la question fondamentale est de savoir si les publications de la FAO atteignent les publics auxquels elles sont destinées dans les pays en développement. Il faudra donc mettre en place un système efficace et économique de distribution sélective. Cette question devrait recevoir une attention particulière au cours du prochain biennium.

En ce qui concerne la bibliothèque, nous appuyons toutes les propositions du paragraphe 4.54, à savoir extension du service de diffusion sélective de l'information aux centres internationaux de recherche du GCRAI, et aux instituts nationaux participant au système CARIS, mettre en place des bibliothèques de référence entre les représentations nationales de la FAO, et surtout dans les PMA, adresser systématiquement à la bibliothèque de la FAO un exemplaire de tous les documents concernant les projets de terrain de l'Organisation (ce qui n'est pas toujours le cas actuellement).

Deuxième partie, l'examen en profondeur des sous-programmes et des éléments de programmes techniques et économiques appelle peu de commentaires. On peut toutefois demander que le paragraphe Perspectives et problèmes insiste davantage sur les obstacles et les problèmes rencontrés dans la mise en oeuvre du Programme de travail approuvé. A cet égard, le chapitre 8 concernant les pêches est bien traité, et souligne parfaitement les besoins particuliers qui appellent une action au cours du prochain exercice, en réponse à des problèmes précis. Sa présentation pourrait peut-être servir de modèle. Au chapitre onze, Programme d'action pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires, c'est un programme qui a reçu une grande partie des contributions volontaires françaises dans le cadre du Fonds spécial PFL, depuis plus de trois ans. Il a donné d'excellents résultats depuis sa création en 1976. Toutefois, comme le rappelle le paragraphe 11.38, les projets de la première génération ont souvent été ambitieux par rapport aux moyens et au temps disponibles. L'expérience a montré qu'une période de deux à trois ans est trop brève pour faire prendre conscience du problème des pertes alimentaires après récolte, et pour mettre en place des dispositifs adéquats pour les résoudre. Il serait donc justifié de prévoir des délais plus longs pour l'expérimentation des nouvelles techniques.

H.S. BAR-SHAI (Israel): First of all, as I participate for the first time in this Commission I would like to congratulate you on your election and I would also like to commend the Secretariat for the elaborate and very clear report they have prepared for us.

About the contents and the activities, I would like among other things to stress a few points. I think that a few of them have been already mentioned by some of our friends but nevertheless I think their importance should be emphasized. I would like to see more activity in a few areas which are I think not the strongest points in the FAO activities. First of all, the encouragement of industry and investment in the food industry. I think the manufacturing of food, the processing of food can enlarge the production of food and especially the added value from it. Investments are available through foreign countries, extra government bodies that can help, not only to manufacture the products, but also can assist in marketing it in other countries so that I think the FAO Investment Centre should be encouraged to identify and analyse and give more projects to help the countries that have the possibilities to manufacture food and process it. For example animal wastes can be a source also for proteins and not only an energy source so there is much to be done in it and I think it should be more emphasized.

I think the problem of marketing channels, organization of marketing generally of agricultural produce should also be more emphasised and be more active. Proper marketing channels can make food products cheaper both to the consumers and to raise the income of the agriculture of the farmers so it would be a good idea if the FAO emphasized more activities in this respect. Activity within the framework should be accompanied by encouraging the farmers to be active together in the fields of marketing agricultural produce and producing to make agricultural inputs. Again these are all things that Israel has much experience in and can, of course, offer to countries interested in these fields.

I was rather alarmed by the decline in the number of trainees in the field of food scientists and inspectors. It was rightly emphasised in the report that those technicians are much required as, especially in developing countries and in 1981, there were 170 trainees, down to 45 in 1982. I do not know exactly the figure for 1983 but I think it is very alarming and courses should be initiated by the FAO both in states or in region, or even international bases to increase the possibilities in this respect. I think it is important to help find more professions, more possibilities in the technical field, in the field of food processing.

Finally, I am glad that the IBPGR is functioning and working well and cooperating well with FAO. I think this should be a good example to the future, how to function in this field.

E. L. da CRUZ (Cap-Vert): Nous nous sommes penchés avec beaucoup d'attention sur le document C 83/8 et nous remercions le secrétariat pour sa qualité.

Les programmes de mon pays ont été consacrés à la nutrition. C'est une affirmation de principe qui a pris corps dans des actions concrètes, en particulier dans le domaine de la conservation des sols, de l'aménagement des eaux, du génie rural, des recherches agronomiques, du reboisement, de l'élevage, etc.

Dans mon pays, le problème de l'autosuffisance alimentaire reste toujours relatif puisque la production est très faible pour des raisons que tout le monde connaît. Il suffira de dire que cette année nous n'avons eu qu'une seule pluie, le 12 septembre. Cependant, en 1982-83, le principe a été posé de l'accroissement de la production dans le but de la nutrition, et pour 1984-85, le programme prendra la même direction.

Nous sommes fiers de suivre les directives de la FAO dont nous espérons toujours le soutien pour obtenir une sécurité alimentaire relative. C'est pourquoi nous donnons notre agrément au Programme ordinaire de la FAO et au Programme d'investissement pour la croissance, la production, l'établissement de circuits de commercialisation, le stockage, etc.

Le problème fondamental dans notre pays est d'accroître la production. Nous exprimons donc notre soutien au Programme ordinaire de la FAO et nous demandons qu'une attention particulière nous soit consacrée pour nous aider à augmenter la production.

S. SCHUMM (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Mr Shah deserves a special word of thanks for the excellent introduction that he gave to this important document. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has noted with satisfaction that document C 83/8 almost entirely takes the recommendations into account made by the last Conference. Thus, the document has gained greatly in clarity. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany particularly welcomes the fact that Part Two of the document contains a more detailed examination of important programmes. We think that this is an essential part of self-evaluation. In principle my delegation agrees with the results of the review and with the conclusions drawn therefrom.

First, may I make two general comments. My delegation welcomes the clear breakdown in structure in document C 83/8 in a result-oriented general description of implementation in Part One, in a more detailed review in Part Two and specific reviews in Part Three as has already been stated by Mr Shah in his introduction. In particular we also welcome the fact that the assessment has been carried out according to uniform criteria in the individual parts of this document.

There are a few comments that I would like to make on individual programmes. Concerning the main programme on Agriculture, we welcome the effort that has been undertaken to strengthen the technical cooperation between the developing countries themselves and the cooperation with other UN Organizations. Over and beyond this we give particular support, as other delegates have already done, to the activities in the sub-programme on Nutrition.

In the main programme on Fisheries, programme element 2.2.2.4, the effort of strengthening cooperation between the developing countries themselves is likewise welcomed by us.

In the main programme on Forestry the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany is very pleased about the fact that since 1980 these programmes have also been oriented towards rural development.

In view of the scope of the TCP within the framework of the Programme of Work and Budget, we would have expected a more detailed assessment of this programme. This would have been to the benefit of a greater degree of transparency of the programme, as repeatedly considered to be necessary by my delegation and others. My delegation noted with interest during the discussions on Agenda item 11 the positive assessment of the TCP by the recipient countries.

Also taking this assessment into account, we feel that the TCP, which has now been operational for many years, should be subject to a further and more detailed review by the Programme Committee and in particular there should be a more detailed assessment according to Part Two of document C 83/8 for the next review of the Regular Programme. This review should be oriented in particular towards the ideas outlined by the Netherlands and Canada on item 11 of the Agenda.

In conclusion, in connection with the document which is now before us we would like to point out that we appreciate the intensified internal evaluation. This should be supplemented - as already done in partial areas - by external evaluation as already favoured on several occasions and also for instance by Australia, in particularly cost-effective areas of work.

All in all, we would like to thank the Director-General for the very convincing portrayal of the work which has been done in the period under review.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : May I first indicate on behalf of the Director-General appreciation for the welcome that the Commission has given to this document. As you know, this is of course the Director-General's report, his Review of the Regular Programme, so the remarks made by all delegations of thanks and appreciation will be conveyed to the Director-General. I know that if Mr West had been present here he would have wished to reply on this point himself.

When one compares the deliberations which took place two years ago, as they are reflected in the Conference Report of this session, with what took place this morning, the first point which came out very clearly is that this time the Conference appears to have been very satisfied with the balance, the contents and the degree of analysis generally undertaken in this Review of the Regular Programme which you have just examined. The Secretariat can only feel grateful that it followed clearly directions which the Conference had given and made economies within its means and abilities. A number of delegations have made suggestions on the improvements which might still be made and I can assure you, Sir, that all these comments will be very carefully examined with a view to responding as positively as we can.

May I now deal with some very specific questions which were asked, not in the order in which the speakers raised them, but in the order in which they arise in the document.

The delegate of Belgium referred to the five elements of evaluation which FAO observes, as mentioned in the introduction to this document and enquired whether some of these elements, such as auto-evaluation and special reviews, could be described and could feature more prominently in this document in the future. I should explain that while these five elements are described in order to indicate to the Conference the main effort of evaluation, this does not mean that these elements are entirely separate, distinct and kept apart. For instance, auto-evaluation is the perfect example of a process of evaluation which the Director-General introduced some four years ago which has been methodically followed since, in which he receives the reports from his senior colleagues, the Assistant Directors-General, and these reports are examined and taken into account also in the preparation of this document, the Review of the Regular Programme. Similarly, where there are special reviews, mission reports, studies - and you have an example here in the Special Report on the Prevention of Food Losses Programme - that formed the basis for incorporation into this very document. So when five elements are mentioned it does not mean that these five elements are either by definition or by management practice entirely kept apart.

The delegate of France drew attention to a very searching point regarding training courses, workshops and study tours, as tabled in Table 1.2 on page 5 of the English text. He rightly enquires why does the Regional Office for Africa show only one such activity during the period 1981-82 when other Regional Offices have been much more active. First let me say with some pride that I think it is a very good sign and a healthy sign that information like this is given in such a document, even though it raises such a pertinent question. So the first point should be one of satisfaction that when there is information, no matter how it may be interpreted, it is factually given. To give you the reasons why I should explain two things. First, it would be unrealistic, undesirable, to look at the activities of any one unit as regards any one field of activity. For example, Regional Offices are involved, as can be seen in other tables, not only in training courses but also in meetings, seminars, expert consultations, in publications, in a direct support to member countries, in technical back-stopping, in a whole range of activities, and you may very well find that in any one period, whether it is a year or a biennium, there will be a changing pattern in those activities as regards any one unit. For example, if you look at Table 1.5, Direct Support to Member Countries, on page 10 of the English text, you will find that the Regional Office for Africa has been more important than any other Regional Office in the period 1981-82 in giving direct support to member countries. I give this as an example. It is a question of looking at the activities in their totality.

The delegate of France also drew attention to Chapter Eight in Part Two of the document with regard to Fisheries, which he commended and which he felt would serve as a model for other such analyses in the future. We are appreciative and take careful note. Let me point out that whenever we try to do an analyses of programmes, of activities, there is bound to be unevenness in quality, partly because it depends on the nature of the activities that you are examining and evaluating and partly because it depends on the factors that you take into account as regards those activities. I realize that as this remark was made as a compliment I do not need to be on the defensive, and I certainly do not feel any need to be. I shall make improvements, but I would urge that we do not and we cannot expect uniformity in any standard of evaluation in the future.

The distinguished delegate of Denmark drew attention to Table Annex 3 on page 45 of the English text, and enquired why the role of Regional Offices was indicated in this Table which deals with direct support to Member Nations. I am glad, that this colleague, the distinguished delegate of Bangladesh, made my task easier by drawing attention to Table 1.5 on page 10 of the English text which deals also with direct support to member countries and, in fact, shows this information for Regional Offices. The reason why Regional Offices are not shown separately in Annex Table 2 is because Annex Table 2 as you can see, Sir, deals not only with programmes, but it deals with sub-programmes, and this is a level of detail which we found difficult and not very realistic when going into the direct support to Member Nations provided by the Regional Offices.

The distinguished delegate of Norway drew attention to the important work done under the Codex, which we appreciate, and then he asked for clarification as to whether the Committee on Agriculture is the appropriate forum for dealing with nutrition problems and issues. This is a matter, which was determined at the very establishment of the Committee on Agriculture. The Council decided that nutrition was a valid subject for the Committee to examine, and it is within the terms of the Committee on Agriculture, as they appear in the Basic Texts. I well recall the sessions of the Committee on Agriculture, particularly the one which took place in March of this year, and there seemed to be no problem at least no problem that the Secretariat felt it necessary to raise about the discussion of nutrition issues.

The distinguished delegate of Belgium referred to a document C 83/5 dealing with the financial statement of the Organization for the period 1980-81. Unless I misunderstood his question, this is, of course, a document which will be considered by the Conference under Commission III, and for that reason I would suggest that his question be addressed there. If there is any other aspect, which I have not understood, I will, of course, be available to take it up with him directly. I hope I have answered most questions, the specific questions which called for an immediate reply. In general may I again thank you, Sir, and through you thank the Commission, for the very serious consideration may give to this very important document.

I shall be happy to report to the Director-General on your discussions, and I am sure he will be greatly satisfied. Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Shah, for your clarification. Distinguished delegates, the Commission welcomes the changes and improvements made in the third edition of the Review of the Regular Programme, particularly in making the document more analytical and results-oriented. We considered that the Review was a valid mechanism for enhancing efficiency and effectiveness, and commended FAO's continued efforts in this direction.

Some delegations expressed the hope that in future clearer indications could be given of the problems FAO faces in the larger context of issues and outlook affecting the various sub-sectors reviews.

It was also suggested that attention should be paid in the next Review, in particular to the priorities at present enunciated, and in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85.

The Commission noted that the Review covered Regular and Field Programmes in an integrated fashion, particularly in the depth reviews, and felt that this approach should be continued.

I shall not attempt to cover all the points made by individual delegations covering so many different substantive programmes. The Drafting Committee will present its report to us here in the Commission and I am sure it will be a good summary of the various technical points made.

I thank you all very much for your cooperation.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12.30 heures

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

C

C 83/II/PV/8

Twenty-second Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session

COMMISSION II

22º período de sesiones

COMISION II

EIGHTH MEETING HUITIEME SEANCE OCTAVA REUNION

(11 November 1983)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La huitième seance est ouverte à 15 h 00, sous la présidence de

C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la octava reunión plenaria a las 15.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de.

C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN (continuación)

13. Review of Field Programmes 1982-83

13. Examen des programmes de terrain 1982-83

13. Examen de los programas de campo 1982-83

CHAIRMAN: We go on to Item 13 of the Conference Agenda which is Review of Field Programmes 1982-83 which is in document C 83/4.

R.S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur general, Département du développement): Depuis 1973, la revue de l'examen des programmes de terrain fournit à la Conférence une analyse systématique et une tentative d'évaluation des activités de la FAO sur le terrain.

L'importance de ces activités se concrétise par le fait qu'il y a environ 2 400 projets sur le terrain, qui représentent une dépense annuelle de 550 millions de dollars.

Comme vous le savez, le document qui vous est soumis est un exercice qui est préparé par le Département du développement, mais auquel ont participé tous les segments de l'Organisation, que ce soient les unités opérationnelles, les unités techniques, ainsi que les représentants de la FAO auprès des gouvernements membres.

Nous avons essayé, avec le matériel que nous avons constitué, de procéder à une analyse aussi concise que possible dans sa forme en vous fournissant aussi clairement que possible une évaluation des difficultés que nous avons rencontrées dans la mise en oeuvre de ces projets.

Comme le Directeur général le souligne dans l'avant-propos du document, nous n'ignorons pas qu'il faut poursuivre sans relâche ces efforts pour améliorer les résultats des activités de terrain de la FAO, en étroite collaboration avec les pays bénéficiaires et avec les autres partenaires qui sont engagés dans ces activités.

Je voudrais ajouter aussi que le Comité du programme et le Comité financier ont examiné ces documents, que leurs recommandations ont été prises en compte, et que dans sa 84ème session le Conseil a approuvé ce document. Il comprend quatre chapitres et des annexes statistiques pour illustrer ce qui est dit dans les chapitres précédents.

Le premier chapitre de ce document se réfère essentiellement aux tendances et aux perspectives des activités de la FAO. Le point le plus important-que je voudrais souligner, c'est qu'au cours de ce biennium, il y a eu un déclin particulièrement sensible dans le volume des activités de terrain qui sont financées dans le cadre du PNUD.

A ce propos, je voudrais ajouter que nous avons reçu hier un certain nombre d'informations sur la Conférence pour la constitution financière du PNUD qui s'est tenue à New York le 9 novembre. Les premières indications qui nous sont parvenues ne nous permettent pas d'être optimistes. Les engagements qui ont été présentés au PNUD s'élèvent à environ 437 millions de dollars à ce jour, et l'Administrateur du PNUD estime que le total des ressources pourra s'élever aux environs de 680 millions de dollars. L'Administrateur du PNUD a déclaré que c'est la quatrième fois consécutive que les ressources estimées sont tombées au-dessous du niveau de 1980, et que l'augmentation par rapport à 1983, pour 1984, sera à peine de 1 pour cent. Evidemment, si l'on exprime en termes réels ce montant, on se rend bien compte qu'il y a une certaine diminution des crédits en 1984 par rapport à 1983.

Je voudrais rappeler l'importance que le Directeur général attache à ce que les ressources du PNUD atteignent un niveau convenable, parce que le PNUD constitue encore l'un des instruments les plus importants du financement des programmes de terrain de la FAO, et que naturellement le déclin de ses ressources a une importance non négligeable sur le volume et les activités, en particulier en ce qui concerne le nombre d'experts qui sont sur le terrain, et comme il est noté dans le document que vous avez sous les yeux, environ deux à 300 experts ne pourront pas être maintenus en activité au cours de l'année 1983.

Le est donc l'unité centrale des ressources que nous utilisons et cet impact négatif sur les programmes de terrain est une préoccupation importante. C'est la raison pour laquelle il faut insister sur ce point.

A côté du financement des projets des activités de terrain par le PNUD, je crois qu'il faut souligner aussi que les perspectives de financement par les fonds fiduciaires sont plus brillantes comme il est noté dans le chapitre premier du document. Les perspectives permettent de penser qu'en 1983, pour la première fois, les opérations financées sur fonds fiduciaires seront légèrement plus importantes que celles financées par le PNUD, 123 millions environ pour le PNUD et 130 millions environ pour les projets financés par les fonds fiduciaires. Ces fonds fiduciaires se divisent en deux catégories: les fonds que l'on pourrait dire "multibi", c'est-à-dire des fonds dans lesquels un gouvernement donateur confie à la FAO l'exécution d'un programme dans un pays tiers, et des fonds unilatéraux aux termes desquels c'est le pays qui donne les moyens à la FAO d'exécuter des projets dans son propre pays.

Il y a des signes prometteurs pour que cette assistance technique financée par les fonds fiduciaires se développe dans les années à venir, compte tenu des engagements qui ont été pris par un certain nombre de gouvernements, en particulier les engagements du Gouvernement italien, notamment dans les pays africains.

Je voudrais dire aussi que parmi les perspectives qui sont favorables, il y a la possibilité pour la FAO d'utiliser mieux que cela se fait actuellement, dans les années à venir, les fonds d'assistance technique qui proviennent de prêts accordés aux gouvernements bénéficiaires par la Banque mondiale et par les banques régionales de développement, et que le pourcentage des activités qui sont confiées à la FAO pourra probablement se développer dans les années à venir. Vous pouvez être assurés que le Directeur général et nous-mêmes faisons tous nos efforts pour augmenter cette participation. La Banque mondiale devient actuellement une des plus grosses institutions de financement de l'assistance technique en général et pas simplement dans le domaine agricole.

Comme vous pouvez le noter, les priorités dans les activités de terrain de la FAO ont été données à l'Afrique qui constitue un peu moins de 40 pour cent des activités de terrain de la FAO.

Dans le chapitre deux de ce document, une tentative d'évaluation des performances des activités de terrain de la FAO a été élaborée. Cette évaluation est basée sur deux types de matériaux. Une première catégorie de matériaux provient des observations et des études qui ont été faites par les représentants de la FAO sur le terrain et par les autres personnes qui ont été engagées dans ces activités. La deuxième partie provient des résultats d'environ 77 projets individuels qui ont été évalués par le Service d'évaluation de la FAO. On ne doit pas sous-estimer les difficultés rencontrées dans la mise en oeuvre d'un programme aussi vaste, mais il est clair aussi, comme je le disais précédemment, que tous les efforts sont faits en vue d'améliorer l'efficacité de ces évaluations et que probablement une automatisation plus poussée de l'information et des méthodes d'établissement des rapports sur ces projets permettra encore d'améliorer ces évaluations.

Je voudrais souligner que l'amélioration des performances des activités de terrain est un procédé continu qui engage non seulement la FAO mais aussi les pays bénéficiaires, ainsi que les autres partenaires, qu'il s'agisse du PNUD ou d'autres donneurs, dans le cadre de revues tripartites.

Comme M. Shah l'indiquait ce matin, la FAO a la plus importante et la plus vieille unité d'évaluation parmi toutes les institutions des Nations Unies et je voudrais le souligner maintenant. Au chapitre trois, nous avons essayé d'illustrer la façon dont le programme de terrain contribue à bâtir et à aider les pays bénéficiaires à partir d'un programme de sécurité alimentaire. Dans les dernières années, plusieurs types de programmes incluant notamment des activités de support aux investissements sont devenus de plus en plus importants en vue d'essayer de contrôler tous les problèmes qui sont reliés à la sécurité alimentaire.

Les actions qui sont entreprises dans ce secteur prioritaire et auxquelles le Secrétaire général attache une importance particulière, sont groupées autour d'un certain nombre de programmes à plusieurs facettes, qui sont évoquées dans le chapitre trois, et qui montrent que l'ensemble des activités de la FAO convergent assez bien vers l'obtention d'objectifs en cette matière. Actuellement d'ailleurs, est en cours de discussion un programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire dans le cadre des propositions que le Directeur général a présentées au Comité mondial de la sécurité alimentaire, et qui a été examiné par ce comité et actuellement par la Conférence. Le chapitre quatre de ce document analyse les changements intervenus dans l'exécution et dans les activités de terrain de la FAO dans différents domaines. Je veux parler d'abord des problèmes qui sont liés aux évolutions des pays en développement et dire que certains pays ont déjà acquis une certaine organisation au niveau des institutions et au niveau de la disponibilité de cadres, qui les amène à demander des experts de plus haut niveau pour de plus courtes périodes, alors que d'autres pays qui ont été confrontés à des difficultés plus grandes ont encore besoin d'experts pour des périodes de longue durée dans des domaines plus variés.

Je voudrais souligner également un aspect important, à savoir l'effort que fait la FAO en vue de renforcer les institutions nationales qui leur permettraient de mieux participer au développement et aux actions de développement qui sont entreprises dans le pays pour passer peut-être de la notion d'assistance à une notion de coopération qui est certainement plus fructueuse.

Je voudrais aussi souligner l'évolution des programmes de terrain, d'analyse et d'évaluation des ressources naturelles vers l'utilisation de ces ressources naturelles, ce qui est un signe assez encourageant dans les aspects du développement.

Enfin, deux derniers points sont évoqués dans ce dernier chapitre, à savoir: les problèmes liés à la coopération technique entre pays en développement. Vous savez que la FAO joue un rôle énorme en ce domaine et joue un rôle catalyseur extrêmement important dans le développement de la coopération technique en pays en développement soit par ses bureaux régionaux, soit par l'intermédiaire d'actions menées auprès d'organisations sous-régionales.

Enfin, dans le cadre de nouvelles dimensions, vous trouverez quelques commentaires sur l'utilisation de nationaux pour la direction des projets de développement, et je pense que cette utilisation peut être considérée comme un progrès dans la participation du pays à son propre développement. Au cours de cette réunion, je pense que nous recevrons beaucoup d'avis et de commentaires en vue d'améliorer encore l'examen des programmes de terrain de la FAO. J'ai beaucoup insisté sur la question du déclin des ressources mises à la disposition de la FAO pour l'exécution de ce programme de terrain. Je pense que c'est une question extrêmement importante, mais il est évident que je suis à votre disposition pour vous donner toutes les informations supplémentaires que vous souhaiteriez avoir et répondre aux questions qui nous seront posées.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea reafirmar una vez más la importancia que nuestro gobierno concede a las actividades de campo de la FAO. Esas actividades representan los beneficios tangibles que reciben nuestros gobiernos de esta Organización.

Desafortunadamente, en esta oportunidad este documento, así como la presentación que se ha hecho, representan la nota triste y lamentable de esta Conferencia.

En efecto, hace dos años, cuando discutimos el documento sobre los exámenes de los programas de campo sentimos gran satisfacción porque había un numero adecuado de proyectos, porque se realizaban las entregas de manera oportuna y eficaz y porque los países se beneficiaban de todos esos logros positivos; en cambio, ahora se ha invertido la tendencia y lo que es más preocupante la ya difícil situación en el seno del programa de Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo se ha agravado aun más a la luz de las recientes informaciones que se nos acaban de transmitir. Si oímos bien, parece que ahora los fondos del PNUD van a quedar reducidos a 680 millones, lo cual significa que en el curso de cuatro o cinco años, en términos reales, se está produciendo una reducción de un 50 por ciento; esto si es preocupante en sí mismo tiene unas repercusiones más graves y definidas sobre la FAO porque paralelamente a esa reducción de los recursos del PNUD se está cumpliendo también el fenómeno inexplicable de que igualmente se vienen reduciendo las asignaciones de esos fondos en cuanto a la ejecución de proyectos por parte de la FAO después de que nuestra Organización ha sido la principal agencia de ejecución del PNUD.

Creo que, sin duda, todo esto debemos consignarlo en nuestro informe, expresar nuestra preocupación por esos hechos que realmente nos inquietan y nos preocupa que todo eso se cumpla ahora en contraste, en contraposición a dos hechos evidentes: el primero, a que se agrava aun más la situación alimentaria agrícola y a que hay mayores necesidades en los países en desarrollo; y el segundo aspecto es el de que ahora los países están demostrando cada vez más mayor satisfacción por la eficacia, por la forma positiva como lleva a cabo la FAO las actividades de campo. De manera que realmente no entendemos esa situación, pero sabemos, naturalmente, que corresponde, que se enmarca esa situación dentro de la conjura que venimos denunciando dentro de la tendencia real, notoria y lamentablemente progresiva de disminuir, de reducir la asistencia multilateral para desplazar esa asistencia hacia el campo bilateral, en el cual todos sabemos cuál es la actitud de los países donantes que están inspirando y que están alentando esa campaña contra la asistencia multilateral.

A toda esta referencia se agrava otro hecho también que tiene relación directa con las actividades de campo de la FAO, y es la situación del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, FIDA.

Todos sabemos que la FAO, a través de una adecuada cooperación con el FIDA y por medio del Centro de Inversiones de nuestra Organización, 'ia participado por lo menos en las dos terceras partes en la identificación y en la preparación de los proyectos que hasta ahora ha financiado el FIDA. Pues bien, en esta Conferencia hemos oído, sobre todo en la Plenaria, las declaraciones que han hecho Ministros y Jefes de Delegaciones sobre la situación del FIDA; particularmente el señor Eugene Whelan, Ministro de Agricultura del Canadá y Presidente del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación hizo una relación dramática sobre esta situación que padece el FIDA y a través de la cual se están asfixiando, se está eliminando ese importante organismo de crédito, el único organismo internacional de financiación dedicado exclusivamente a la agricultura y a la alimentación.

Unos pocos países, pero sobre todo uno, el más alto contribuyente del FIDA, se comprometió moral y legalmente cuando adoptamos la resolución 22/5 para la primera reposición del FIDA, repetimos "se comprometió ese país" a suministrar los fondos que le correspondía dentro de la proporción en que todos los países cubren los recursos del FIDA, y no ha cumplido ese compromiso ese distinguidísimo y respetable país y parece que no va a cumplirlo y que tampoco va a participar en la segunda reposición, lo cual indudablemente va a tener repercusiones negativas, no sólo en relación con el FIDA, sino también con las actividades de campo de la FAO por las razones que expuse anteriormente.

Pero hay algo grave e inquietante que nos preocupa, y es un funesto paralelismo que parece surgir en relación con la actitud de estos pocos países.

Parece ser que otros países donantes, hasta los cuales está cundiendo el mal ejemplo, estuvieran inclinados también a asumir actitudes semejantes.

Nosotros creemos que esta Comisión tiene el deber, tiene la obligación ineludible de señalar esa tendencia, de condenarla, de manifestar su apoyo por la validez y la importancia insustituible de la cooperación multilateral para que con recursos suficientes la FAO pueda seguir adelante sus importantes actividades de campo.

Queremos, señor Presidente, hacer unas referencias concretas a algunos aspectos del documento que fue analizado en forma muy adecuada por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y, sobre todo, respaldar las opiniones de esos Comités acerca de la necesidad y la conveniencia de que se haga cada vez mayor uso del personal nacional en los proyectos, e inclusive que se designen a nacionales de los países en desarrollo como Directores de los proyectos.

Creemos que esto es importante y que tiene significación en la capacitación, en la preparación de nuestras gentes, del personal nacional de los países del Tercer Mundo para que luego nuestros propios elementos, nuestro propio capital humano pueda continuar la labor, prolongar los beneficios de las actividades de campo.

Igualmente creemos que en nuestro informe hay que destacar la importancia de incrementar el uso de consultores y de instituciones nacionales por los mismos argumentos con que he respaldado el aumento del uso de expertos nacionales.

En relación con la calidad de los expertos, creemos que será necesario manejar ese aspecto con cierta flexibilidad. Hay algunos países cuyo grado de desarrollo es aún incipiente y necesitan todavía de la asistencia técnica tradicional; o sea, de expertos para períodos más o menos largos, mientras hay otros países que ya han alcanzado cierto grado de desarrollo y en los cuales será necesario utilizar expertos de alto nivel por períodos cortos.

Creemos que este puede ser un marco, una orientación dentro de la cual la Organización puede situar, su posición en relación con los expertos.

Para que nuestra intervención no sea totalmente negativa, vamos a concluir con una nota positiva en relación con los fondos fiduciarios.

Creemos que esta Comisión debe alentar a los actuales países y Organismos que suministran fondos fiduciarios, reconocer ese aporte que ellos hacen, registrar con complacencia el aumento de esos fondos fiduciarios que en cierta medida, aunque sea de manera muy limitada, compensan un poco la preocupante reducción de los recursos destinados a actividades de campo.

J. DAHL-HANSEN (Denmark): I wish, first of all, to thank the Assistant Director-General for his introduction of the document before us, the Review of Field Programmes 1982-83, and thank also his colleagues in the Secretariat for this excellent document.

We find that the document provides a comprehensive picture, and a good analysis of the field programmes carried out by FAO in the 1982-83 biennium. It offers a good basis for discussing these activities. We find, Mr Chairman, that in the present grave situation many developing countries are experiencing in the food area, particularly the African countries south of the Sahara, and the crucial role which the agricultural sector plays in overall economic and social development, great importance should be attached to these field activities.

Denmark is among the largest contributors to FAO's field activities, through our financing of Trust Fund programmes. Total disbursement under our cooperative programmes for the periods 1970 to 1982 amounts to approximately US\$ 62 million. Our annual contribution has increased from US\$ 2.8 million in 1975 to US\$ 6 million in 1982. We hope to be able to continue in the years to come to provide an important contribution to FAO's Trust Fund activities, and I believe that the decision of my Government to maintain Danish official development assistance well beyond the 0.7 target set forth in the International Development Strategy will, in fact, make this not only a hope but a realistic possibility.

In addition to our Trust Fund programmes with FAO, Denmark puts high priority on support for food and agriculture in its bilateral programme. A large share of this bilateral assistance goes to African countries. Yesterday, when I attended the Special Donors' Meeting called by the Director-General to discuss assistance for the more than twenty African countries affected by food crisis, I was able to inform the Director-General that the Danish International Development Agency (the DANIDA) is seeking presently governmental authority to provide an additional 17.100 tons of white maize for Mozambique and your own country, Lesotho. This is in response to a bilateral approach from those two countries. The assistance, which is worth Danish kroner 45 million, or approximately US\$ 5 million, is expected to be shipped from Kenya, where it will be purchased, to the two recipient countries later this month.

As we have just heard from the Assistant Director-General, an important part of funds channelled to the United Nations Development Programme goes for support of food and agriculture, thus in 1982 slightly less than 1983. In 1982 51 percent of FAO field activities were financed by UNDP funds. As you are aware Denmark is, and intends to continue to be, among the major contributors of the UNDP. Thus a few days ago in New York, at the Pledging Conference, which the Assistant Director-General also made reference to in his introduction, my Government was able to pledge an amount of approximately US\$ 40 million to UNDP for 1984, and equal amounts for 1985 and 1986.

I think, Mr Chairman, that it would be appropriate if at this stage I refer to what we have just heard the Ambassador from Colombia saying about cutting multilateral aids. I can confirm that we have not and have no immediate intention of cutting multilateral aids, and at present more than 40 percent of our total assistance is multilateral aids.

Denmark regards the UNDP with its global and multisectional approach as a very important institution for the provision and coordination of the technical assistance of the United Nations system. We hope that the important decisions adopted at the June session this year of the UNDP Governing Council will mobilize additional and continuous resources for UNDP both from present and from new donors, and thus create a more firm basis for the multilateral aids which are important, and thus also for support of field activities of FAO. Furthermore we hope that FAO in the execution of field programmes will cooperate fully with the UNDP and with the UN country representatives in efforts to ensure and improve the appearance of action among the involved multilateral institutions both at headquarters and perhaps more important, at the country level. We recognize that progress in this respect depends not only on the depth of the interagency coordination arrangements but also on the extent to which the recipient countries themselves exercise their coordinating role with regard to what are their national priorities and the utilization of the external assistance provided.

Allow me now to turn to some more specific matters which are dealt with in the document C 83/4. With regard to the regional distribution of the field programmes we note that the majority of the projects are being directed towards the less developed countries, particularly in Africa where the problems of food security are most acute. We welcome and support this party-oriented line of action.

Concerning the breakdown by categories - and here I am referring to Table 3 on page 11 of the document before us - we wish to express our concern about the relatively insignificant weight attached to projects in the field of nutrition.

As to the evaluation and assessment of field projects, we agree with the conclusions that we find at pages 31 to 41 in the document. We agree in particular with the stress put on careful screening and preparation of new project proposals before they are implemented. Project design, realistic timeframes and so on, they are all important elements for the build-up of projects which will have a sustained and lasting impact. In this respect we welcome the higher involvement of recipient countries in project management, for example in the form of more developing country nationals and project directors, as was also stressed by the Ambassador of Colombia in his statement just before.

We also support the orientation towards increased emphasis of TCDC on technical cooperation among developing countries. The present assessment of projects has been partly carried out at the country level by FAO representatives, and is partly based on evaluation reports. In certain specific areas more comprehensive evaluations have been carried out, for example the FAO/UNDP evaluation of agricultural research. We appreciate that such studies are undertaken. We will support and encourage FAO to further strengthen the evaluation of the Technical Assistance Activities carried out by FAO, both as regards particular sectors and activities in selected countries.

We feel that comprehensive and in-depth evaluation of the field programme will produce valuable information regarding the long-term effects of the assistance and its effectiveness in improving the living conditions for those people and groups which we try to help. Evaluation provides us with an instrument to improve the quality and the efficiency of technical assistance.

Concerning food security in general, I refer to what has been said earlier by my Minister in Plenary. I would however more specifically like to add, with reference to the aim of increasing food production and security in the poorest countries, that we consider the EEC food strategy initiative - which at present covers Kenya, Zambia, Mali and Rwanda - most valuable contribution, and we therefore hope that FAO will cooperate fully with the EEC in this effort.

I will now turn briefly to the multi-bilateral cooperation between FAO and Denmark. According to the guidelines for this cooperation worked out jointly by us in 1978, these activities are concentrated on certain specific areas in which Denmark has special technical expertise to offer. So far five such programmes have been designated and they are dairy training, fertilizer programmes, small-scale fisheries, tick and tick-borne diseases, and seed production programmes, and I believe, Mr Chairman, it would be fair to say that in all these five areas we have seen what the Assistant Director-General has just termed as a move away from the concept of assistance towards the concept of cooperation. We attach considerable importance to this approach of concentration and long term programming as a means to improve the quality and effectiveness of the multi-bilateral assistance, and we look forward to discussing with FAO also their plans and ideas for coherent future development of our joint programmes.

Finally I would like to stress that in the present situation where multi-bilateral projects and other Trust Fund financed programmes account for an increasing share of FAO field activities, it is important to ensure that these activities are fully consistent with the priorities of the developing countries; that they are integrated with the policy priority set by the governing bodies of FAO, and that they are and remain of a purely multilateral nature.

L. MOHAPELOA (Lesotho): May I first of all express my delegation's appreciation of the fairly clear presentation of the document by the Secretariat.

While welcoming the increase in the Trust Funds as reflected in Chapter One, we regret the apparent decline in UNDP funds. It seems to us that it would be very sad indeed for the developing countries if this persists. The effects on the hungry millions we can all anticipate. We perhaps would not let such a situation haunt our consciences.

Note has been made under the comments of credit performance by the FAO auditors with reference to Latin America, Africa and Asia. We accept most of these views as valid. Our experience, however, suggests that this is mainly the result of identification missions and preparation missions that have come on a short-term basis, and are thus not wholly exposed to the local socio-economic environment even if it could be possible to grasp the outstanding ecological features. Flexibility here therefore it would seem to us, in addition to accommodating adjustments during the implementation phase, would allow itself to draw significantly from local experience during the planning phase. We, in this regard, are in full agreement with the distinguished representatives from Colombia and Denmark. We note of course with a degree of satisfaction that in Chapter Four there is a reference to moving towards greater cooperation in terms of working with the local experts.

On the discussion of the impact of investment assistance, it seems to us that to a large extent the majority of the efforts have so far been directed towards land-owning communities. This point is however, that in a number of countries there are rural families that are not farming families. These families are without access to land resources, and at the same time the urban areas have nothing to offer them. Could we not therefore in response to this programme consider investing in other industries which could possibly open new opportunities for these families, particularly in terms of generating incomes for them.

Under Food Security again I notice this reference on page 63, paragraph 3.81, to a study to be carried out on the instructions of the Director-General on consolidating food security programmes and their planning. We welcome this and my delegation will certainly be looking forward to the report when it is presented to the CFS early next year.

F.J. CORTES SIMOES (Portugal): La delegation portugaise note avec plaisir la vaste gamme des activités que ce programme contient et lui donne son appui.

Notre intervention sera de caractère général. En effet, étant donné la situation actuelle franchement précaire de l'agriculture portugaise, due non seulement à des défauts ancestraux qui n'ont pas été surmontés mais aussi à des conditions climatiques défavorables, donnant lieu à des sécheresses prolongées au cours des dernières années, notre pays s'efforce de développer la production agricole et de l'élevage de manière à réduire les importations de produits alimentaires qui déséquilibrent toujours d'une manière préoccupante la balance commerciale extérieure.

Le Portugal fait partie des 12 pays européens membres de la FAO, sur un total de 29 pays, qui continuent à solliciter l'assistance technique du système des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, car les niveaux de développement technique et scientifique, les ressources naturelles et socio-économiques sont bien inférieurs à ceux des autres nations européennes les plus développées.

Le Portugal a par conséquent le plus grand intérêt à demander la collaboration de la FAO afin de pouvoir jouir des avantages de la coopération internationale, tant dans le domaine scientifique et technologique que dans l'analyse des méthodes utilisées pour faire face aux problèmes sociaux et économiques, et bénéficier des progrès réalisés dans le développement de l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

L'expérience d'autres pays plus évolués et l'échange d'informations sur les sujets d'intérêt commun réalisés sous les auspices de la FAO sont ainsi pour notre pays d'une importance fondamentale.

Les instruments dont dispose la FAO au service de cette collaboration, tels que le système européen de réseaux de recherche coopérative en agriculture, confirment l'intérêt de l'Organisation pour développer la collaboration internationale dans le domaine de la recherche scientifique pour l'agriculture.

D'autres aspects dans lesquels le Portugal aurait intérêt à collaborer dans le domaine du programme en discussion seraient ceux qui ont trait aux progrès socio-économiques, notamment qui concernent l'emploi rural et son rapport avec le rôle de la femme et des familles agricoles, et l'intégration des entreprises agricoles et des communautés rurales dans les sociétés modernes. L'utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles: terre, eau, énergie, en tenant compte de la sauvegarde de l'environnement, la protection des structures agraires, la rationalisation et la gestion des exploitations agricoles, le besoin de rentabiliser efficacement la production végétale et animale et de développer la mécanisation agricole, l'évolution des systèmes de commercialisation et de distribution et leur incidence sur l'agriculture, la nécessité d'encourager les échanges commerciaux, sont d'autres chapitres du programme FAO 1982-83 auxquels le Portugal a apporté la plus grande attention.

Outre le système européen de réseaux de recherche coopérative en agriculture, dont notre pays reçoit une contribution et lui apporte lui-même une part, notre délégation voudrait souligner, pour les raisons déjà citées, l'intérêt du Portugal à participer plus intensément aux activités que développe le Groupe de travail FAO/CEE sur les structures agraires et la rationalisation des exploitations agricoles.

En effet, les activités de ce groupe de travail sont particulièrement importantes pour notre pays où il existe dans plusieurs de ses régions, spécialement au nord et dans le centre, des structures agraires défectueuses du type microfoncier qu'il est urgent de changer pour viabiliser l'introduction de nouvelles technologies capables de rentabiliser les exploitations agroforestières en assurant des niveaux de vie adéquats à ceux qui travaillent la terre et de réaliser les objectifs de la production et de l'intégration de l'agriculture dans d'autres secteurs économiques.

D'autre part, dans le secteur forestier, on assiste actuellement à une profonde transformation de la politique forestière portugaise, suite à l'approbation du programme du neuvième Gouvernement constitutionnel par l'Assemblée de la République. Dans ce programme, les principales mesures suivantes sont inscrites pour le Ministère de l'agriculture, des forêts et de l'alimentation:

Création de conditions structurelles et autres pour l'exécution d'un programme d'amélioration forestière à usage multiple impliquant le reboisement annuel de 50 000 ha;

Valorisation et protection de la forêt, notamment récupération et aménagement de la forêt de chênes-lièges et aménagement structurel des forêts productrices de bois et de résine ainsi que des mesures de prévention, détection et de lutte contre les incendies de forêts :

Développement, protection et aménagement de la vie sauvage, notamment de la faune cynégétique, aquicole et apicole.

Parallèlement, il est inscrit dans le programme du Gouvernement, comme une de ses orientations primordiales pour le sous-secteur forestier, la création de conditions qui permettent de pousser plus avant l'industrialisation de produits forestiers, de façon à augmenter les bénéfices reçus par les producteurs et les consommateurs et aussi à accroître les valeurs ajoutées, les liaisons intersectorielles et les effets multiplicateurs pour toutes les économies et, enfin, les résultats positifs de la balance extérieure des produits de cette origine.

A l'heure actuelle, le SecrétariatEtat aux forêts du Ministère de l'agriculture, des forêts et de l'alimentation met a point la préparation des projets de législation de base qui vont servir de support à la concrétisation des politiques définies par le Gouvernement. Parmi ces projets, il y a lieu de signaler les lois suivantes:

Loi de valorisation du patrimoine forestier;

Loi sur l'amélioration forestière à usage multiple des terres incultes marginales pour l'agriculture;

Loi du Fonds de développement forestier, organe financier de la valorisation du patrimoine forestier et de l'amélioration forestière à usage multiple des terres incultes, ayant comme base des résultats obtenus dans le sous-secteur lui-même.

Dans ces projets de législation, on a inscrit en priorité les modalités d'intervention qui peuvent promouvoir la constitution d'une unité de gestion d'une dimension compatible avec l'aménagement des surfaces concernées, surtout dans les zones minifoncières.

Le Portugal va entreprendre un grand effort, également du point de vue financier, pour renforcer et qualifier l'apport de biens et de services produits dans les zones sylvestres et ses patrimoines, y compris les forêts.

JIN XIANGUN (Chine) (langue originale chinois): Permettez-moi de faire quelques observations sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

1) Après la lecture de ce document C 83/4, nous avons remarqué avec satisfaction le rôle catalyseur du programme ordinaire de la FAO dans la fourniture de l'assistance technique et la mobilisation des investissements dans l'agriculture. En effet, la FAO a beaucoup contribué au développement agricole des PED. Ces derniers ont aussi renforcé sans cesse leur capacité d'exécuter eux-mêmes les projets. En outre, un nombre croissant de postes de directeur de projet sont occupés par des fonctionnaires nationaux. Et de plus, la notion d'assistance technique devient progressivement celle de coopération technique. Nous nous réjouissons de cette situation encourageante.

2) La fourniture de l'assistance technique et la mobilisation des investissements dans l'agriculture sont des activités de terrain de l'Organisation étroitement liées au flux des ressources de l'ensemble de l'aide internationale. Le document nous montre encore une fois les impacts défavorables de la récession prolongée de l'économie mondiale sur l'assistance au développement de l'agriculture; en effet, certains projets ont dû être interrompus prématurément. De plus, la part des intrants comme matériel dans les dépenses totales des projets a chuté, passant de 26 pour cent en 1981 à 21 pour cent en 1982 et, par contre, celle des intrants comme personnel a monté, atteignant 62 pour cent en 1982 contre 58 pour cent en 1981. Tout cela réduit les avantages que les pays bénéficiaires peuvent tirer de leurs projets. Nous souhaitons que le Secrétariat de la FAO prenne des mesures efficaces en vue de renverser cette tendance défavorable dans le prochain biennium.

3) Nous avons remarqué d'ailleurs que la réduction du fonds du PNUD et l'insuffisance des crédits agricoles fournis à conditions de faveur nous posent la question de savoir comment la FAO pourrait fournir sans discontinuité l'assistance technique aux pays en développement. Nous sommes d'avis que pour bien assurer la fourniture de l'assistance technique aux PED, nos efforts doivent être axés, au cours des deux années à venir, sur les mesures à prendre permettant d'améliorer le rendement économique des projets, notamment sur le choix des priorités, la définition des "Objectifs" et la conception des projets. Tout cela dans le but d'utiliser les ressources limitées de telle manière qu'elles nous procurent des résultats économiques optimaux. Cela exige bien sûr tant du Secrétariat que des pays bénéficiaires un travail plus performant.

L'évaluation du programme de terrain dans le deuxième chapitre du document C 83/4 nous a fourni des informations très riches pour notre discussion à ce sujet. Elle a énuméré non seulement les résultats positifs obtenus dans les activités du programme de terrain, mais aussi les insuffisances et les problèmes existant dans le travail. Nous avons l'impression que, malgré l'amélioration continue du rendement économique des projets, il reste encore des lacunes à combler.

4) Dans le paragraphe 2.15 du Document, sont citées les remarques d'un représentant de la FAO dans un pays à l'égard des projets. Il a insisté en particulier sur le fait que la définition des objectifs et la conception des projets doivent répondre à la réalité du pays. De plus, les paragraphes 2.55 et 2.57 montrent que la définition des objectifs et la conception du projet faites conformément aux réalités du pays représentent même le facteur clé de la réussite du projet. D'après notre expérience, nous estimons que les objectifs des projets et leur conception doivent s'adapter à la réalité. Qu'ils s'adaptent d'abord à la réalité de la disponibilité des ressources internationales, c-à-d, qu'en définissant les objectifs d'un projet, on doit prendre en considération les possibilités de son financement ultérieur, et ensuite, ces objectifs doivent correspondre aux besoins réels des pays bénéficiaires. Sur ce dernier point, la délégation chinoise a fait remarquer aux sessions précédentes que l'un des facteurs importants dont dépend la réussite d'un projet de terrain est qu'il reflète le besoin réel du pays et qu'il constitue une composante de son développement économique. C'est seulement ainsi que les ressources et les techniques extérieures peuvent s'intégrer dans les besoins réels du pays. Parallèlement, il faut tenir compte également des ressources financières, humaines et matérielles dont disposent les pays bénéficiaires.

La réussite d'un projet dépend des facteurs divers, la situation est parfois très complexe. La réduction des crédits de l'aide internationale est une raison de plus pour nous d'améliorer notre travail et de concentrer nos efforts sur le perfectionnement de l'efficacité économique. Ces dernières années, le gouvernement de notre pays souligne particulièrement l'importance d'améliorer les résultats économiques dans les productions industrielle et agricole. C'est dans cet esprit directeur que notre pays a procédé la réforme du système économique, y compris l'instauration du système de responsabilité dans la production agricole, Nous espérons que nos délibérations et l'échange de nos expériences puissent aboutir à des orientations constructives pour les activités futures de terrain de l'Organisation.

M. PIOTROWSKA (Poland): We have noted with interest the content of the document entitled Review of Field Programmes 1982-83 which not only gives account of FAO activities but also draws the attention of member countries to the important changes that are now taking place, in its work related to the field projects.

The changes of emphasis from evaluation and appraisal of natural resources potentialities in different countries to their optimal utilization and management is of utmost importance for the future. It inspires hopes for an accelerated growth of production and adds more practical meaning to the concept of self-reliance in food.

The growing number of experts from developing countries employed in field projects, national execution of projects, closer cooperation with local counterparts and other local institutions, constitute a clear indication that the ideas of New Dimensions are introduced by FAO into practice in its everyday work. The stress laid on establishing closer links with governments is certainly appreciated by those directly concerned with FAO field work.

We are very appreciative of FAO efforts to evaluate field projects, both funded by UNDP and trust funds, from the stage of designing to their implementation and follow-up. We realize how difficult it must be to find objective and comparable criteria for such kind of evaluation. While the number of projects, where implementation, transfer of skills and follow-up were found unsatisfactory is relatively small, one still might wonder, why such projects have been approved by governments and UN organizations responsible for their funding and execution. Although mistakes and miscalculations are bound to happen, whenever a large number of projects are approved, they should be minimized, especially under existing financial and economic constraints, faced by so many countries. We do hope that the analysis of unsatisfactory results of projects, is carried out far beyond generalities mentioned in the report and that governments concerned are fully informed.

The FAO Representatives who were instructed and induced to participate in the evaluations, or at least to express their opinions, could play a very useful role at the stage of project preparation, and initial appraisal.

Having said so, we also would like to mention that there are still some ongoing projects funded by UNDP and executed by FAO, in our country. The projects executed by FAO in the past were extremely useful, and projects now ongoing are being implemented to our satisfaction.

We also appreciate FAO cooperation and assistance in the field of water management.

We feel that FAO is expanding the scope of its work, which is comprising more and more issues of vital importance for agricultural development and food policy. However, all actions as for instance various activities aimed at improving food security, are really directed to the same end - eradication of hunger and assuring sufficient food supplies for all people who are still suffering from malnutrition. It is also mentioned in the document C 83/4 that the concept of "assistance" is being progressively replaced by "cooperation". We always felt that this will be one of the most important achievements of the Organization and governments of its member countries.

M. SALAMEH (Syria) (original language Arabic): First of all, I would like to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for this excellent document and presentation.

We would briefly like to say that the reference to the reduction in the field assistance and investments in the report under discussion is enough reason for us to think of the need to increase this assistance and investments by the developed countries and other donor institutions, especially when we note the rise of expenditure on non-food commodities and weapon production, as several speakers and heads of delegations have said in the plenary session. We hope that the developing countries are aware of this fact so that it becomes an incentive for them to establish further cooperation among themselves on the one hand and an impetus for each individual country to achieve more self-reliance by developing its technical capacities on the other hand. We think that this is the best way to realize food security at the international level.

R.E. STENSHOLT (Australia): It gives me some pleasure to speak on this topic as I see Mr Lignon smiling and knowing I have visited a number of countries and projects of FAO in the field and we regard this particular Review as important because the Field Programmes are very much at the heart of FAO's work and Australia has consistently endorsed actions to make FAO more field oriented.

We appreciate the organization of the Report this time and the quite frank and open way that arguments and facts are presented. One particular aspect is the problem of UNDP, in talk of field programmes in UN context, UNDP comes first to mind. Let me assure my colleague, even though I see he has left, Ambassador Bula Hoyos, that Australian assistance, to multilateral organizations, and FAO in particular has been increasing and we have been particularly supportive of the UNDP as we regard it as having a central role in the provision of multilateral technical assistance and we urge other donors and new donors to continue and increase their support for UNDP. Let me also add that this does not mean that our support for technical assistance and field programmes is exclusive for Australia has increasingly supported key activities of FAO under Trust Fund arrangements and in particular food security programmes which is the focus of chapter three of the Review before us today and Australia introduced the funding of FAO's food security activities back in 1982 using a broad definition of food security, which of course as we all know has been subsequently refined and presented to relevant bodies of FAO by the Director-General and has been endorsed. Many of the activities which we have supported are in African countries and these include grain storage facilities, soil erosion control, post-harvest loss studies, back to bulk transfer facilities and development of village mills in African countries.

We are providing this year in the 1983-84 financial year and we have recently given a contribution to the Tanzania - FAO larger grain bore project, as well as funds for a joint FAO/Australia Food Security Training Identification Mission which will be going to some fifteen African countries. Whilst they have under consideration a number of other projects for possible funding in the near future, including a grain storage project in the Sudan, a rural women's development project in Mozambique, SADC regional early warning system and rural women's savings project in Zimbabwe.

Turning more specifically to the field activities and their evaluation and their assessment in the report, we particularly welcome this Chapter. It is a subject which is of great importance for a viable and continuing field programme, particularly one which is dependent upon extra-budgetary resources. Having visited in the last year or two a number of projects in Africa, I can only endorse the quite honest comments regarding project design and implementation, particularly on pages 34 and 35, for example problems of insufficient duration, problems for securing all the inputs, particularly local costs, problems of recruitment of experts and national staff, incomplete and inadequate reporting. It might be useful if some mechanism, or perhaps some subsidiary committee, could discuss in some detail evaluation of selected individual projects.

In general we feel that there is room for greater consistency in project design and project reporting. This should include the examination and streamlining of procedures here in Headquarters. We particularly endorse the efforts towards computerization and greater systematization of the project management. Sometimes we have had to track down five different areas to get an activity moving, although I must admit that I myself have been difficult to track down on occasions.

Let me also say how much we have appreciated the flexibility that FAO has shown on many occasions in the designing and implementation of some projects. For example, over the last year or so on technical fund cooperation we have tried with FAO to follow an active programming approach. For example, Chapter Three, paragraph 59, describes some recent joint Australia/FAO programming missions.

We believe that FAO has a valuable role to play as a catalyst in a wide variety of development activities. We are all aware, and it is documented to some extent in this Review, of the role of the Investment Centre, but less well known is FAO's role as an aid to identifying projects for possible and actual bilateral funding. I believe this an area in which a greater catalytic role can be played by FAO in the future.

Turning to Chapter Four, we can only wholeheartedly endorse the move from assistance towards cooperation. We hope that in the next biennium efforts will continue to be made to adjust the field programme. FAO should not be afraid to attempt some radical changes if they are needed, for example regarding the training of students. I think in the past there has been too much concentration on a project-by-project, student-by-student, and not enoughphasis on upgrading the capacity on a particular sector in individual countries. In many ways the only way training is going to be effective is by overtraining in certain sectors to ensure continued and lasting availability of particular skills.

Finally a note on constraints. The key words to overcome these are "flexible and the maximum effective use of scarce resources". When funds are short imagination is needed to make them go as far as possible to make the most productive use of them; and more thought should be given to associating FAO activities with those of other organizations with bilateral aid activities.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous voudrions joindre notre voix à celles des délégations qui nous ont précédé, pour remercier le Sous-Directeur général pour la présentation du document qui nous est soumis.

Quand on est auteur d'un ouvrage ou son lecteur convaincu, la contribution que l'on peut y apporter dans la discussion consiste vraisemblablement à défendre avec acharnement les idées justes auxquelles on croit, tout en restant réceptif et objectif. C'est dans cet esprit qu'ayant appuyé pleinement le programme et le budget 1984-85 de la FAO, document qui consacre une place de choix aux bureaux régionaux, et dont le rôle a semblé soulever encore quelques controverses de la part de certaines délégations, nous voulons à nouveau dire que de l'avis de notre délégation, le rôle des bureaux régionaux n'est plus à remettre en cause, mais plutôt à confirmer et à renforcer par des ressources suffisantes et par l'instauration d'une collaboration plus étroite entre ces bureaux régionaux et le gouvernement hôte de la région concernée dans la mise en place et le suivi des projets agricoles. Nous souhaitons que l'on n'y revienne plus.

Quelques mots d'ordre général à l'attention du Secrétariat de la FAO. Notre délégation est très sensible à l'obligance dont font preuve les membres du Secrétariat qui font de leur mieux pour appliquer les directives de la Conférence, du Conseil et des comités spécialisés l'Organisation. Toutefois, pour entretenir un dialogue direct et franc entre les organes directeurs et le Secrétariat, il est hautement souhaitable que, dans l'exercice des missions qui lui sont prescrites, le Secrétariat continue à nous faire part de ses réflexions sur les difficultés rencontrées, et nous suggère les mesures correctives envisagées pour le franchir.

Concernant l'examen des programmes de terrain 1982-83 qui nous est soumis, nous voulons dire que les programmes de terrain constituent d'une manière générale un domaine où toutes les formes de coopération sont possibles, tant les besoins sont immenses et les ressources insuffisantes face à la pression de la crise économique mondiale de plus en plus forte. Dans cette situation, les aides et contributions bilatérales et multilatérales trouvent toute leur justification. La coopération technique et économique entre pays en développement au sein des ensembles sous-régionaux et régionaux, s'impose autant que la coopération entre les pays en développement et les pays industriels. La collaboration plus étroite entre les gouvernements hôtes et les bureaux régionaux des organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies qui oeuvrent pour le bien-être social devient une nécessité impérieuse.

Plusieurs orateurs ont déclaré ce matin qu'ils accordaient leur premier choix de priorité à l'augmentation de la production et aux programmes de nutrition. Nous sommes de leur avis, car c'est en dernier ressort le but final visé lorsque fut lancé, en 1979, le défi "qu'après 1984 plus un seul enfant de notre planète n'aille se coucher le ventre creux", défi que nous avons d'avance voué à l'échec, malheureusement. Faire en sorte que chacun mange à sa faim, voilà qui résume en quelque sorte le fondement de tous nos programmes de terrain, car cela implique l'augmentation de la production, qui sous-entend le recours à la recherche des variétés végétales et animales plus productives et plus rustiques, l'usage des fertilisants, la formation d'hommes plus aptes à appliquer une meilleure gestion de ressources naturelles (eau, énergie, pêches, forêts), la mécanisation, la lutte contre les épidémies, etc., et de là toutes les stratégies et programmes prioritaires que l'on peut imaginer en vue d'une gestion rationnelle des stocks pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

En définitive, ce qui fait le plus défaut aujourd'hui ce sont les ressources financières nécessaires pour faire face aux projets vitaux visant à vaincre la faim, car les idées et les initiatives ne manquent pas. Inutile de vous dire combien nous sommes préoccupés par la réduction des fonds PNUD, même si l'expansion des fonds fiduciaires incite à l'optimisme. C'est pourquoi nous réitérons l'intérêt que nous accordons aux programmes CTPD, CEPD, et PCT, ainsi que l'appel que nous ne cessons de lancer à toutes les formes de financement, fussent-elles bilatérales, multilatérales ou unilatérales, voire budgétaires ou extra-budgétaires pour que de plus en plus de ressources soient allouées à notre Organisation ainsi qu'à toutes les autres organisations des Nations Unies qui oeuvrent pour gagner de plus en plus de terrain sur la misère des milliers d'hommes qui peuplent notre planète. Nous devons tous nous acquitter de notre contribution.

Pour terminer, nous souhaitons que la double évaluation des projets par le Siège et les organes de terrain se poursuive pour en améliorer l'efficacité et encourager un usage accru des cadres nationaux dans la direction des projets ainsi que le processus de passage de l'assistance technique à la coopération technique.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Nous voulons exprimer nos félicitations au Secrétariat pour la production de cet Examen bien présenté, qui permet de saisir dans quel environnement se déroulent les activités du terrain.

Favoriser la formation et accroître la capacité d'absorption des pays, en mettant en place l'infrastructure institutionnelle nécessaire et la capacité technique et administrative correspondante nous paraissent des orientations valables, ceci en correspondance étroite avec les trois grandes priorités de l'ACDI (Association canadienne pour le développement international) se situant tout à fait dans le cadre de la coopération technique du système de développement des Nations Unies.

Le chapitre qui traite de l'évaluation est très intéressant. On y remarque une ouverture de la part de la FAO, une volonté de tenir compte des problèmes rencontrés pour tirer les leçons nécessaires et mettre en application les actions subséquentes.

Une section particulière du document, chapitre deux, est consacrée aux conclusions tirées de l'évaluation. Elles comportent une série de mesures concrètes et nous invitons la FAO à faire rapport sur leur mise en application à la prochaine Conférence générale.

La FAO reçoit une bonne partie de ses ressources de la part du PNUD, bien qu'il semble, comme nous l'avons appris cet après-midi, que ces mesures soient en baisse en termes réels. Et vous savez bien, M. le Président, que le Canada continue de poursuivre ses efforts pour traverser cette situation malheureuse. Dans le cadre des projets financés par le PNUD, la FAO s'intègre en tant qu'agence spécialisée au système tripartite de développement des Nations Unies.

Le document qui nous est soumis comporte plusieurs commentaires au sujet de la gestion financière, mais il est peu explicite sur les autres aspects de ce système. Il aurait été intéressant que quelques lignes soient consacrées à une évaluation, ou à des commentaires un peu plus larges et que l'on y traite de façon plus explicite de la manière dont les représentants de la FAO travaillent en collaboration avec les coordinateurs résidents des Nations Unies.

G. FRADIN (France): Ma délégation remercie tout d'abord, comme l'ont fait les précédents orateurs le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document C 83/4 relatif aux programmes de terrain. Comme par le passé, ce document aborde franchement les difficultés rencontrées dans l'exécution de ces programmes tant par la FAO que par les pays bénéficiaires.

En outre, je tiens à féliciter tout particulièrement M. Lignon pour l'excellente présentation qu'il nous a faite de ce document. Ma délégation est satisfaite de la présentation séparée du chapitre sur l'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire. Toutefois, nous apprécierions d'avoir, pour le prochain Examen des programmes de terrain, un rapport plus étoffé, un peu du genre de celui qui nous est remis pour l'Examen du Programme ordinaire.

Plusieurs points de ce rapport ont particulièrement attiré notre attention. En premier lieu, ma délégation s'inquiète évidemment, elle aussi, de la baisse des ressources du PNUD. Le total des ressources consacrées aux programmes de terrain de la FAO était de 575 millions de dollars pour le biennium 1980-81; il a été seulement de 553 millions pour le biennium 1982-83, ce qui correspond à une baisse réelle de 20 pour cent entre 1981 et 1983. Ceci est dû essentiellement à la chute brutale des fonds en provenance du PNUD.

Dans la situation où se trouve de nombreux pays en développement cette évolution est autant plus inquiétante qu'il apparaît qu'il y a peu de chances qu'elle soit modifiée à brève échéance. Je rappellerai simplement que la France quant à elle a augmenté sa contribution au PNUD au cours des deux dernières années.

Le recul de ces financements en provenance du PNUD a fort heureusement été compensé par l'augmentation des fonds fiduciaires, au point qu'aujourd'hui ceux-ci ont dépassé, en 1983, les financements en provenance du PNUD.

Compte tenu de l'importance de ces fonds, importance qui va sans doute s'accroître, ma délégation souhaiterait avoir plus de précisions sur la ventilation de ces ressources par type d'activité et par lieu d'affectation.

En ce qui concerne l'évaluation des projets, ma délégation a noté avec intérêt la mise en place d'un processus continu. Elle s'en félicite et estime qu'il faut poursuivre dans cette voie.

Nous avons aussi apprécié le travail considérable exécuté par les représentants de la FAO qui ont évalué plus de 900 projets de terrain.

En outre ma délégation partage l'analyse du Secrétariat en ce qui concerne le rôle déterminant du cadre institutionnel dans la mise en oeuvre des projets. L'insuffisance de ce cadre, qui est une des grandes difficultés signalées par le Service de l'évaluation, nuit à l'efficacité des projets, et ce dans une proportion qui est loin d'être négligeable, puisqu'elle touche à environ 16 pour cent de ces projets. A cet égard, le document rappelle à juste titre l'importance d'un soutien suffisant de la part de gouvernements et du niveau des moyens qu'ils mettent à la disposition de ces projets. Ceci est directement lié à une notion soulignée elle aussi dans le rapport, celle de la capacité d'absorption des pays. Il est très important de relancer l'effort qui permette de l'accroître, et de veiller à respecter un bon équilibre entre cette capacité d'absorption et le volume des projets mis en oeuvre. Bien entendu, dans ce domaine, l'effort de développement à long terme doit porter en priorité sur les pays les moins avancés.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, nous appuyons tout particulièrement son rôle dans le passage du préinvestissement à l'investissement. A notre sens, les projets de ce Programme doivent garder leur spécificité et être un complément aux projets financés par d'autres sources, et en aucun cas se substituer à eux.

Le chapitre trois traite de l'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire. A ce sujet, ma délégation souhaite souligner que les activités correspondantes impliquent l'intervention de multiples facettes de l'activité de l'Organisation, de la protection des cultures aux forêts mêmes, en passant par les pertes après récolte. Par conséquent, nous pensons qu'il convient de veiller à enrichir les programmes de sécurité alimentaire, en y intégrant les activités techniques d'autres programmes. Dans ce domaine comme dans les autres, l'intégration croissante des projets nous paraît évidemment être l'orientation à suivre.

Enfin, ma délégation note avec satisfaction le fait que l'assistance technique porte de plus en plus sur l'utilisation, la gestion et la conservation des ressources naturelles, et un peu moins sur l'évaluation et l'inventaire de ces ressources. Nous espérons que cette tendance se poursuivra.

H. TAKASE (Japan): First of all I would like to commend the Secretariat for the very informative and analytical introduction of the document C 83/4 which is before us.

My country fully appreciates the important role of the FAO field projects in increasing food production and in developing agriculture in the developing countries. We also recognize the necessity of strengthening further these activities in the future, and, while UNDP funds are being reduced, the increasing trend of the trust fund resources clearly indicates that the importance of these activities is being well recognised by donor countries. We are pleased to see that trend.

Here I would like to suggest certain areas in which further emphasis can be placed with a view to improving the field programme activities as a whole.

Firstly, in the developing countries, what is most urgently needed is human resources development. Education and training of the young people who will be the driving force of future development are indispensable. In this context, due consideration should be given to the strengthening of the in-service-training of the young people.

Secondly, there are many activity areas whereby regional and sub-regional activities can play a more effective role in achieving the development objectives.

Projects such as the fisheries resources research are a good example of where activities in the regional level can be more effective, rather than the combination of small country projects.

Top priority should be given to the regional and sub-regional projects where FAO's expertise and knowledge can be fully utilised.

Thirdly, it is our viewpoint that the government-cooperative programme of the Trust Fund is one of the prospective areas where we can expect further increase of resources. However, we sometimes face difficulties in smoothly implementing projects because of the problems on the part of the recipient countries.

It is desirable to streamline the procedures which will enable an early indication and efficient and effective implementation of these projects so that the donor countries should not be discouraged from increasing contributions to the Trust Fund programmes.

We believe that it is of utmost importance to formulate a project which will be cost effective and directly correspond to the actual needs of the recipient countries.

Furthermore, we should also pay due consideration to the relationship between the field project and the activities being implemented under the Regular Programme in the course of the formulation of the project.

Sra. D^a M.E. BONDANZA de FILIPPO (Argentina): La delegación argentina quiere expresar su apoyo al contenido de este documento C 83/4, dedicado al Programa de Campo durante los años 1982-83. Se trata de un documento objetivo, realista, que demuestra las dificultades con que ha tropezado la FAO para realizar sus importantes actividades de campo como consecuencia de la disminución de los fondos del PNUD, como asimismo en la utilización creciente de otras fuentes de recursos.

En este sentido agradecemos las útiles explicaciones que nos ha dado el Director General Asistente del Departamento de Desarrollo. Especialmente queremos expresar acá la importancia que otorgamos al capítulo cuatro, dedicado a la asistencia técnica, y más específicamente al CTPD dedicado a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Argentina considera de suma utilidad el CTPD. Ya participamos en diversas actividades de esa índole y deseamos participar aun más, pues estimamos que en materia agrícola hemos llegado a tener conocimientos técnicos y experiencias que consideramos de utilidad para otras naciones en desarrollo y que tradicionalmente hemos puesto a disposición de las mismas.

Deseamos que la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo reciba el mayor impulso posible y que se dediquen a la misma los recursos financieros que necesite para su desarrollo, pese a la inquietud que se manifiesta en el último párrafo del punto 4.36 del documento sobre una probable limitación. Además, deseamos manifestar nuestra complacencia por la eficacia que ha demostrado la Delegación General de la FAO en la tramitación vinculada a proyectos presentados en el marco de programas de cooperación técnica. Eso es todo lo que quería decir.

A.DE LEON LLAMAZARES (España): Señor Presidente: mi intervención va a ser muy breve y va a hacer referencia a aspectos generales principalmente.

En primer lugar quiero expresar mi felicitación a la Secretaría y al Departamento de Desarrollo de la FAO y a su equipo por el excelente trabajo que han realizado y que nos permite disponer de una visión más exhaustiva y una evaluación sistemática de los trabajos de campo de la FAO.

En segundo lugar mi delegación lamenta la acusada tendencia decreciente de los fondos del PNUD por el negativo efecto que tiene en la actividad de campo de la FAO.

En tercer lugar quiero dejar constancia de la satisfacción que nos produce comprobar cómo aumenta el esfuerzo de autoevaluación de la FAO, de su propia actividad, que provocará una mayor eficacia en las actividades de campo y, en consecuencia, permitirá avanzar en la consecución de objetivos englobados en la nueva formulación del concepto de seguridad alimentaria.

Por último, también es satisfactorio ver cómo van cambiando los planteamientos de trabajo, pasando, en los distintos programas, del concepto de asistencia técnica al de cooperación técnica, mucho más fructífero.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like, first of all, to express our satisfaction for the positive impact of FAO field programmes, which we consider the basis for increasing agricultural production in general, and the programmes of food production in particular as well as for the mobilization of resources.

The Tables and Charts which appear in the first Chapter of this document, show the reduction in the flow of resources to UNDP, and the resulting adverse effects, particularly for the FAO, from which the developing countries seek more field assistance, in order to increase their food production; a situation which raises our concern. We, therefore, appeal to the donor countries to meet their commitments towards this programme, and to take into account the needs of the developing countries. However, we would like to thank the funding countries of the Trust Funds, because this replaces some of the other resources. Moreover, the delegation of my country would like to express its satisfaction for the trend adopted in order to keep the training funds in each programme without any reduction, and to direct most of the programme towards the least developing countries and those in Africa in particular. We also appreciate the study on food security.

Egypt looks forward to the results of the study carried out by the UNDP, in the light of the reduction of resources in many countries including Egypt. We hope that it will truly reflect the aspirations and needs of the developing countries in the present deteriorating economic situation. We suggest that the financing of similar programmes be stopped in order to avoid duplication and to define the priorities of projects, and to focus on definite projects that have a clear return, instead of wasting resources on a large number of small projects. We also suggest to rely more on national expertise.

Egypt believes that evaluation has an important role to play, in order to identify the obstacles, and to correct the mistakes and avoid the problems when future similar programmes are implemented. We would like here to express our satisfaction for the improvement of evaluation during the biennium 1982-83.

No doubt the delegates agree with me on the necessity of cooperation between the national bodies benefiting from the projects and the FAO, in order to make the evaluation successful, and to attain its objectives, because depending on the external expertise alone might not help attain the objectives on the one hand and it increases the expenditures on the other hand. However, there is no doubt that the success of any project depends on several linked factors namely the conception implementation and support extended to the project by the benefiting bodies. Therefore, Egypt would like to express its appreciation for the fact, mentioned in this document, that the conception of projects tackles more and more the problems of development. We hope more improvement will be achieved in this field. Moreover, we insist on the need to benefit more from the capacities and capabilities of national institutions and the employment of national experts for the implementation of these projects in order to overcome all obstacles and bottlenecks. We in Egypt welcome cooperation with friendly and neighbouring countries within the framework of the Technical cooperation programme in order to strengthen their national institutions and provide training opportunities for their staff to run these projects.

Finally I wish the Director-General, every success in his efforts for the establishment of a working programme on food security within the Organization.

M. KHORAYCH (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): La FAO a adopté une nouvelle approche dans le domaine de la protection des végétaux par la création d'un programme d'action coopératif dans le domaine phyto-sanitaire. C'est là un programme extrêmement important étant donné que les pertes dues aux parasites dans le domaine de l'agriculture dépassent 30 pour cent de l'ensemble de la production avant récolte.

Partant de cette réalité, et si le plan de l'Organisation qui vise à assurer l'alimentation dans le monde entier devait réussir, il faudrait renforcer ces programmes de terrain ainsi que d'autres programmes de soutien financés par le PNUD.

A ce sujet, nous voudrions souligner l'importance du Programme d'action pour l'amélioration de la protection des plantes car c'est là un programme important et même vital pour garantir le succès du Programme d'action coopératif mentionné plus haut. Il faudra compléter ce programme et le renforcer par des ressources financières et humaines pour réaliser les objectifs de l'Organisation.

E. L. da CRUZ (Cap-Vert): Le Cap-Vert désire soutenir les programmes de terrain entrepris par la FAO.

Nous sommes un pays dont la survie dépend en grande partie des programmes de terrain. Ceux-ci, en nous permettant de lutter contre le chômage dans le milieu rural, nous orientent vers la concrétisation des actions visant à l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans un pays où la pauvreté rurale est si grande.

Les actions du programme de terrain au Cap-Vert se situent surtout dans le domaine du reboisement, de la conservation du sol et des eaux, de l'aménagement des eaux, de l'implantation des structures visant à la production alimentaire telles que l'amélioration des semences, des cultures vivrières, l'utilisation des engrais dans le domaine de l'élevage, etc.

Nous sommes donc en mesure de témoigner en faveur des programmes de terrain, dont l'utilité et la nécessité ne sont pas à démontrer. Mon pays apprécie énormément ces programmes.

Le Cap-Vert fait part de sa préoccupation en ce qui concerne le fléchissement des investissements dans le domaine des programmes de terrain.

La réduction des ressources du PNUD aurait des effets négatifs qu'il conviendrait d'éviter. C'est pourquoi nous regrettons toute tentative de fléchissement et exprimons notre préoccupation à cet égard. Le Cap-Vert est très reconnaissant à la FAO quant à l'implantation des programmes de terrain et souhaite que, dans le futur, ces programmes continuent à mériter de plus en plus l'attention de tous surtout pendant tout le temps que prendra la réalisation de notre autosuffisance alimentaire.

Nous aimerions en terminant féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qu'il a mis à notre disposition.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I believe that I have all reasons to be very brief in the light of the very converging views that have already been expressed.

Let me first express our thanks to Mr Lignon for a very lucid introduction. We feel also Mr Lignon deserves all our compliments for the high standard of the document which, in our view at least, maintains the high standards that we have reached in the past.

On the extra-budgetary resource base, Mr Chairman, I will certainly not dwell too much as we are certainly painfully aware of the downward trend in UNDP resources which will be only partially compensated for with the increased Trust Fund activities. We have just made a very strong appeal in Plenary to all donor countries, and in fact all countries in a position to increase their contribution to UNDP, to reverse this most unfortunate trend.

We welcome very much the efforts of FAG to increase the execution of technical assistance in projects of financial and international financial institutions like the World Bank and IFAD.

Mr Chairman, we see a new role for TCP, a sort of relief operation which certainly was not originally visualized, but which was very essential and necessary to minimise the tangible effects of the steep downward trend in UNDP resources. With regard to the rates and design monitoring assessment of basic components of field projects, well, our feeling Mr Chairman, is that the rates have more or less remained the same with slight changes here and there. We value very much the role of FAO representatives in that regard.

I refrain from offering any comment on food security since the issue is one of the most essential issues before the Conference and it will be fully discussed in the Green Room.

We are always very much aware of the fact that FAO compares quite well with the rest of the UN system in so-called new dimensions. We have always encouraged the Director-General of FAO to undertake even more vigorous steps in the same direction.

We have already stated our traditional view that FAO should try its best to increase even more its catalytic role in promoting TCDC and ECDC type of activities and we also traditionally press the point of FAO's role in cooperation with national institutions and national systems.

Finally we feel that perhaps the Secretariat may wish offer us more justification for the very great drop of developing countries' share in sub-contracting as we certainly do not feel that their explanation given at 1.55 covers all factors that might lead to a steep decrease.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): I intend to be very brief. We congratulate the Secretariat for producing this document and we are also happy at the clear presentation that the Secretariat gave when they started discussing the document this afternoon.

Mr Chairman, field programmes benefit recipient countries directly. We therefore consider them to be very important in the agricultural development of these countries, including Kenya. We also consider that the more they are properly planned and properly executed, the better off the recipient countries are. This calls for a need to have trained manpower, and to achieve this, funds are required. In this connection while we are happy about the availability of funds through the Trust Funds, we very much regret the fall in availability of funds through UNDP sources. Those are funds we have depended on for quite some time and we still feel that they should be available, and as such we appeal to the major donors to consider their stand on this.

CHAIRMAN: As delegates may have noted in the timetable we still have Monday morning and Monday afternoon for this debate. All those wishing to take the floor will have an opportunity to do so then and therefore, if the Commission has no objection, we have an observer from UNDP who has asked for the floor this afternoon. Normally, we would allow him to speak after all delegates from Member Nations have spoken but since he has asked for the floor and we still have time to continue our discussion on Monday, if you do not mind we could give him the floor.

A.DAVIDSON (UNDP): Virtually everything which we have heard this afternoon in reference to UNDP has been bad news. I am glad to say that I have some information from my colleagues in New York so that you can adjourn this session for the weekend on a slightly more optimistic note. As several delegates have said, the UNDP Pledging Conference has been going on in New York and UNDP has received a number of increased pledges from several of our major donors. This has led my colleagues in New York to make an estimate that we are, in fact, turning the corner; that in dollar terms - and this is using fairly conservative calculations of exchange rates of donor currencies into dollars - it is estimated that total UNDP resources for 1984 will have increased, in dollar terms, by 1 percent, and we are optimistic that this type of trend may continue. I hope that the UNDP delegate will be able to present to you more extensive information on this topic on Monday, or at least early in the week.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: With reference to the last intervention - and we welcome interventions of UNDP in this discussion - I would like to point out that the information you just gave, Sir, was precisely what Mr Lignon said in his opening remarks.

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): Just a few general comments. First of all, could we add our appreciation to that of other delegates for the very useful report that has been presented to us on field activities. It is still rather difficult to assess the scale of priorities used in project selection and the extent to which project objectives can be achieved. Perhaps in future reports we could have a little bit more detail in this particular area.

I also had a small section here on the prospects for UNDP but I can see that I can carefully scratch that out now that we have had some good news on this subject. It is very clear from the review that a considerable amount of attention is being devoted to assessing performance in respect to projects, and this is quite apart from the initial appraisals that have taken place.

A short section, Profile of the Evaluation Reports, provides a useful picture and it must be assumed that the cases described are represented as the world-wide scene. Two years ago we drew attention to the need to establish better liaison with host governments in order to overcome design and delivery problems. The current review again highlights this issue which is likely to be bound up with infrastructure problems and the need to tailor projects not only to that which is socially desirable and technically feasible, but to give a lot of weight to the type of administrative support that is going to be necessary and available.

In the Chapter on Project Assessment the Review includes the comment that the problem of inadequate government support warrants careful diagnosis. It is important that attention is given to the development of better liaison between governments and project planners. Admittedly, it is difficult to devise any watertight plans to ensure that appropriate government support will be forthcoming, but we feel that positive action here is required.

As regards more specific aspects of the Review, it has been generally agreed that in the organization of training programmes, this is one of the most effective means of securing long-term improvements in agricultural productivity. Yet, it is in this area that the assessment of performance is most uncertain and the time horizon is of necessity much longer.

If we look at extension work and at the willingness of farmers to adopt new technologies, New Zealand's experience shows there is a wide gap between the efficient and the majority of farmers. It is by no means certain whether this gap is now growing in our own country. In traditionally minded rural societies, attitudes will be cast in an even more rigid mould but despite this we feel that extension programmes will have large pay-offs in the longer term, despite the unpromising results that we might get in the initial stages. I think project evaluation must continue to take account of this aspect.

KYO-EUN KIM (Korea, Republic of): I wish to make some brief remarks on this agenda item. In the document entitled Review of Field Programmes I found many regrettable and worrying situations on the one hand and, at the same time, some encouraging developments on the other hand. It is really regrettable that even though the world community has devoted a great deal of effort and resources towards the eradication of hunger, poverty and malnutrition, yet the results have not come up to our expectations. It is also a worrying development that a number of developing countries are falling dangerously behind in the battle to achieve food security for their expanding population.

In this situation FAO's Field Programmes have declined significantly during the current biennium from their 1981 peak due to a reduction in the flow of UNDP resources. To make matters worse is the fact that the effectiveness and efficiency of field projects in some cases continues to be affected by the persistence of various constraints. These include insufficient government support, inappropriate institutional setting, delays in the recruitment of international and counterpart staff, and various shortcomings in the provision of equipment, materials and facilities. These constraints should be eliminated as soon as possible for the effective utilization and enhancement of cost effectiveness of the limited resources.

On the other hand, however, encouraging developments could also be seen in the Review.

First, we welcome the fact that more advanced developing countries increasingly require highly specialized technical assistance inputs rather than long-term resident expertise for training and institution building activities which continues to be required by the least developed countries.

Another one is the change in FAO's technical assistance from resources surveys and appraisals in all fields towards resource utilization, management and conservation. In fact, the most important one is the shift in concept from technical assistance towards technical cooperation, involving the developing countries more directly in the implementation of externally-supported development activities.

In particular, my Government welcomes and strongly supports the fact that FAO's strong support and stimulation of TCDC initiatives in agriculture, fisheries and forestry is opening up new and valuable opportunities for direct technical cooperation among developing countries. In this connection I would like to say that the Government of the Republic of Korea is willing to share its accumulated experiences and technical know-how in various fields of agriculture, fishery and forest development within the framework of TCDC and ECDC.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Twenty-second Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session

COMMISSION II

22º período de sesiones

COMISION II

NINTH MEETING NEUVIEME SÉANCE NOVENA REUNION

(14 November 1983)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
C.Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La neuvième seance est ouverte à 10 h 00, sous
la présidence de C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la novena reunión a las 10.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de
C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN (continuación)

13. Review of Field Programmes 1982-83 (continued)

13. Examen des programmes de terrain 1982-83 (suite)

13. Examen de los programas de campo 1982-83 (continuación)

A. RAMI (Maroc): M. le Président, tout en renouvelant les félicitations de la délégation marocaine pour votre nomination à la présidence de cette Commission, je voudrais également féliciter le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs pour l'excellente ventilation des programmes de travail et de terrain 1983-84.

Permettez-moi d'aller dans le même sens en citant quelques aspects de l'expérience de mon pays dans ce domaine. En effet, le Royaume du Maroc a pu mesurer à sa juste valeur depuis bientôt trois décennies l'aide des organes de la FAO dans le domaine agro-alimentaire. En plus des interventions du Programme ordinaire, plusieurs projets d'investissement ont été identifiés et exécutés avec la collaboration de la FAO et avec le concours des organismes de financement, notamment dans le domaine de l'irrigation.

Cet effort sans précédent a permis de maintenir l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans le domaine des fruits et légumes et d'améliorer l'autosatisfaction de nos besoins en sucre et en produits laitiers, malgré la pression démographique.

Ces niveaux de production ont été maintenus en dépit des effets de la sécheresse que traverse notre pays depuis trois années consécutives. Au cours des toutes dernières années, notre attention s'est portée sur les zones pluviales productrices des denrées de base indispensables à notre sécurité alimentaire, telles que les céréales et les huiles.

L'intervention du Centre d'investissement, complétée par les actions du PCT, nous ont aidés à identifier plusieurs projets d'investissement dans les zones pluviales et à établir les plans sectoriels de développement des céréales et oléagineux. Ces plans orientent désormais nos actions en matière d'investissement dans ces secteurs. En plus, l'expérience acquise au contact avec les équipes de terrain de la FAO permet à nos propres cadres techniques de formuler et d'identifier de nouveaux dossiers d'investissement, ce qui va dans le sens des nouvelles orientations de coopération développées dans le chapitre quatre.

En conclusion, et à travers l'esquisse rapide du cas de mon pays, la délégation marocaine suggère à votre commission que l'évaluation du programme de terrain gagnerait à l'avenir à être complétée par l'établissement, conjointement avec les pays bénéficiaires, de véritables bilans nationaux de coopération avec la FAO qui serviront de base à la programmation par pays des activités futures de l'Organisation compte tenu des stratégies et des priorités arrêtées.

N.K. BASNYAT (Népal): FAO's Field Programme Review is a very comprehensive document with essential elaborations and statistical support. I must congratulate the Secretariat for this sort of excellent review.

At this stage I would like to submit a few submissions regarding the Field Programme. The Review has very well highlighted the crucial contributions of project management in making the best possible use of whatever limited resources available are at the disposal of FAO, but it is a matter of great concern to countries such as ours, which have benefited well from FAO's Field Programme, that FAO's Field Programme has declined during the biennium 1982-83 and we feel that this should be increased.

Regarding the Fertilizer Distribution Programme, the Fertilizer Distribution Programme must be tied with providing irrigation facilities. Once fertilizer use is introduced, provision should be made so that the farmers get it easily at their door, and in time and in adequate quantity.

The proper marketing of surplus food grains should be supported in such a way that the benefit of surplus produce should not be taken away by the middle men when the farmers institutions, like cooperatives, receive substantial support from the FAO in the developing countries, and if I can talk of my own country where the cooperative has to play a very vital role so far as fertilizer distribution is concerned at the grass root level, we feel that under the Field Programme also the cooperative should be supported.

We also feel that the field programme in itself should be increased in all the developing countries and the authority to the national directors and to project managers should be increased so that they can decide about organizing studies and fellowship programmes and even with regards to equipment.

P. OLMOS MORALES (Uruguay): Mi delegación desea expresar en una breve intervención algunos de los lineamientos básicos de nuestra opinión con respecto al tema que nos ocupa.

En primer lugar, nuestra complacencia por la presentación de este documento, por lo cual felicitamos al Director General y a la Secretaría; realmente ha constituido un instrumento valioso para el análisis de este tema.

Mi delegación desea expresar su preocupación, que ya han señalado otros distinguidos colegas, en cuanto a las disponibilidades de fondos para los programas de campo de FAO. En ese sentido creo que todos los países miembros de la Organización debemos hacer los máximos esfuerzos posibles para procurar una ampliación de los fondos disponibles para estos programas en las distintas formas y posibilidades.

Asimismo deseo expresar nuestro apoyo a los lineamientos planteados en el capítulo 4° sobre novedades en materia de asistencia técnica y cooperación.

Nuestra delegación en el Plenario manifestó su apoyo a los aspectos generales que se señalan en este documento. Merece nuestra especial consideración el acertado análisis realizado de la situación por países. Y en cuanto a algunos de los lineamientos de la cooperación de los programas de campo, mi delegación expresa su apoyo a una participación más creciente por parte de los países receptores en cuanto a la asignación de la dirección nacional de proyectos de campo.

La experiencia realizada y la proyectada en mi país avalan los lineamientos expuestos en el documento. En ese sentido consideramos que es imprescindible una mayor integración de parte de técnicos nacionales a nivel de codirección o de dirección nacional de proyectos a fin de que estos mantengan una adecuada continuidad y al mismo tiempo pueda realizarse una efectiva transmisión de conocimientos y tecnología por parte de los expertos del exterior. En ese sentido nuestra delegación apoya estos conceptos expresados en el documento.

Por último, debemos recalcar nuestro apoyo en lo que se refiere a los programas de campo, al estímulo y a la formulación más estrecha en cuanto a la cooperación entre países en desarrollo. En ese sentido la experiencia realizada en distintos programas ha tenido un efecto multiplicador y catalítico de la cooperación técnica horizontal entre instituciones nacionales de los países en desarrollo. Por ello nuestro apoyo y nuestra complacencia por las conclusiones señaladas en este capítulo.

N.V.K. WERAGODA (Sri Lanka): We have read with interest the Director-General's Review of Field Programmes for 1982-83. The presentation is lucid and clear, and the Secretariat should be complimented for the very high quality of this report. I wish to make a few specific remarks on the four chapters in this document.

On Chapter One, the most significant message here is the decline in FAO's field programmes during the current biennium from its peak in 1981, due largely to a decline in the flow of UNDP resources - the largest single source of support for FAO's activities. The future prospects seem to indicate that this trend will continue.

We are pleased to note, however, that Trust Fund activities will continue and perhaps even expand steadily. We are grateful to those donor countries who have to some extent rescued the field programmes from a further slowdown of activities. We note that the regional distribution of FAO's field programmes has more or less remained constant and we commend the importance attached to the most afflicted region of Africa. We also note that the delivery under the Technical Cooperation Programme has expanded, although it remains small in terms of the total field programmes.

The activities of the FAO Investment Centre have increased during the biennium but we note from the proposed Programme of Work and Budget that there is a considerable reduction in staff in the Division, presumably due to anticipation of a reduction in the number of projects the Centre will be called upon to formulate and evaluate.

We note that over the years the Centre has built up an efficient core of professional staff capable of undertaking such work in developing countries, and it would be a pity if maximum use of the Centre was not made due to a decline of resources. We hope that the negotiations which presumably will be continued for the replenishment of UNDP resources will result in a much larger share of resources being allocated to FAO. We say this because since follow-up on projects is very important, the cutbacks on UNDP funds would further jeopardise this situation.

We also appreciate the thrust of FAO's field programmes concerning channelling of resources to enhance food security. In this regard the Food Security Assistance Scheme which commenced in 1976 has served a very useful purpose and we would agree with the proposals made by the Director-General to have country-specific food security assistance schemes which he intends to place before the World Food Security Committee.

The Sri Lanka delegation also noted the recent developments in FAO's technical assistance and cooperation. We agree with the trend for resource surveys and appraisal towards resource utilization management and conservation, as it helps to broaden the area of activity from production to other areas of field intervention. What comes out clearly is that FAO's field programmes concerning agriculture and rural development will in future be impaired by the lack of sufficient resources. We hope that the present shortfalls in resources will be a temporary phenomenon and that all efforts will be made by those in a position to assist developing countries, either through multilateral or bilateral agencies which should respond for the sake of the goals of FAO's programmes to which we are committed.

F. ROHNER (Suisse): Qu'il me soit tout d'abord permis de me joindre à tous les collègues qui m'ont précédé pour remercier M. Lignon de l'excellente documentation que sa direction nous a préparée et de l'introduction très franche qu'il a faite vendredi dernier. Je puis dire tout de suite que ce rapport répond à notre attente et à nos principales préoccupations.

Quant au montant actuel des ressources dont dispose la FAO pour le financement de ces programmes de terrain nous le considérons, nous aussi, comme préoccupant. Le fléchissement des ressources en provenance du PNUD n'est cependant pas dû uniquement à la stagnation, voire à la réduction des ressources du PNUD en général, mais également, me semble-t-il, à la réduction très marquée de la proportion des chiffres indicatifs de planification que les pays bénéficiaires du PNUD réservent aux projets de la FAO

L'explication de cette tendance ne peut, en dernière analyse, être fournie que par les pays récipiendaires eux-mêmes.

L'augmentation des fonds fiduciaires paraît-elle, par contre, à première vue du moins, plus encourageante? Nous nous demandons toutefois si, vu la stagnation générale de l'aide publique au développement international, cette expansion de l'aide multilatérale n'est pas en train de se faire au détriment des contributions multilatérales pures. Le document sur l'examen des programmes de terrain qui nous est soumis contient, bien qu'il ne soit pas particulièrement volumineux, une quantité tout à fait remarquable de renseignements sur les activités de terrain et la manière dont celles-ci se déroulent. Il y a là, sur une cinquantaine de pages, matière à alimenter un débat d'une semaine au minimum. Je sais que nous n'avons pas tout ce temps à notre disposition, et j'essaierai en conséquence de me limiter à quelques remarques générales et à un certain nombre de commentaires plus spécifiques.

Ce qui nous a sans doute le plus frappés, à la lecture du document en question, c'est la franchise avec laquelle vous faites état des problèmes que la FAO rencontre dans l'exécution de certains de ces projets de terrain. Je tiens ici au nom de ma délégation à en féliciter et remercier très sincèrement les auteurs. Nous constatons avec grande satisfaction l'importance croissante qu'attache la FAO au travail d'évaluation. En plus, les conclusions du chapitre sur l'évaluation nous montrent que les services responsables ont non seulement pris connaissance des problèmes que rencontrent certaines opérations sur le terrain, mais qu'ils sont également déterminés à tirer les conséquences qui s'imposent tant en ce qui concerne la poursuite des projets en question que la conception et la formulation de nouveaux projets du même type.

Ma délégation reconnaît tout à fait l'utilité et l'importance du travail d'évaluation qu'effectue la FAO par les différents représentants sur le terrain, et ceci en étroite collaboration - cela se comprend - avec les directeurs nationaux et les chefs d'équipe de la FAO. L'auto-évaluation a certes des avantages indéniables, mais elle a également - et le rapport qui nous est soumis le reconnaît sans hésitation - d'importantes limitations. Il est donc tout à fait normal qu'une institution comme la FAO, et son service d'évaluation propre, qui effectue un travail nettement plus approfondi et plus détaillé que les responsables directs de l'exécution et du suivi des opérations, ne pourra toujours effectuer qu'un nombre limité d'évaluations par an. Mais il nous semble malgré tout que le nombre de quarante soit, vu le nombre impressionnant de projets en cours, plutôt faible.

Nous estimons par ailleurs que le travail du service d'évaluation ne devrait pas être limité aux projets financés sur ressources extrabudgétaires, mais également porté, sous une forme appropriée bien entendu, sur les projets financés par le PCT.

Pour ce qui est des programmes d'action spéciaux, la Suisse, vous le savez, figure l'ordonnateur -je puis dire traditionnel - elle a notamment participé à la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire de prévention et de réduction des pertes après récolte, de l'amélioration de production de semences, ainsi que la formation de gestionnaires de projets. Les contributions de la Suisse, je me permets de le rappeler ici, sont accordées sous forme non liée, principe au maintien duquel nous avons toujours attaché une très grande importance. Nos versements annuels à ce programme se situent actuellement entre trois à quatre millions de dollars par an. Les projets que nous finançons font l'objet de revues régulières entre les services compétents de la FAO et de la Suisse. Au cours de la dernière réunion de consultation qui s'est tenue au mois de mai dernier à Rome, nous avons eu une fois de plus l'occasion de procéder à un échange de vues

détaillé, et je m'empresse de le dire, très fructueux sur les différents projets en cours, et notamment sur les problèmes que certains d'entre eux rencontrent dans leur exécution, et des mesures prises ou à prendre en vue de les surmonter.

Les problèmes qui ont pu être identifiés correspondent en fait assez largement à ceux que nous a cités M. Lignon vendredi dernier. Ils sont en partie dus à certaines faiblesses dans la conception et la formulation des projets, mais aussi, dans certains cas, à la participation insuffisante tant des gouvernements que des populations bénéficiaires. Aussi, les perspectives de suivi ne sont-elles pas toujours apparues comme suffisantes. Cette réunion nous a en outre donné l'occasion de faire le point sur le suivi et l'évaluation des projets où il nous semblait que certaines améliorations étaient encore possibles. Je tiens ici à remercier tous les services intéressés de la FAO de l'excellent esprit de collaboration et du dévouement dont ils ont toujours fait preuve à notre égard.

Nous sommes tout à fait conscients qu'il ne doit pas toujours être facile de répondre à toutes les exigences et préférences des différents donateurs. C'est du reste la raison pour laquelle nous nous sommes toujours prononcés en faveur d'une plus grande harmonisation des procédures relatives aux différents fonds fiduciaires. Aussi avons-nous pris bonne note des efforts que les services de la FAO sont en train de faire dans cette direction, et serons-nous intéressés d'étudier les propositions que la FAO pourra nous soumettre ou soumettre aux donateurs à cet effet. Nous sommes persuadés que ces mesures permettront d'augmenter encore l'impact des différents programmes en question.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je voudrais à mon tour me féliciter de la qualité du document qui nous est présenté, le C 83/4. L'intérêt de ce document résulte de l'importance que les pays en développement, notamment ceux situés en Afrique, accordent aux programmes de terrain élaborés par la FAO. Ces programmes de terrain sont, en fait, un compromis dynamique entre une situation paradoxale qui caractérise notre monde actuel et les objectifs légitimes qu'ont certains pays en difficulté. En effet, les difficultés que traverse notre monde actuel résultent d'une série de paradoxes qu'il convient d'analyser correctement.

Le premier paradoxe est que des pays baignent dans une abondance alimentaire et une prospérité économique dépassant souvent leurs besoins essentiels, tandis que d'autres, beaucoup plus nombreux du reste, offrent un triste tableau de souffrance et de misère. La conséquence de cette situation est qu'en réalité à la place d'une politique d'entraide dynamique, concrète et efficace, les premiers, c'est-à-dire les pays nantis, préfèrent s'orienter en priorité vers de somptueuses dépenses d'armements au moment où, dans les seconds, près de 450 millions d'âmes luttent désespérément contre la sous-alimentation et la faim.

Un deuxième paradoxe est que toutes les réunions internationales, de quelque nature qu'elles soient, offrent toujours l'occasion de faire des déclarations d'intention et des serments de combattre et de soigner les maux d'injustice et de sous-développement qui rongent la communauté internationale, mais, en définitive, nous avons l'impression que le mal s'aggrave d'année en année.

Le troisième paradoxe que je citerai parmi tant d'autres que je passerai sous silence et qui ne sont pas moins importants est que tous les Etats s'accordent à reconnaître que la paix dans le monde et l'équilibre de celui-ci dépendent d'une répartition davantage équitable et juste de toutes les ressources dont regorgent certaines parties de notre planète, cependant que l'on constate, au grand mépris des pays pauvres, que, de nos jours, la sécurité militaire et le protectionnisme à outrance prennent très nettement le pas sur les politiques d'intégration par cercles concentriques et de solidarité entre toutes les nations, pourtant seuls gages de notre équilibre.

A la lumière de tout ce qui précède, on peut se demander où va notre monde. Cette question aurait été difficile s'il n'y avait, fort heureusement, des organismes comme celui de la FAO qui s'intéressent d'une manière beaucoup plus concrète et pratique sur le terrain à des problèmes importants de survie et élaborent des projets comme ceux que nous avons à étudier ce matin.

Cette détermination de la FAO, à l'image de son Directeur général dont la déclaration en plénière est une source intarissable de réflexions, à lutter pour aider les pays pauvres à sortir du sous-développement, à vaincre la sous-alimentation et la faim, mérite donc qu'on s'attarde davantage sur ses projets de terrain pour souhaiter que la tendance au fléchissement des ressources du PNUD soit révisée correctement, et là il est heureux d'entendre, comme l'autre jour, que l'Organisation des Nations Unies a décidé d'accroître ses ressources de 1 pour cent, encore que nous souhaiterions que cette mesure ait un impact réel et rapide sur les programmes de terrain de la FAO.

S'agissant plus précisément de ces programmes, la délégation sénégalaise formule le vœu ardent que de nettes améliorations soient apportées à leur évaluation, que les aides à la sécurité soient renforcées.

Dans le domaine de l'évaluation des projets de terrain, mon avis rejoint celui exprimé par d'autres délégués, selon lequel la collaboration entre les bureaux régionaux de la FAO et les organes compétents des pays bénéficiaires soit renforcée dans le sens de plus de responsabilisation de ces derniers, déjà trop conscients de l'importance des progrès. Le choix des experts mériterait également d'être plus sélectif, de manière à ce qu'ils soient non seulement des hommes très qualifiés, mais surtout imprégnés des réalités et des particularités de leur localité d'intervention. De même, la durée de leur mission gagnerait à être envisagée de manière à correspondre aux nécessités pratiques et techniques exigées par la mise en oeuvre opérationnelle des projets envisagés.

Quant à l'aide à la sécurité alimentaire, deux considérations fondamentales doivent être appréhendées. Premièrement, que l'aide apportée aux pays nécessiteux ne soit plus considérée comme une sorte de charité, mais comme une oeuvre humanitaire indispensable à la survie de notre planète. Seconde considération, l'aide alimentaire est presque un devoir de la part de ceux qui en ont les moyens. La plupart des besoins actuels et des difficultés qu'éprouvent les pays en développement confrontés au système international selon lequel les plus forts ont bouleversé les traditions de vie des plus faibles en leur imposant des besoins qu'ils ne connaissaient pas auparavant.

Sur la base de ces considérations des efforts soutenus devraient être consentis en vue de la réalisation des projets de terrain élaborés par la FAO, notamment ceux relatifs à l'amélioration des techniques de production et à la formation des cadres ruraux et des paysans, afin de leur permettre de prendre progressivement en charge leur propre destinée.

Le Sénégal, en ce qui le concerne - et c'est le cas de la plupart des pays en développement et des pays africains en particulier -, a conçu, conformément aux sages recommandations de la FAO, une stratégie de sécurité alimentaire. Elle consiste essentiellement en une diversification intensive et extensive des cultures vivrières, en des mesures d'incitation à la production agricole, en la mise au point des mécanismes et des modalités indispensables au stockage des produits et denrées alimentaires. Naturellement, les conditions climatiques de la zone sahélienne à laquelle appartient le Sénégal, ainsi que les difficultés économique-financières auxquelles il se trouve confronté, sont autant de facteurs limitants pour la solution desquels la solidarité internationale, à travers les projets de la FAO et l'assistance du PNUD, sera particulièrement nécessaire. En conclusion, la délégation sénégalaise, reconnaissant les efforts importants consentis par la communauté internationale, et notamment par la FAO, souhaite que ceux-ci soient renforcés, afin que, tous ensemble, les Etats construisent un monde beaucoup plus juste et équilibré.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Deseamos antes que nada expresar a la Secretaría, como ya realizado por otras delegaciones, nuestra complacencia por la presentación del documento en examen y añadir que, gracias a su forma y contenido, nos ha sido posible conocer la evolución y las tendencias de las actividades operacionales de los Programas de Campo para el bienio 1982-83 de manera ágil y clara.

La Delegación de Panamá participa en esta ocasión no sólo con el objeto de expresar su aprobación y apoyo al documento anteriormente citado, sino también para efectuar algunas consideraciones de orden programático y conceptual a tal propósito.

En primer lugar deseamos manifestar nuestra preocupación por la marcada tendencia a la reducción de las actividades de campo como resultado directo de una sensible disminución de las contribuciones con que se financian dichos Programas. Se trata a nuestro juicio de una circunstancia que mueve a serias reflexiones teniendo en cuenta la situación alimentaria de muchos de nuestros países en desarrollo, los esfuerzos realizados en tal sentido y la fe y la esperanza puesta - como hemos tenido ocasión de observar en las intervenciones de los países beneficiados - en la ejecución de los Programas antes mencionados por parte de la FAO.

Nuestra delegación ya ha señalado anteriormente, en esta reunión y en otras, su preocupación por una posible exagerada tendencia hacia el bilateralismo de parte de algunos países en lo referente a las actividades de campo y quiere en esta ocasión recalcar la importancia que, a nuestro juicio, merece el principio de la interdependencia global en la solución de los problemas particularmente los que se refieren a la producción de alimentos y al concepto de seguridad alimentaria.

Deseamos además aprovechar la ocasión para manifestar que, fieles a nuestra tradición y principios, desaprobamos todo intento de utilizar las necesidades de los países en desarrollo, especialmente las alimentarias, como elementos de presión en el rejuego de la política internacional y que consideramos tales circunstancias como peligrosas para la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo y para la paz entre las naciones.

La Delegación de Panamá, sin embargo, siguiendo la política tradicional de su Gobierno, confía en la capacidad de los pueblos para encontrar soluciones dignas a los problemas de tipo económico, financiero y político necesarias para combatir el flagelo del hambre y las dificultades inherentes al desarrollo.

Es dentro de este contexto de lo hasta aquí considerado que exhortamos a los países desarrollados y tradicionalmente contribuyentes a encontrar dentro de la actual situación de crisis las fórmulas que les permitan continuar aportando y aumentar progresivamente sus contribuciones a fin de que los Programas de Campo regresen a la tendencia que caracterizó el bienio anterior.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Permítame que felicite al Director General y a la Secretaría por el valioso documento que nos ha presentado de forma excelente.

Muy brevemente queremos exponer que nuestra delegación se suma y apoya los criterios planteados por otros Delegados respecto a la reducción de ayuda al desarrollo a través del Programa de Campo. La reducción de los fondos del PNUD ha obligado en la mayoría de los casos a limitar y a dejar de incrementar los proyectos prioritarios para los países en vías de desarrollo, lo que, sin duda, contribuirá a agravar la situación actual.

Nos parece que, si realmente se desea ayudar al desarrollo de los países de bajos ingresos, esta ayuda debe hacerse a través de la vía multilateral que no implica compromiso de carácter político y para ella FAO y el PNUD han demostrado ser vehículos idóneos.

Es preocupante que, al igual que expreso el distinguido Delegado de Colombia, la falta de aportaciones al FIDA, Organización que ha visto reducidos sensiblemente sus fondos y en consecuencia sus operaciones destinadas a la incrementación de proyectos en su casi totalidad serán dedicados a la seguridad alimentaria y al desarrollo rural. Es sabido que uno de sus principales contribuyentes no ha situado los fondos comprometidos propiciando un estancamiento en las actividades del FIDA lo que no se justifica en modo alguno.

Nuestra delegación considera muy útil aumentar la participación de expertos e instituciones nacionales por cuanto ello permite un mejor conocimiento de las realidades y hacer un uso más eficaz de los fondos disponibles, a la vez que se propende a la elevación técnico-científica de los elementos nacionales.

En nuestra opinión, la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo constituye un campo muy amplio en el cual hemos avanzado apenas y el" cual es necesario desarrollarlo y fortalecerlo. Nuestro país está dispuesto a apoyarlo plenamente.

Tal como expresara nuestra delegación en el Plenario, Cuba ha puesto a disposición de los países en vías de desarrollo sus experiencias con un alto espíritu de solidaridad. En la actualidad más de catorce mil colaboradores civiles cubanos que incluyen médicos, constructores, maestros, ingenieros, economistas y técnicos de otras especialidades prestan su servicio en más de treinta países gratuitamente, en la mayoría de ellos, y más de diecinueve mil jóvenes procedentes de ochenta países del Tercer Mundo estudian en nuestro país. Esto constituye un ejemplo de lo que puede hacerse basado en una política de principio solidario y respeto mutuo.

La alternativa de la CTPD es incuestionablemente una alternativa viable que merece todo nuestro apoyo dado que, si un país como el nuestro no dispone de fondos financieros, puede hacer su contribución al desarrollo de otros países con sus experiencias y recursos humanos.

H. MAURIA (Finland): First I want to join all the other speakers who have commended the document before us. It is continuing the long series of excellent reviews of field programmes published by FAO.

The field programme activities have always been considered as the main thrust of the multilateral aid in terms of technical assistance to developing countries. FAO's field programmes have shown over a long period of time a growing trend, which has been highly appreciated by all member countries.

Now, however, the present biennium is witnessing a marked shortfall in the volume of UNDP resources and a clear drop in UNDP allocations to FAO.

This is in our view a most worrying development in view of the deteriorating food situation of many developing countries and the mounting challenge of food security. The Secretariat has also indicated in the document the scope of the problems that will face the field programme work in consequence of the decrease in extra-budgetary funds.

My Minister stated last week in Plenary that Finland in accordance with its consistent policy regarding the UN system as a whole has increased its pledge to UNDP. We see that this on the part of many other countries should be a very necessary measure.

Concerning the trends of extra-budgetary resources, we welcome very much the steady increase in the volume of Trust Fund resources. My Government has been participating actively in the multi-bilateral cooperation with FAO for a number of years.

We note with satisfaction the reported increase in the investment activities of FAO, which has led to more projects financed and investment generated. Accordingly we support the efforts to build up the pipeline of potential investment projects.

Finally I want to say that we attach great importance to the assessment of field projects explained in Chapter Two of the document. The information provided here is illuminating and to the point and we thank particularly the Secretariat for this valuable information. The report shows that most projects are subject to continuous examination of facts. The results of the assessment process are very interesting, revealing the kind of problems occurring in the field work and the rate of performance of the projects. We support the assessment work and would like to see the work being further improved and deepened, and we would ask the Secretariat to utilize all experience deducted from the process to further benefit the field programmes.

A. HAMZA (Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): In the name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate, I would like to thank you for giving the floor to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and I should like to thank the Organization and all those who contributed to the fine preparation of this document which contains the review of the field programmes.

Last week a number of speakers indicated the fact that the field programmes were suffering from cut-backs in UNDP resources, which are the main source of funding for the field programmes, as indicated in the document itself.

The delegation of Saudi Arabia would like to see concerted efforts to encourage donor countries to continue to support the programme. My delegation also supports the efforts to expand Trust Fund projects through bilateral or multilateral assistance, because these approaches have proved their value.

On page 12 the report indicates that the agricultural sector accounts for over three-quarters of the field programme's expenditures, but since most of these crops are subject to pests and diseases my delegation would like to see stress made on the pest and disease control programmes by increasing the expenditure on research in this field.

Mr Chairman, many countries may not lack the necessary resources for food production if efforts are made to exploit those resources properly. The national development of the agricultural sector in every country is the most efficient way of achieving food security, but these countries need skilled labour and modern technology. My delegation hopes that the future field programmes will include more of these components and that national skills will play an important role in this field.

E. MARTENS (Belgique): Je voudrais féliciter le service qui a produit un document d'une si haute qualité tant du point de vue de la forme que du contenu et de la présentation.

L'examen de programmes de terrain a retenu toute notre attention, et ma délégation voudrait faire les remarques suivantes.

D'abord, les répercussions des réductions de ressources du PNUD nous inquiètent beaucoup, mais plus spécialement la tendance vers la baisse de la part affectée au financement du programme FAO/PNUD. L'allocation des fonds du PNUD est tombée de 30 pour cent à 21,7 pour cent pour le biennium 1982-83. La délégation suisse a très bien expliqué cela. L'augmentation des fonds fiduciaires a partiellement neutralisé cette perte.

L'importance des fonds extra-budgétaires pour les activités de la FAO est essentielle: ma délégation regrette une fois de plus que les données pour 1982-83 n'aient pas été incorporées dans les tableaux du Programme de travail et budget pour 1984-85, afin de permettre une comparaison de leur évolution, plus particulièrement au niveau de la répartition par programmes et sous-programmes.

Les fonds extra-budgétaires représentent 59 pour cent des prévisions totales des fonds pour 1984-85, et plus de 90 pour cent de ces fonds extra-budgétaires seraient affectés aux programmes techniques et économiques, constituant ainsi la base des programmes de terrain.

Dans le cadre des priorités, ces fonds extra-budgétaires pourraient nous fournir un indice de l'orientation qu'elles devraient prendre. L'interdépendance des programmes ordinaires et des programmes de terrain ne peut pas être négligée. Il n'est pas exceptionnel que des limitations imposées par le Programme ordinaire ne permettent pas toujours d'utiliser pleinement les ressources extra-budgétaires et d'effectuer les surveillances requises.

Dans cette optique, il nous paraît assez difficile de traiter les programmes séparément.

En faisant l'examen de l'allocation des fonds extra-budgétaires, il en ressort une importance accrue donnée à l'agriculture, au développement rural et aux forêts. Les prévisions pour 1984-85 vont dans le même sens, mais les priorités du Programme ordinaire ne convergent pas tout à fait avec celles de ces fonds.

Je voudrais me référer tout particulièrement au Programme des forêts.

Quoique le niveau des fonds extra-budgétaires indique déjà une importance accrue et que des cris d'alarme au forum international aient été lancés pour la conservation, la restitution et le développement de cette ressource vitale, il ressort que les forêts ne reçoivent pas encore toute l'attention qu'elles méritent. La forêt constitue pour environ 2 milliards de personnes, ce qui représente près de 2/3 de la population des pays en voie de développement, la seule source d'énergie, principalement sous forme de bois de feu. Dans une période où le coût d'autres sources énergétiques ne laisse guère de choix aux utilisateurs du bois de feu, ce problème s'aggrave de plus en plus et l'écart entre l'offre et la demande s'agrandit chaque année.

Dans l'étude "Agriculture: Horizon 2000", il est mentionné que les forêts et les plantations forestières joueront nécessairement un rôle plus important que par le passé dans l'accroissement de la production vivrière et qu'elles apporteront une contribution encore plus grande à la production agricole. Les systèmes d'agro-foresterie intégrée offriront des possibilités intéressantes de tirer davantage de nourriture des zones boisées comme l'indique la même étude.

Une nouvelle dimension est ajoutée par les actions menées dans le cadre du sous-programme Développement agro-sylvo-pastoral. J'espère sincèrement que notre préoccupation de voir attribuer une plus haute priorité au Programme des forêts ne restera pas inscrite dans le désert, le même désert qui, par manque d'une attention plus poussée, risque de s'étendre encore davantage si l'on n'intervient pas dans l'immédiat.

En raison de l'importance que la foresterie peut revêtir dans le cadre du développement rural, ma délégation appuie totalement et sans réserves l'accent qui a été mis tant par le Conseil de la FAO que par la Conférence des Nations Unies au sujet des sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables, notamment sur le programme intitulé: La forêt au service du développement rural. L'accent qui est mis sur le rôle de la femme dans ce même programme reçoit toute notre attention.

Toutefois, ce programme tellement vital ne paraît pas encore trouver une place correspondante à l'intérieur du grand Programme des forêts.

Mon gouvernement se félicite de sa participation concrète aux activités de ce programme, par le biais du financement d'un projet de reboisement aux îles du Cap-Vert. J'ai pu constater moi-même l'impact et l'effet qu'une telle action peut susciter dans une zone écologique caractérisée par des conditions tellement adverses de pluviométrie qu'on les croirait impossibles.

Enfin, je veux mentionner que notre contribution à ce seul projet pour 1982-83 représente déjà plus de 10 pour cent du montant total des ressources extra-budgétaires attribuées aux programmes de forêts au service du développement.

Le fait que mon intervention a été plutôt concentrée sur le Programme des forêts ne veut nullement dire que ma délégation néglige l'importance des autres programmes. J'ai déjà fait allusion dans une intervention antérieure aux programmes et activités qui attirent notre attention particulière. Je veux quand même les énumérer une fois de plus, ne serait-ce que pour insister sur leur importance: en premier lieu, le Programme d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire; le Programme engrais mais avec un accent spécial sur les intrants connexes; la prévention des pertes alimentaires et la protection des végétaux en général; la commercialisation agricole et le crédit; le développement forestier.

C'est grâce à nos contributions complémentaires, sous forme de fonds fiduciaires, que nous pouvons participer plus directement et plus activement à la plupart des programmes de terrain que je viens de mentionner. Les dépenses d'exécution pour le biennium 1982-83, financées sur nos allocations fiduciaires, peuvent être estimées à plus de 16 millions de dollars, ce qui représente au moins 5 pour cent du total des fonds fiduciaires alloués à la FAO.

Pour conclure, quelques observations isolées.

D'abord, l'augmentation des opérations de secours d'urgence au détriment de l'aide au développement nous inquiète, et surtout l'influence que cette tendance peut avoir sur le PCT.

La formule de l'évaluation des projets de terrain par les représentants et par les examens extérieurs reçoit notre appui.

Le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire par une approche intégrée nous est une décision qui a tout notre soutien, ainsi que l'application du programme au niveau des pays.

Nous regrettons que bon nombre de projets aient des difficultés de reprise par les gouvernements bénéficiaires. L'identification des projets et surtout leur formulation finale devraient probablement prendre beaucoup plus en considération la capacité d'absorption du bénéficiaire.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (Mexico): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Nuestra delegación apoya el informe presentado sobre los Programas de Campo con el documento C 83/4. Manifestamos nuestra profunda preocupación, como lo han hecho numerosas otras delegaciones, por la disminución de la corriente de recursos del CTPD, que ha afectado a las actividades de campo de FAO, y que las entregas a los fondos fiduciarios no han podido compensar. Dicha tendencia desfavorable debe revertirse, porque los Programas de Campo tienen una relevancia fundamental para procurar, entre otros, elementos importantes para la asistencia necesaria de seguridad alimentaria en los países en desarrollo. Las evaluaciones realizadas del Programa de Campo han sido positivas y no vemos por qué deba castigarse un Programa que ha operado con eficiencia, reduciendo las entregas que recibe.

Nos congratulamos de que las actividades del Programa se enmarquen en las políticas para las estrategias regionales y nacionales de los países receptores, lo cual es apuntalado por las Oficinas Nacionales y Regionales de FAO, que demuestran nuevamente su utilidad indiscutible.

Por último, señor Presidente, el cambio del concepto de asistencia técnica al de cooperación técnica nos parece sumamente pertinente pues permite una participación más directa de los países en desarrollo receptores en la ejecución de las actividades de los programas además de fomentar la cooperación entre los mismos países en desarrollo.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat yet again on a very good and useful report. I would like to go through the report briefly Chapter by Chapter, if I may.

On Chapter One, we fully support the continuing and growing emphasis on Africa in the regional distribution of field programmes. We have already spoken in Plenary of the grave problems there, and of our current concentration of our Aid Programme on that continent.

On Chapter Two, we find Chapter Two of great interest to the United Kingdom, especially because it sets out a technique of subjective assessment of projects which we are about to try out on our own evaluation reports. Our criteria are rather different, I understand, from those set out here, but it is very interesting to see someone else trying to tackle this very difficult problem in a very similar way. We in the UK and the FAO face very much the same sort of problem here, and, therefore, commend FAO's attempt to do something which is inherently very difficult.

We appreciate the effort also in this Chapter to examine the projects on a qualitative basis, but we note the different results obtained from FAO Representatives on the one hand, and FAO's Evaluation Service on the other. We have a high regard for FAO's Evaluation Service. We think that the results brought out in this paper underline two points: first, that people directly involved in a project are not always, perhaps, the best people to evaluate it. This is not surprising. And, second, that there is a case to be made, very often, for external evaluation.

It is also perhaps a little unfortunate that the criteria used by the Evaluation Service are slightly different from those used by the FAO field staff. It would be easier to compare the two approaches if similar sets of criteria were used. We appreciate the problems involved in this, of course.

We also looked at the evaluation of the 77 projects, which in the great majority of cases were still ongoing projects. Rural development projects have an impact over a considerable period of time, and it must affect the value of the evaluation department's work, as the evaluations are carried out before even the capital phase has been completed. We would like, therefore, to see some evaluation assessments carried out some years after the project has been implemented, to get the longer view.

The comments in the text about the lessons to be learned from the evaluation of these 77 projects are very useful, but we suggest that a more comprehensive report might be carried out at a later stage, with the emphasis on the lessons that are learned, and the action that FAO has taken to implement its findings.

To turn now to Chapter Three, we agree with the need for reappraisal of food security concepts and approaches. The new definition of Food Security, in para.3.5, and I quote "all people at all times having both physical and economic access to the basic food they need", and the three specific aims needed to achieve this objective: control of production, stability of markets, and access to markets, are valuable in their simplicity, but there are, of course, deep-rooted complexities in the actual problems.

In this Chapter also, the recent inclusion of assessment of the potential of rainfed-crop-production is, in our view, an important step forward, but we must remember that projects of this kind merely provide planning tools for further action. There is a risk that they may come to be seen as an end in themselves.

FAO are also correct in highlighting the importance of improving food crop seeds, in paragraphs 3.14-3.19. It would be valuable here for FAO to indicate the far-reaching benefits that the simple selection, multiplication and distribution of local improved materials can have in this programme.

M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador): En primer lugar deseamos expresar nuestros agradecimientos a la Secretaría por el excelente documento que somete a nuestra consideración.

El documento C 83/4 nos indica desde su inicio la situación lamentable en que se encuentran los programas de campo de la FAO al señalar que los mismos han disminuido notablemente en el presente bienio como consecuencia de la reducción de los recursos del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, situación que preocupa fundamentalmente a nuestra delegación y a la cual no le vemos una solución a corto plazo, a menos que se tome conciencia de la importancia y conveniencia de la ayuda multilateral evitando incrementar las desviaciones de los recursos hacia la ayuda bilateral.

La continuación de esta tendencia será desastrosa para los países en desarrollo, para los cuales los programas de campo de la FAO representan un elemento importante en sus respectivos planes de desarrollo.

Afortunadamente, tal como menciona el Director General en su prólogo al documento, la entrega con cargo a fondos fiduciarios ha continuado aumentando durante el bienio y ello ha permitido contrarrestar en parte los efectos negativos de la disminución de los fondos del PNUD.

Con relación a dichos fondos fiduciarios, compartimos totalmente la opinión expresada por el distinguido delegado de Colombia y nos complació asimismo lo mencionado por el distinguido delegado de Dinamarca a este respecto.

La delegación de El Salvador estima que, a pesar de la difícil situación financiera con que nos enfrentamos, la FAO ha sabido orientar sus programas en forma adecuada, permitiendo obtener el máximo posible dentro de estas limitaciones. Por ello aplaudimos el apoyo que la Organización proporciona a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. En nuestra opinión la FAO debe continuar fomentando esta cooperación permitiendo de esta forma que los países en desarrollo tomemos nuestras propias decisiones que nos lleven a alcanzar el nivel de desarrollo deseado. Ello posiblemente contribuirá a evitar algunas de las dificultades con que tropiezan los proyectos, tales como la insuficiencia en el apoyo gubernamental requerido para la apropiada ejecución de los mismos.

La especial atención que la FAO dedica a proyectos de campo destinados a contribuir con la seguridad alimentaria merece nuestro más entusiasta apoyo y ratificamos nuestra identificación con el nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria presentado por el Director General, así como al programa de acción propuesto.

Sin embargo, no podemos menos que lamentar que nuevamente dificultades de tipo financiero frenen los esfuerzos de la FAO en este importante campo de acción.

Queremos insistir en la conveniencia de utilizar cada vez más expertos provenientes de países en desarrollo, fomentando de esta manera la capacitación de nuestros técnicos.

Asimismo deseamos insistir en el uso de directores nacionales de proyectos; estimamos que de esta manera los resultados que se obtengan serán más fructíferos al trabajar con un mejor conocimiento de las realidades específicas de cada uno de nuestros países.

Para concluir, queremos unirnos a lo expresado recientemente en forma tan acertada por el distinguido delegado de Bélgica en cuanto a la importancia que debe darse al desarrollo forestal; compartimos plenamente su preocupación y solicitamos a la FAO continúe los esfuerzos en esta actividad básica.

G. ERICSSON (Sweden): As the Director-General said in his introduction, the Review of Field Programmes has traditionally met with interest and provided for a constructive dialogue in the Conferences. The analysis presented has given us a possibility to discuss how to adapt development cooperation to the everchanging situation in the countries and in the relation between the partners in that cooperation. The paper before us gives again a good basis for such a debate, and the Swedish Delegation will commend the Secretariat for the comprehensive analysis before us now.

Our comments will refer to Chapters One, Two and Four. Let me say from the beginning that we can subscribe to and support what is said in the document. In many cases it gives valuable complementary views to our experiences from bilateral cooperation. I will restrict myself to some comments of a more general nature, mostly underlining what is already said in the document.

Chapter One, and to some extent Chapter Four, deals with the resource situation. We are concerned too at the negative trend in UNDP resource allocation. We urge donors which now channel a comparatively small portion of their total flow of aid via UNDP, if possible to increase that portion. As bilateral donors we normally cooperate with a restricted number of countries, too often the same countries. The global nature of the UN operations is a guarantee for a more fair global coverage.

The FAO share of the UNDP resources has been declining during a number of years. It has to be said again that this to a great extent goes back to the developing countries and their choice of priorities when it comes to the utilization of the UNDP country frame. With the possible increasing priority on agriculture and rural development, after a period of over-emphasis on the modern urban sector, there should be possibilities to regain some of what has been lost of UNDP resources to FAO activities.

The shortfalls in UNDP resources have up to now considerably been compensated by increasing allocations on a Trust Fund basis. The Trust Fund allocations can be classified as follows:-

On the one hand they are used for global or regional activities in support of selected sub-programmes in the Regular Programme. The resources in the Regular Programmes function as seed money, as is said in the introduction to the Review of the Regular Programme. The extrabudgetary resources strengthen the capacity of the Organization to create awareness of the problems and to spread knowledge of strategies and methodologies to overcome them.

On the other hand the Trust Funds are used for national development projects financed from bilateral donors, so called multilateral, or financed by the country itself from its own resources or from resources set aside by financing institutions, primarily development banks. These are so called unilateral Trust Fund projects.

The Swedish cooperation with FAO on the Trust Fund basis which began during the Sixties, was from the beginning in the form of multilateral projects. As our bilateral development cooperation grew and took the form of long-term cooperation with a selected number of countries, so called Programme Countries, we were forced to increase our own management resources in a decentralized way by establishing SIDA Offices in the Programme Countries. We were thus able to take the full responsibility for the execution of the Country Programmes and the multilateral part of our co operation with FAO has gradually decreased. But it has been compensated up to the very last years by increasing funds to global and regional activities, among them the Special Action Programmes, and we do hope that we will be able to keep this extrabudgetary support at about the same level as now.

Our aim with this support has to a certain extent also been egoistic. The FAO, as the global focal point for agriculture and rural development with a vast knowledge and experience and high professional capacity, is in a better position to solve problems and devise strategies and methodologies, and to get them spread to the benefit of the developing countries and bilateral agencies. Thus we have been able to draw upon the results from this cooperation in our bilateral activities.

I have elaborated on this issue because we feel that this may indicate a changed role of FAO, even more of a consultative nature. The time may now be ripe for a more serious discussion on co operation between FAO and the bilateral agencies whereby FAO provides consultancy input in the formulation, appraisal and evaluation of bilateral projects. The complicated procedures to reach agreement via Trust Fund arrangements have not worked in favour of such a development. This issue is dealt with in para. 1.32 and 1.33 where it refers to the importance and promising increased co operation with the development banks. We strongly support all measures to overcome these difficulties. Simple procedures will be crucial to FAO's ability to adapt to the changing situation.

Mr Chairman, I have so far dealt with the resource situation, different ways to try to increase the flow of funds to agriculture and rural development as well as aspects on how to make the role of FAO even more efficient in that process, but even with the best will it still seems that we will have to live with a stagnant resource flow for years to come due to the global recession, at least in the medium-term perspective. In that situation the problem has to be tackled also from another angle - how to make more efficient use of existing resources. The issue is dealt with in both of the two Reviews. It refers to the whole spectrum of development cooperation from the careful selection of relevant projects, taking into account the diverse situation in the country as has been described in the document, the proper design based upon realistic goals and precise objective, efficient management and a monitoring evaluation process as a tool for continuous planning and, if needed, flexible redesign. In the selection of projects of all types the WCARRD principles have to be applied to the extent possible. The implications for the target groups, as identified in the WCARRD Action Programme has to be kept in sight.

The issue of our absorptive capacity figures in the Review of the Field Programmes, I would say again, as this was often brought up in our discussions some years ago, the reference is to weaknesses in the institutional set-up and manpower resources in some developing countries. I would like under this heading also to include the economic absorptive capacity of the country itself to absorb technical assistance and investment projects. In the selection of projects much more awareness must be exercised, awareness of the burden on the national economy as a whole, during the implementation and especially in the long-term perspective. "Burden" in this case means the continuous need of local financing over the government budget, but even more the need for foreign exchange from the countries' own resources to cover operations.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, we want to give our full support to what is presented in Chapter Four, section D - From Assistance towards Cooperation in Field Projects. We have for a long time argued that all projects are the countries' own projects supported to a bigger or lesser extent by resources from outside. We have thus been in favour of full government execution. At the same time we have recognized that FAO has been moving ahead of other UN organizations in that direction. We note with satisfaction that the Secretariat will pursue a further development along these lines. We are convinced that such a development will help in the process now under way of increased production also with different types of funding agencies besides the UNDP.

E.BJORDAL (Norway): We find the Review of Field Programmes 1982-83 very interesting and will make some brief remarks on a few aspects within the programmes.

For example we notice with satisfaction that activities are more centered around the small farmer and fisherman, that integrated development support plays a larger role, and that nationals of the developing countries are more involved in real co-operation within the projects. Technical co operation between developing countries is increasing due to FAO efforts. More stress is laid on utilizing resources for production instead of studying and registering resources.

All these trends our delegation find positive and we will be happy to see FAO go further in the same direction. Hopefully the next field programme report will also deal more with programmes improving the position of women in agriculture.

However, there are causes for concern, several of them connected with shortness of funds. It is worrying to read that 800 identified projects in Africa have no funding. It seems FAO has to be careful not to raise expectations by taking up studies of still many more ideas.

Additionally we find it quite disturbing that follow-up prospects appear to have diminished for projects already underway. It seems to be a growing problem in bilateral as well as multilateral, development cooperation to provide sufficient funds for future maintenance and recurrent costs. Assuming that most existing projects are still important to the countries concerned, we feel that follow-up of investments already made must be secured before new projects are started. New activities should only be taken up after thorough assessments of future expenditures and of the possibilities to meet these costs.

The role of FAO as catalyst has been referred to. Our delegation find this role central and we find that highly qualified advisory services might be even more important in the future than some individual projects.

The review on pages 8 and 9 refers to the increasing involvement of the World Bank in rural development financing. Today as we all know, this is one of the main fields of the World Bank, and it seems obvious to our delegation that FAO could contribute considerably in the implementation of rural development projects. In paragraph 1.33 on page 9 certain legal and other constraints preventing full contribution from FAO and other UN agencies are mentioned. Our delegation feels that Member States of these agencies have reason to expect that everything is done to overcome such obstacles quickly and efficiently. In the present situation all ways and means must be tried to achieve maximum results, and flexibility and joining of resources of international agencies should be welcomed by Member States.

Many delegations have expressed concern about the stagnation in UNDP finances. As you know, Norway is a staunch supporter and a large contributor to UNDP. Out of the total development assistance, more than 50 percent is allocated to and administered by multilateral agencies. Any delegation deplores the decline in UNDP resources and the subsequent consequences for the work of FAO.

H. OGUT (Turkey): Before making comments on the field programme implementation during the last biennium, please allow me to extend our compliments to the Secretariat for preparing an excellent document under review, on the field programmes, and to Mr Lignon for his introduction of the topic. My remarks will be brief and confined to one or two general aspects of field programme implementation of FAO.

First, on the linkage between the Regular Programme and the Field Programmes of the Organization. My delegation believes that FAO's field programme activities represent a major part in the overall technical assistance extended by FAO. In some cases Regular Programme inputs are required to promote field project implementation. Field project execution by FAO at the country level also needs policy guidance and supervision of Headquarters as well as of the country offices which are financed out of Regular Programme resources. Thus a linkage between the Regular Programme and Field Programme in respect of policy and priority setting as well as during implementation of projects is of utmost importance to the Organization.

A closer look at field programme implementation during the last biennium shows that while the consistency between these two programmes in the UNDP has been ensured, there is still room for improvement in bringing Trust Fund programmes in line with the Regular Programmes in terms of priority and policies to the greatest extent possible.

My second comment mainly deals with the role which the Field Programme implementation plays in promoting technical cooperation among the developing countries. While we note with satisfaction the efforts made during the last biennium in the field, we suggest that inter-country projects should be further encouraged by FAO. The field programme inputs should be made available to developing countries wishing to undertake cooperation projects in the field of project formulation, implementation and monitoring.

Thirdly and lastly, I wish to mention that FAO's field programme activities need a longer term planning based on the individual country programmes. Thus we propose that country programmes be prepared for FAO's project assistance. We believe that country programmes will also enable the Organization to monitor the implementation of the field programmes more successfully.

H. REDL (Austria) (original language German): We thank the Director-General for the clear introduction to the document. Austria has studied this document with great interest and would like to express the following ideas. We welcome the fact that the experience of the different countries is taken into account in field programmes. The projects should correspond to the true needs of the recipient countries and take into account their degree of economic development. We believe that follow-up is, of course, of great importance. The assessment should be carried out by the competent authorities of FAO. The country representative and the recipient countries themselves should work together.

Finally, my delegation, along with many of the previous speakers, fully agrees with what is found on page 76, namely that technical assistance should constantly shift towards technical cooperation.

E. PORTE (Liberia): The Liberian delegation joins others in extending appreciation to the Secretariat for the very clear way in which this document was presented. We note with concern the decline of FAO's field programmes during the current biennium from their peak in 1981 and welcome the good news of the likely increase in the donations to UNDP as the main source of support for FAO's field activities. It is our hope that this increase will continue in order that FAO may assist needy countries in feeding their hungry populations.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Denmark, the United States of America and other donor countries for their contributions to the Trust Fund. The Liberian delegation notes with interest the emphasis on field programmes in Africa where food problems are most acute. While my delegation is appreciative of the food assistance kindly given to African countries, the urgent need to transfer technology and experience gained in self-sufficiency in food cannot be over-emphasised.

We therefore appeal to the international community to give more assistance aimed at making the Continent self-sufficient in food in the shortest possible span of time.

S. ZAHARIEV (Bulgaria): The Review of Field Programmes presented in this excellent document which we discuss today is of great importance. The Field Programmes are one of the fundamental activities of FAO. The FAO was created 38 years ago with the aim to struggle against hunger of the world and it provides a number of projects in the field of most needy countries with the concrete aim of increasing their food production. For this period of time a great part of the projects which were started have been completed. We do not have a detailed document to see how effective the various projects have been towards making the needed increase in food production. Let us hope that for the most part all these investments from FAO, UNDP and other sources, have been efficiently used.

We also hope that the Organization has learned a lesson from the unsuccessfully completed projects and will avoid such cases in the future. To be clear, I wish to explain that by "unsuccessful projects" we understand the ones which have been unrealistically planned, staffed with not the best experts available, and which did not reach their objectives. We think these are the major shortcomings of this Organization in field work in its history to date. That is why we took the liberty of drawing attention of the Secretariat of FAO to them because possibly they could be refined over the period of time with which we are now concerned.

We also wish to express preoccupation because we note a decline in resources allocated to field programmes of FAO. The concern about the economic crisis in developed countries is reflected more seriously on the life of the developing countries. The need for a new economic order on which there have been so many discussions in international fora has still not been achieved. As a result there is a lack of sufficient resources where they are needed for the Organization to perform its task in ensuring to the needy the possibility to grow bread. We do not think the amount of money spent over the period of the Field Programmes 1982-83, is sufficient. We understand, however, the difficulty of accumulating more resources for FAO' budget. What we have already suggested is that available resources for development, especially for the field programmes, should be used efficiently. We feel one way of doing this could be cutting travel costs by combining missions to several countries, by having the best qualified experts in the field with a possibility of carrying out several tasks when requested and by following exactly and realistically the objectives of the projects.

We are sure that the Secretariat has also its own view of the points and we are ready to support any suggestions on it.

With that, I would like to add the name of my country to this, approving the FAO work in the field for the period 1982-83.

A.S.OULD MOLOUD (Mauritanie): Ma délégation est préoccupée par la réduction des fonds du PNUD, qui entraîne une réduction des activités sur le terrain au moment même où l'Afrique au sud du Sahara a connu cette année une des plus mauvaises années de sécheresse comparable à celle de 1972-73, début des années de sécheresse. La situation est encore moins brillante pour le cheptel qui n'a pas été reconstitué depuis les années de sécheresse 1972-73. De plus, la situation financière du FIDA, pour le moment précaire, ne fait que nous préoccuper. Pour mieux remédier à la réduction de ces fonds et à la situation du FIDA, il serait souhaitable d'utiliser les ressources humaines disponibles dans les pays du tiers monde, notamment les experts nationaux en remplacement des expatriés qui coûtent souvent plus cher, l'utilisation des experts de pays africains dans des pays africains, qui coûtent souvent moins cher que les expatriés.

En terminant, la campagne agricole 1983-84 ne pourra, dans mon pays, couvrir que 5 pour cent des besoins en céréales.

En ce qui concerne les projets, ils sont souvent mal conçus, sans que la cible principale soit prise en considération, ce qui mène à des excès de ces mêmes projets. Souvent on accuse les pays bénéficiaires en voie de développement de ne rien faire pour l'augmentation de la production alors qu'ils n'en portent pas la responsabilité, comme le savent très bien les représentants des Nations Unies et des pays donateurs. En Mauritanie, le coût de production de certains produits est souvent 3, 4, voire 5 fois plus élevé que celui du produit importé de l'extérieur. Les aléas climatiques difficiles ne facilitent pas la tâche des encadreurs ou des agriculteurs.

J. MCHECHU (Tanzania): My delegation is appreciative of the extensive review and consistency of the 1982-83 biennial field programmes, but we are very much concerned by the shortfall in UNDP resources which have affected reduction in personnel and sharp cutbacks in the project's equipment. This situation may continue in 1984-85 regardless of the fact that Trust Fund and TCP delivery has steadily increased. We therefore appeal to Member Nations and major donors to continue support of the UNDP and reverse the current decline which is bound to affect the continued needs of the developing countries.

We wish now to make a few general and specific comments in a way to support previous comments made by other delegations.

We are quite satisfied with the allocation of the field programmes to the regions and on component basis. However, we wish to suggest that project evaluation before the end of each project should be emphasized. The projects with long gestation periods such as livestock projects deliberately required efforts to be made to ensure replacement of equipment in order to ensure smooth continuity and delivery of services at the end of such projects.

With regard to rural development we feel that there is room for further development. The priority on institution building and small farmer productive activity is pertinent but this effort must now be integrated with cooperative management. We wish also to suggest that smallholder surveys may be necessary to collect baseline data regarding real farmers' demands and problems and to devise delivery of a package to improve the small farmer productive activities.

We note with appreciation also the increased request by Member Nations in the field of training and agricultural planning and project analysis. However, more assistance will need to be directed towards this field and also towards market developing and pricing systems.

Finally we note with great satisfaction the emphasis on multi-disciplinary approaches towards livestock, fisheries and forestry activities and programmes related to food supplies. However, the area of livestock disease control with regard to tick-borne diseases needs to be given fresh impetus by FAO as these are the major killers of livestock in developing tropical countries like Tanzania.

KIM MUN DYOK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): First of all on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the Vice-Chairmen on your election. I would like to thank Mr Lignon for his kind introduction and also the Secretariat for the excellent document before us, Review of Field Programmes, which analyzes in detail the field activities for two years.

In the past two years, 1982-83, FAO has made a considerable contribution to the development of agriculture of Member States by making an effective utilization of the available resources. The fact that in spite of the fall in the main resources there was no fall in the expenditure on training, which forms an important part of TCP projects, is very significant.

Current agricultural situation demands to strengthen the role of the field programmes. In this context our delegation holds that in line with the UNDP and Trust Fund, more impetus should be given to the TCP. In this regard I would like to reiterate our full support to the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. I think that technical cooperation among developing countries plays an important role in the strengthening of the field programme. Developing countries have already gained good experiences and have technique in the agricultural field. Therefore, if they exchange each other's experience and cooperate they can achieve excellent success in agricultural development.

Finally, from the view of contributing to the activities of FAO, I would like to repeat that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will be prepared to provide training of agro-technicians for the developing countries and send our technicians to them. The training may include, in particular, the workshops, seminars and study tours on irrigation and effective use of draught-animals.

S. OKWAKOL (Uganda): As many delegates from various countries last week voiced their concern over the document Field Programmes 1982-83 as presented by the Secretariat, the Uganda delegation would like to register its reaction to the Review of Field Programmes.

Our delegation has noted that FAO field activities declined during 1982-83 as compared to the 1981-82 biennium because of the falling UNDP flow of contribution. However, it was nice to hear last Friday from the UNDP observer, that UNDP resources will be increased by 1 percent for 1984-85.

In the presentation before us we noted that the level of Trust Fund activities were increasing, though this did not fill up the gap created by the UNDP shortfall. The Uganda delegation is appreciative however of the assistance so far received through this Fund, for instance, FAO/Italian Trust Fund for the purchase of agricultural machinery and FAO/Swedish Trust Fund for the Rural Household Tree Planting.

We would like also to re-emphasize the role of the TCP in filling key technical and emergency gaps during the biennium under review.

The Uganda delegation noted with satisfaction the objectivity and frankness of the field programmes assessment which clearly highlighted the issues and problems encountered. The responsibility of FAO Representatives in the design, monitoring and evaluation of projects was also stressed. In order that useful information is gathered on a regular basis, our delegation proposes that in future FAO assists recipient countries in establishing monitoring and evaluation units where they do not exist and strengthening those that exist.

M. FENWICK (United States of America): I join with my colleagues to express this morning the endorsement of this budget, these programmes, these field programmes. I think we can be proud of what the FAO has done in this regard, happy that we are involved together on such a constructive enterprise and I think the Secretariat and all concerned deserve our thanks but we have heard detailed remarks concerning the different aspects and sections of the Review and I would like to direct my few remarks to something a little more for the future, what I hope our next review will contain.

In the first place I think we can be happy that we see an increased emphasis on development towards self-reliance in all the countries. The need for this and the desire for it on the part of the countries concerned has been expressed in many, many places, in Lagos Report and in many other places and I think we can be happy that these field programmes are leading in that direction and the FAO direction generally but I do think also that we must concern ourselves a little bit more clearly and with more emphasis, on direction of programmes to the poorest of the poor. We have in this planet between 450 and 600 million people with absolutely no purchasing power at all, they are hopeless and we must direct our attention to the kinds of programmes that will enable them to be income-producing and independent and to see some hope for the future. It has been well said in our Programme Committee that this is a burden that the world economy can no longer support easily. We must direct ourselves to correcting and trying to solve that problem. I think there will be no lasting progress until we have somehow tried to solve this. How can we do it?

Here I would like to go back to the first thing I ever said when I came to FAO as an accredited representative of my country. We must have a whole new programme that will cost nothing, and it is called Listen. We must have a little humility. We have made mistakes in our own country, as our Secretary of Agriculture pointed out. We have not done everything right even for our own country. Let us have a little more humility as we approach others, and because we are talking to somebody who is illiterate let us not for one minute think that he can be ignored. These are the fanners who are going to have to make these programmes work. If we want more production we must elicit the cooperation of the farmers. It is no use not listening. Because somebody is illiterate does not mean he can be ignored. We have to pay attention to what people think, and above all perhaps we must pay attention to what works. We must look around this world, look at country after country, and see what works, what people are doing when they have a chance to do something, what are governments more and more doing. This I think is perhaps the most important thing we can do. We can observe. We can listen to some of the heads of state and important ministers in developing countries and their remarks to the governments themselves. The governments in those countries, what are you doing about taxation, what are you doing about infrastructure, if you want more agricultural production are you paying attention to these things.

We have had very brilliant speeches from the ministers of governments in Sub-Saharan Africa that we ought to be paying attention to. I would like to say that another African country has suggested that it would be good to include in the reports contributions that those governments have made to their development, that when a development programme comes to their countries they often give time and space and all kinds of services and they are not reported as part of the development of the programme. I think that would be a very fine suggestion. That came too, from one of our African colleagues.

We must talk frankly among friends who trust one another. As a delegate said, we are working with people, not for them. This has to be the whole attitude. But let us look at what does work. Let us take two countries. One in Sub-Saharan Africa is self-sufficient in food. What is it doing? To begin with, it had a President who was himself a farmer. It had a Cabinet which either had a farmer in every ministerial post or it had a deputy who sat next to him. It had a free market system. The only interference of the Government was to make a very sensible industry factory for the processing of certain materials. That worked in that country. Let us take another country in Africa, not Sub-Saharan. They were struggling with a poverty rate of 73 percent but they decided to do something about it. Yes, they got aid, but what did they do themselves, how did their budget reflect what they wanted for their people? Agriculture, education, health, those were the elements of the budget of that country. Family planning, I may say, was a large part of the work of that country. What is the result? They moved some years ago from a controlled agricultural economy to a free market economy. What is the result? The result is 21 percent are still below the poverty level, but that is better than 73 percent, and the poverty level has doubled.

We are going to have to pay some attention to this sort of thing. We must listen to the ministers of agriculture from Asia and Africa who have told us what they are planning to do. One after the other, countries who have been devoted to the controlled economy system are turning in agriculture to the free market economy. What is the result? Just yesterday another country moved to private farming commission, 12 percent of the farmers producing 44 percent of the meat. This is what works.

We should stop talking about and trying to fool people with ideologies that simply do not work. In other words, our budget, our programmes, are moving in a sensible direction. If we care about human beings - and what else are we doing if we do not care about them, what are we doing if we sit here gathered from all over the world if we do not care and listen and respect and work with loving kindness with those with whom we must work.

M. TICOFF (Greece): I would like to express to the Secretariat the appreciation of my delegation for the excellent document on Field Programmes. As the document points out, there is a main negative aspect concerning the field programme activities of FAO, especially related to the decline in the contribution of UNDP financing for technical assistance. Such a decline has a negative effect at least in two ways. It could delay FAO activities in technical assistance in case the rate of increase of funds from other resources is proved inadequate. Second, it confirms the last ten-year trend of a shift from multilateral aid to bilateral aid. Such a shift could in no sense be considered as valuable taking into account the risk of political and economic pressures that may be expected from the donors to the recipient countries. We agree with the distribution of funds among the main sectors of production. Also we would agree with the regional distribution of field programmes giving priority to the African region.

As the review points out, field programmes could have a great contribution to the world food situation. This is a very interesting point, especially in relation to the revised concept of world food security which the Director-General has proposed. Field programmes can contribute directly to the national and regional aspects of this new concept of food security both by assisting developing countries to set up their integrated agricultural and food policies and by promoting the regional cooperation of developing countries.

In this context we would like to stress the need for giving top priority to training at national and regional level. Such training addressed mainly to rural populations could greatly contribute to the development efforts of developing countries.

Also it is important to emphasize the need for the establishment of institutions for agricultural research at regional level. Such institutions could promote agricultural research better adapted to the needs of the participating countries.

The full participation in scheduling and decision making of developing countries in each region should be encouraged in accordance with the concept of technical cooperation.

Lastly, taking into account that the seed production programmes are of great importance in the expansion of food production for developing countries, it would be useful if FAO examined the idea of establishing regional seed production centres.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): May I join other delegates who have expressed their deep concern about the declining trend in the UNDP resources. We feel that this is a trend which has to be reversed or arrested if the activities of FAO in the field in developing countries are to be effective and useful.

We notice with concern that the decline from 1981 to 1983 has been almost 37 percent in real terms. We appreciate the fact that Trust Funds have expanded to fill in some of the gaps. However, the gap still remains despite the Trust Fund expansion and expansion in the activities of TCP field activities.

We wish to join in what the delegate of Norway said this morning on this issue and we deplore this declining trend in UNDP resources.

Speaking of TCP, we find that TCP has done unique work in this direction by filling in some of the gaps and also by showing how responsive it is to the needs of developing countries. We have been constantly appreciative of the TCP, particularly because of its flexibility and because of the fact that it meets the needs, even the short-term emergency needs, of the developing countries. The document brings out very meaningfully how the TCP projects rate much higher than other projects even at the time of implementation and execution and also because of the involvement of recipient countries in the TCP projects.

Speaking about the assessment in Chapter Two, we feel that the assessment by FAO Representatives is very candid and very transparent, and we appreciate the fact that the subjectivity which is referred to as regards the field representatives has been brought out as a very open indicator, though we do wish that there would be more objectivity. But we also feel that the field representatives are doing excellent work in this direction and the qualitative examination of the projects as well as the numerical indicators that they were using for this assessment is very instructive and a step in the right direction. By looking at the assessment, both of the field representatives and the evaluation missions, a number of issues have been brought out which we think are very relevant, and it is necessary to disseminate this information.

One of the things that we think has been highlighted by both the assessments is the requirement for flexibility. We feel that what is required is the in-built flexibility even at the time of the formulation of the projects. In this connexion we also feel that it would perhaps be useful to give more responsibility to the field representatives and to the national directors, so that they

can bring in flexibility of the projects at the time of implementation, and we think this should be institutionalized.

We also feel that the problems in the implementation of the projects which have been so candidly brought out in this document should be disseminated for information, particularly of the recipient countries. We are aware of the fact that while formulating projects such problems which have been encountered during the evaluation missions are taken care of when formulating the projects. But we have a specific proposal. We suggest that there may be a check list of such problems which are encountered during the implementation of the projects, and this check list may be circulated to the recipient countries and to the countries in which these projects are going to be implemented. I am sure that in a number of cases developing countries, when they became aware of problems in other countries of a similar nature when the projects were being implemented, would be in a position right from the start to improve the ground work for the implementation of the projects.

Speaking of food security, we feel that, as given out in paragraph 3.81, the Food Security Action Programme within the FAO, as suggested by the Director-General, would be a step in the right direction, and we are anticipating and looking forward to it.

Before concluding we would like to say that we find this document, Review of Field Programmes, very candid, very objective, very instructive and very useful. However, we feel perhaps there is a need for more emphasis, more study and more analysis of this document, particularly at the level of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. To be candid and honest, during the Programme Committee we found that while looking at the new Programme of Work and Budget one was left with very little time to give adequate attention to this document. We had the same feeling in the Council. Perhaps we mentioned this in the Programme Committee, but we also mention it again, that this is one of the most useful documents which gives an insight into the working of FAO field activities and perhaps because of the usefulness of the document a little more time can be devoted to its analysis in depth by the governing bodies of FAO.

C.di MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Es la primera vez que tomo la palabra en esta Comisión y quisiera felicitarle por su elección, señor Presidente.

A estas alturas del debate quisiera expresar en muy pocas palabras mi alegría y mi aprecio por el documento preparado por la Secretaría; es uno de estos documentos fundamentales en la vida de la FAO porque expresa de una manera muy concisa, muy clara una situación compleja y preocupante; por lo tanto, apoyamos este documento que demuestra la adaptación de la FAO a la disminución de recursos que desgraciadamente hubo, y por esto la FAO tiene que ser elogiada.

No obstante, hemos leído con mucha preocupación lo que indica el Director General en el preámbulo de este documento, en el cual se habla de inversión de tendencia. Esperemos que sea una inversión de tendencia que a su vez se invierta, o sea que los recursos del PNUD no sólo no continúen disminuyendo, sino que empiecen otra vez a subir.

Estamos convencidos que la disminución de la ayuda multilateral en el mundo no es sólo un efecto de la crisis mundial y de la recesión en la que nos encontramos, es también una causa, y esto lo expuso muy claramente en su discurso el señor Kreisky; desgraciadamente la falta de poder adquisitivo por parte de los países en desarrollo es uno de los elementos que determinan y ponen más grave la situación financiera mundial.

Yo creo que para salir de la crisis es necesario un esfuerzo colectivo en favor de los países en desarrollo y se debería comenzar a volver a alimentar las fuentes de ayuda multilateral, entre las cuales está el PNUD.

De todas maneras, queremos expresar nuestra gratitud a los países que, alimentando los fondos fiduciarios, están tratando de disminuir los efectos de esta disminución de fondos del PNUD.

Queremos aprovechar también la oportunidad para expresar nuestro convencimiento de la utilidad de la cooperación entre los países en desarrollo, o sea la colaboración Sur-Sur.

Otro punto sobre el cual queremos expresar nuestro apoyo es que para los programas de campo se utilicen al máximo los recursos de los países y los mismos técnicos de los países. Tenemos técnicos muy preparados en los países que por sí solos se encuentran frente a dificultades, pero que con la ayuda y el encuadramiento de la FAO pueden conseguir resultados mayores procedentes de técnicos que vengan de fuera.

Mrs HOANG THI CU (Viet Nam): Our delegation has studied document C 83/4 very carefully, and would like to congratulate the Secretariat for its valuable work. We are also grateful to Mr Lignon for his clear presentation of the document. We also associate ourselves with many delegations in voicing our deep concern on the decline of FAO's Field Programmes, due to the drop in UNDP resources. We would like to urge traditional donors to increase their contribution for the sake of elimination of hunger throughout the world. We quite agree with the Panama delegation in saying that it is not an appropriate approach to take advantage of the requirements on food of developing countries to impose political pressure upon them. Field programmes are considered as direct assistance for developing countries. Therefore, we are looking forward to seeing an increase in the future. In FAO agriculture has a high priority, and we have concentrated our internal and external input to promote food production. We highly appreciate FAO's performance of field programmes. With the present limited resources we think it is necessary for us to discuss ways to make field programmes more and more effective, and for this purpose I would like to make some suggestions. In executing field projects more consideration should be given to make full use of local and technical staff, and to support the flexible percentage of the fund for equipment to meet different requirements of recipient countries. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Taking the floor at this late hour one has to be very brief, and my predecessors who have taken the floor before me have already highlighted some of the most important points in the document. It is rather voluminous, but it is very interesting and very informative.

I would just like to dwell on one or two issues, and these are, taking them by Chapters, the first being the trends, recent trends and developments in terms of the Field Programmes. First, the resources. We notice with concern the declining trend in UNDP resources, especially so that FAO's Field Programmes hinge on the support that could be got from the UNDP, and unfortunately, even though we see an increasing trend in contrast, an increasing trend of Trust Fund resources, we do not see this increasing trend matching up, if not compensating enough, the declining trend of the UNDP resources. It is not just saying it out here, perhaps a little bit more clarification could be given at the field level as to how this, in fact, is affecting FAO's field programmes, because we from the recipient developing countries see quite a lot of this kind of cross-matching or resources and field programme desires. Perhaps this might help other delegations to see more exactly the impact of this decline in resources of UNDP that is being felt on the field programmes. For this reason we also appreciate the increasing use of TCP, particularly in the Resource Sector, especially for the field programmes, because we see how this flexible quick action adaptable programme could bridge several gaps which, in fact, are now widening up with this decline in resource impact.

The second Chapter, which deals with Assessments; we have three basic issues here. First, we welcome the objectivity and the frankness of the assessments of both the FAO and the evaluation missions. What is needed at this stage, and this is where we support our colleague from Pakistan, is built-in flexibility, both in the design and implementation of projects, right from the start, the design, there should be a built-in flexibility.

A third point we would like to see: we would like to make comments on, is on the third Chapter on Food Security. We see the role of FAO's technical assistance as being very important, very practical, and this, in fact, lends weight to our request and, in fact, our pleas, that FAO's Food Security Assistance Scheme should be strengthened and supported. It is not just in terms of technical manpower, but also in terms of finance and physical inputs. Moreover, such assistance should be integrated with investment support, because we believe if we are to identify food security problems, and we do not follow this up with practical programmes, we shall run the risk of having very good ideas only for the shelves. For this reason we would like to see an integrated programme, such as is referred to in the Director-General's proposal during the last Committee on Food Security, and I refer specifically to the Food Security Compact, a sort of action which would go from identification through implementation, and perhaps even one stage further, investment. So at this stage we would just like to add to this Review one basic point, which is the need to formulate and implement more vivid programmes at the grass root level, because this is what, first of all, convinces the recipient. This is what allows the recipients to be involved, and this is what, in fact, allows for the government to take firm positive action at national, sub-regional, and even regional levels.

Lastly, we would like to highlight the importance of the expanding use of national staff, particularly at identification stages. It is not just getting them as directors of projects, but we want them to be involved right at the inception of the projects, because this will allow for involvement, both at the national level and, in fact, people would see exactly how the project evolves, and where to make necessary amendments if at all there is a necessity to do so. Thank you very much Mr Chairman.

M.A. MEDANI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): On behalf of my country, the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, I should like to pay tribute to the various field programmes as drawn up by the Director-General and his associates, and I would like to convey our appreciation for the expanded concept of Food Security, and the importance of ensuring such security in all countries. We know full well

that this problem goes beyond the capability of each country taken individually and threatens agricultural land. Desertification is amongst the most serious problems in this regard. The President of my country, Jaafar Mohamed Al Nimeri has, in fact, stressed this particular problem menacing some countries especially in Africa in his Address to the Conference. We know that solutions cannot always be found at the level of the individual nations. Collective efforts and cooperation with the specialised Agencies are, therefore, essential, and an African plan is at this juncture required to deal with the problem of encroaching desertification in order to protect agricultural land, to achieve Food Security, which is an aim and objective which we all share. I hope that this proposal will obtain your agreement and be included in those put forward by the Conference. Thank you very much.

O. BILBEISI (Jordan) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, the reduction in the budgetary allocations can be some bad news, but it should not be a reason why we should decrease the number and level of field projects. Our experience is that one of the most important projects implemented by the FAO has been suspended in my country, since the funds were no longer available. The Organization's interest in research studies and development of technology should be translated into support to research bodies in the Near East in two ways: first of all by support activities and secondly, by training in all its forms, especially exchange of information amongst the various countries at all levels; thirdly, recently the integrated rural development approach, and especially the integrated agricultural development has always been in the interest of recipients of international aid, be this multilateral or bilateral. Therefore, we would like the Organization to take this into account and give priority to those projects which are based on integrated agricultural development.

Fourthly: at the level of implementation we have had some bad experiences with some external assistance projects which have been unbalanced in terms of public services field projects allocations. A large share of these goes to experts' salaries. We need to strike a measure of balance among experts' salaries, training resources, equipment allocations and any other item.

G. FRADIN (France): J'ai déjà eu l'occasion de m'exprimer vendredi sur les programmes de terrain, je vous remercie de me donner une nouvelle fois la parole.

Je veux simplement appuyer sur une suggestion faite par mon collègue de la délégation du Pakistan, sur l'examen des programmes de terrain par le Comité des programmes et le Comité financier. Ma délégation souhaite aussi que ces deux Comités aient le temps nécessaire pour examiner de façon approfondie ces programmes de terrain.

L. SMITH (Barbados): There are just two or three matters on which I would like to make comments on behalf of the Barbados delegation. Firstly I think the aspect of having to realize part of the Trust Funds to make up for shortfall in the allocation of UNDP funds to FAO must imply that there is, in terms of development finance, a reduction in the total amount of funds available, and therefore although this is temporary it is still an undesirable situation in that there is a need for a larger contribution from the UNDP financing towards FAO to support the various field programmes.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, the question of flexibility in projects at the formulation stage is a matter on which the Barbados delegation, whilst it supports, would like to issue a word of caution, because we must not forget that from time to time political personalities and priorities change, and if there is too much flexibility within an FAO-funded programme or supported programme there could be a reordering of the priorities making use of that flexibility which is allowed for in the programme, and which could result in the detriment or the failure of a particular programme which is supported by the FAO.

Thirdly, the question of field programmes. We feel that there are two areas in which the FAO can probably perform at a much higher level. I think it is time for field programmes to take a look at trying to provide a higher component of equipment, software and hardware equipment, so as to support national programmes and national institutions both in the areas of administering these programmes as well as executing them, and at the same time to provide training of personnel at the national level in the use of these modern pieces of equipment and establishing suitable systems for management and the execution of national programmes. We feel that a considerable improvement can be achieved by concentrating and providing modern equipment at the national level and training the nationals, and this would ensure a greater degree of cooperation and functioning of national personnel and FAO assisted projects.

I think finally Mr Chairman, we would like to commend the FAO for the document they have provided. We recognize that the distributions of the allocations are desirable with emphasis being given to the African continent where the problems of food production are most severe, and we in general support this document as provided by the FAO.

Finally one area which we feel is a matter of concern not highlighted necessarily within this budget, is that there is an area of cooperation and research in national agricultural raw materials which, on the national level, there may be a desire to diversify the use of these materials. Take for example a developing country which may want to diversify the use of fibre from sisal or the fibre from cane rind into the manufacture of paper from that fibre, or the production of detergent from sugar or some projects like that. Where the country has the raw material but does not have the research capability or technology, we think there must be some consideration given to this type of research and development within an underdeveloped country to assist it, and to utilize the technology and science and capability of developed countries and combine it by way of using national research personnel and national efforts to try to provide a diversification for some of the raw materials that they may be interested in finding other uses or other formulations for. I think this is a particularly difficult area at the present time because, as can be expected, the developed countries may have this raw material available to them and therefore may not be involved in that type of research, whereas the underdeveloped country may have the raw materials in which they want to diversify but do not have the technical or science capability in order to achieve this end,

A. MOGNI (Italy): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, as a representative of the Italian Government in this Commission today, I would like to express to you all my appreciation for the quality of the documentation prepared by FAO and for the very interesting points raised by my colleagues on this occasion.

There is no doubt that Italy as a donor country is making a dramatic financial effort in supporting the activities of economic and technical cooperation set up by the international organizations, and among them particularly by FAO. It is clear that over the last few years Italy has decided to increase substantially its financial aid in favour of the emerging countries by allocating very important resources through the multilateral channel both in the form of voluntary contributions to support the general activities of the international organizations, and in the form of financing specific programmes of the cooperation, the so called multi bilateral operations in which the Italian managerial capacities and technical expertise could be properly mobilized and put at the disposal of the world development. For this purpose it seems to me worthwhile to remember that Italy is contributing substantially to the overall FAO activities of assistance, particularly in what we deem to be the most strategic and challenging fields of intervention like the integrated rural development, the increase of the overall food output both in terms of quantity and of quality, in the field of irrigation, in the field of agricultural mechanization, in the field of utilization of fertilizers, in the field of animal health, rural extension, food security, prevention of food losses, improvement of feeder and rural roles, agricultural research and food technology, not to mention dissemination of technical information and training.

The Italian financial aid is allocated according to agreed flexible geographical priorities in relation to the different and changing local situation of necessity or even emergency. In this context we are giving particular attention to the Sudan Sahelian countries and to the least developed countries in the other corners of Africa as well as Asia and Latin America.

Of course the international community and everybody is aware of the fact that today, and even more in the future, the available resources, even though relevant in quantity, are of course limited, so it is necessary that the funds should be utilized according to the basic criteria of selection, concentration of efforts, efficiency and efficaciousness in the utilization of resources. This is why we estimate it is very useful for the international organizations, particularly for FAO and for the donor countries, to strengthen the role and the potentially positive input of the phase represented by the evaluation process, and for this purpose not only the economic aspect should be scrutinized according to the rules of the economic return or cost and benefit analysis, but also the non-economic aspects should be analyzed carefully like, for instance, the social and cultural impact of the project on the local communities, the capacity of the recipient countries to absorb the new proposed technology, the degree of efficiency of the local administration and so on. In this evaluation process we stress the great importance of training, the peculiar relevance of the direct involvement of the local communities in executing the project and in keeping it alive when the international support is over, and the particular aspect represented by the maintenance of the equipment in inter-function.

R.S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Compte tenu des délais qui nous sont impartis et du nombre très important d'interlocuteurs qui ont pris la parole, si vous le permettez, M. le Président, je ne répondrai pas ponctuellement à chaque question, mais j'essaierai de grouper les réponses aux questions qui ont été posées, par différentes rubriques.

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous dire combien ce débat a été particulièrement fructueux et de haut niveau, pour le Secrétariat, pour moi-même et pour mes collègues, et beaucoup de recommandations et de suggestions qui ont été présentées seront certainement prises en compte dans les années à venir.

Si vous le permettez, je voudrais d'abord revenir sur le problème des ressources. On dit que, en 1984, la reconstitution des fonds du PNUD augmenterait de un pour cent. Il est bien clair qu'il ne s'agit pas d'un renversement de tendance, quand on considère la dévaluation, l'augmentation des services, l'augmentation même des frais de fonctionnement du PNUD lui-même. Il est bien clair qu'un pour cent d'augmentation ne signifie pas qu'il y aura davantage d'argent l'an prochain et de projets qui pourront être financés par le PNUD.

Le second point que je voudrais évoquer aussi c'est que, non seulement les crédits du PNUD baissent et que dans un proche avenir on ne voit pas encore ce renversement de tendance, mais, comme des orateurs l'ont souligné de façon excellente, je voudrais dire que la part de l'agriculture aussi a baissé dans les chiffres de planification du PNUD et que, de ce fait, la part confiée à la FAO pour exécution a été aussi réduite.

Je voudrais rappeler, de ce point de vue, que la diminution de la part de l'agriculture dans les projets financés par le PNUD traduit le fait que, quelquefois, les gouvernements et les responsables politiques n'insistent peut-être pas assez pour témoigner de la priorité qu'ils donnent à l'agriculture, et je voudrais appeler l'attention sur ce point. Je crois nécessaire de souligner combien l'agriculture et le développement rural sont des priorités de très nombreux pays, et quelquefois l'on est inquiet lorsque l'on regarde les statistiques de constater comment la part de l'agriculture décroît dans les activités du PNUD, alors que l'agriculture est non seulement dans la réalité le secteur le plus important du développement rural mais est aussi celui sur lequel le gouvernement met l'accent.

Je voudrais aussi clarifier un point. Il a été dit quelquefois qu'il était possible que la décroissance des crédits disponibles de la reconstitution du PNUD était liée à l'augmentation des fonds fiduciaires. Si vous vous référez au tableau 1 de l'annexe du document qui est sous vos yeux, vous vous apercevrez qu'entre 1977 et 1981 les crédits du PNUD ont augmenté en même temps que les fonds fiduciaires. Il est donc un peu trop simple de dire que la diminution des crédits disponibles au PNUD est étroitement liée à l'augmentation des fonds fiduciaires. Je pense qu'il y a d'autres explications dans le détail desquelles il serait peut-être difficile d'entrer dès maintenant. Mais il faut bien voir que la diminution des crédits du PNUD n'est pas seulement liée à l'augmentation des fonds fiduciaires.

Je voudrais dire quelques mots maintenant des problèmes d'évaluation dont ont parlé de nombreux orateurs. Je pense que ce problème de l'évaluation, comme cela est dit dans l'avant-propos du Directeur général, est l'un des problèmes qui nous préoccupent beaucoup. Si nous considérons que les projets que la FAO a exécutés au cours du dernier biennium ont été utiles et efficaces, nous ne mésestimons pas non plus les difficultés rencontrées. Il faut continuer sans relâche dans cet effort d'améliorer les résultats des projets en étroite collaboration avec les pays bénéficiaires et les autres associés dans l'action de développement.

Les procédures d'évaluation auxquelles nous procédons engagent toujours à la fois le pays bénéficiaire et l'institution qui a financé le projet, qu'il s'agisse du PNUD ou qu'il s'agisse de pays donateurs dans le cadre de fonds fiduciaires, et c'est ce que ces revues tripartites font régulièrement. D'ailleurs, tous les délégués qui représentent des pays qui participent aux fonds fiduciaires savent combien ces revues tripartites annuelles et générales donnent lieu à des examens très approfondis au niveau des programmes et permettent de les améliorer régulièrement. Cela a été dit mais il convenait de le souligner.

Egalement au niveau de l'évaluation, nous essayons de faire de notre mieux pour que les résultats des évaluations que nous entreprenons puissent bénéficier, par un procédé de feedback, d'une meilleure définition et mise en oeuvre des projets, par un certain nombre de réunions auxquelles participent tous ceux qui sont engagés dans l'exécution des projets, division, unité technique comme unité financière, comme par exemple le département de développement des opérations de terrain.

On a quelquefois fait remarquer que l'évaluation que nous vous avons soumise aurait été plus claire si les mêmes critères avaient été utilisés pour les représentants de la FAO et pour les projets qui ont été examinés par unité d'évaluation.

Il faut bien se rendre compte que les deux types d'évaluation sont complémentaires mais relativement différents. Dans le premier cas, il s'agit d'évaluation beaucoup plus qualitative, dans le cadre d'un programme et d'une priorité englobant l'ensemble du programme dans le pays. Dans le second cas, il s'agit de projets en général de plus grandes dimensions et qui avaient été particulièrement choisis parce que l'on supposait qu'ils devaient donner lieu à une évaluation plus précise. Il faut considérer ces deux évaluations comme complémentaires l'une de l'autre et donnant une évaluation assez correcte de l'ensemble du programme de terrain de la FAO.

Pour rester dans le domaine de l'évaluation, on a pensé qu'il y avait peut-être un trop petit nombre d'évaluations qui avaient été faites par le service. Je voudrais rappeler que le Service d'évaluation de la FAO est l'un des plus anciens et des plus importants des agences d'exécution des Nations Unies et que le PNUD vient d'établir récemment sa propre unité d'évaluation. Si l'on s'en tient à 40 projets, c'est qu'il faut se rendre compte qu'une évaluation en profondeur demande une préparation très soignée. L'évaluation proprement dite demande aussi une préparation particulièrement bien exécutée et qu'elle complète les évaluations qui ont déjà été faites par ailleurs.

Je voulais faire ces quelques commentaires pour vous dire quel est le soin avec lequel nous essayons de faire des évaluations et d'en tirer le plus grand profit dans les projets à venir.

Je voudrais dire un mot à propos des problèmes de nutrition et de sécurité alimentaire, ainsi que sur les forêts. Tout cela est indiqué dans le document. Je voudrais rappeler que les pourcentages qui sont donnés dans les tableaux, à propos des forêts et de la nutrition, sont des pourcentages qui ne reflètent pas la réalité, dans la mesure où lorsqu'on classe des projets qui sont par eux-mêmes multidisciplinaires - par exemple lorsqu'on parle de développement rural intégré - il est difficile d'évaluer complètement la part qui revient aux forêts et la part de la nutrition.

Notamment dans la catégorie Ressources naturelles, un grand nombre de projets ont des composantes forestières importantes et le chiffre de 10 pour cent ne reflète pas la réalité de ce qu'est l'action forestière dans le programme de la FAO. Il en est de même pour la nutrition. Il y a très peu de projets nutritionnels au sens strict du terme, et la nutrition intervient dans un très grand nombre de projets, notamment dans les projets de développement qui entrent dans le programme du suivi de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Il en est de même aussi en ce qui concerne les programmes de sécurité alimentaire.

Quelques orateurs ont signalé que la FAO devrait coopérer en matière d'élaboration des programmes de sécurité alimentaire. Je puis vous assurer que cela se fait sur le terrain.

Pour rester un moment de plus sur le problème de la coordination au niveau du terrain, qui a été évoqué par de nombreux délégués, je peux vous dire que nous n'avons jamais entendu parler de problèmes graves de coopération et de coordination entre les différentes agences et les représentants résidents du PNUD sur le terrain. A plusieurs reprises, le Directeur général de la FAO et l'Administrateur général du PNUD ont envoyé des lettres aux représentants de la FAO et au Représentant résident du PNUD pour souligner l'intérêt qu'ils avaient l'un et l'autre à ce que cette opération soit bien établie. Je puis donc vous assurer qu'il n'y a pas de problème de coordination au niveau du terrain et qu'en général tout se passe très bien.

Enfin, je voudrais dire que nous avons beaucoup apprécié les commentaires qui ont été faits sur le glissement de l'action d'assistance de la FAO vers une action de coopération au travers de la coopération entre pays en développement et au travers de nouvelles dimensions de la participation des nationaux aux actions de développement. C'est un point sur lequel la FAO est particulièrement diligente et elle joue un rôle catalytique particulièrement important. Parmi les institutions des Nations Unies, c'est elle qui a un rôle de leader. Nous continuerons dans cette direction parce qu'il est clair que la participation de nationaux, depuis l'identification des projets à travers leur définition et leur mise en oeuvre, est indispensable. C'est une démarche que nous poursuivrons. Il est clair aussi qu'il faut procéder avec une certaine prudence dans certains cas, lorsque le pays n'est pas encore à même de faire face à ce mécanisme. C'est la raison pour laquelle à plusieurs reprises - certains délégués l'ont souligné - le programme de terrain a contribué à renforcer les institutions locales, notamment dans le domaine de la préparation des projets, au travers des actions menées par le Centre des investissements, ou toute autre action de formation, et aussi au travers du renforcement des institutions, comme étant une des composantes du projet.

CHAIRMAN : Thank you for your very elaborate answers which very fortunately will make the summing up exercise much easier.

All the 55 delegations who have intervened on this subject were thankful for the document and expressed their gratitude for the information contained and the clarity with which the information has been presented. The usefulness of this document has led the delegations to suggest that there is need for more time to discuss the field programme in future.

On the whole the delegations regretted the fact that the UNDP resources continued to decline, even though there seems to be compensation by the growth of the Trust Funds but that compensation was not sufficient to make up for the decline in UNDP resources. At the same time very careful note was taken of the role played by the Technical Cooperation Programme in minimizing the damaging effects of the shortfall in UNDP resources. The role of the Investment Centre in this regard was underlined and seen as a useful tool to introduce what was called seed money and therefore would provide an avenue through which more funds could come into the field programme of FAO.

On the evaluation, satisfaction was expressed at the attention that FAO was paying to the exercise of evaluation and assessment and also the fact that all concerned were involved in the evaluation and assessment exercises, especially the FAO country offices as well as the Regional Offices, but more importantly the local personnel that were involved in the projects. There was a feeling expressed that it was necessary to introduce flexibility, not only at evaluation but also this should start at the conception, at the formulation, implementation and finally at the evaluation of these programmes. This could be achieved much more meaningfully if local personnel were also involved.

Under the question of food security which comes under chapter three, the reformulated concept of food security was thoroughly appreciated, along with the Action Programme in which the seed development and the provision of more inputs was regarded as reinforcing elements.

The use of local personnel as managers in projects, as well as consultants was highly appreciated and this was seen as leading from technical assistance to cooperation and this was seen as a way to reinforce and support technical cooperation in developing countries.

Of course, in the Programme of Work and Budget there was an indication from many delegations that not enough emphasis had been put on forestry, even though Mr Lignon has answered on this question but it seems that the Secretariat will still have to pay attention to the fact that delegations are not satisfied that enough attention has been put on forestry.

There were also indications that there was need to emphasize more and more the projects on the role of women and women's programmes.

I should at this stage like to thank all the delegates who played a part in these debate. I think we have now completed our review of the field programme.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/II/PV/10

Twenty-second Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session

COMMISSION II

22º período de sesiones

COMISION II

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION
(15 November 1983)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
c. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 10 heures, sous
la présidence de C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la décima sesión a las 10.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de
C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

Tribute to Mr Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS,
Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO
Hommage à M. Arrhenius F. M. DE FREITAS,
Représentant permanent du Brésil auprès de la FAO
Homenaje al Sr. Arrhenius F.M. DE FREITAS,
Representante Permanente del Brasil ante la FAO

CHAIRMAN: Before we commence this morning's proceedings, I would like to ask the Commission kindly to follow the example of Plenary and observe one minute's silence in honour of Mr de Freitas, Permanent Representative of Brazil who died suddenly last Friday. He was a member of the Programme Committee and a very active member of this Commission, Please, let us rise.

One minute of silence
Une minute desilence
Un minuto de silenc

I will ask His Excellency Ambassador Bula Hoyos, who comes from the same region as Mr de Freitas, to say a word before we proceed.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, la Delegación de Colombia cumple el doloroso encargo de hablar en nombre de todos los representantes de América Latina y del Caribe.

Tuve el privilegio de ser amigo de Arrhenius durante muchos años.; admiré sus condiciones de magnífico compañero y excelente colega. Fue un dignísimo y muy serio representante de su gran país Brasil.

Arrhenius actuó siempre con inteligencia y ponderación; propició y facilitó el entendimiento en toda ocasión. Su cordialidad y sencillez le hicieron rodearse de la admiración y simpatía generales.

Sus compañeros y amigos de América Latina y el Caribe, al rendir conmovidos homenaje a la memoria de Arrehnius, manifestamos que la sabiduría, la prudencia y la competencia que le caracterizaron serán para nosotros ejemplo permanente e inspiración de nuestros actos.

Los representantes de América Latina y el Caribe le agradecemos a usted, señor Presidente, esta iniciativa que nos reúne en torno al espíritu noble y generoso del inolvidable compañero tristemente desaparecido.

Agradecemos a todos los colegas y amigos de las otras regiones su presencia en este acto.

Rogamos a los colegas representantes de Brasil que transmitan a su honorable Gobierno el profundo y sincero pesar de todos los Gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe.

A Dalila, la esposa de Arrhenius y a su hija Daniela les estamos acompañando de todo corazón, incrédulos y desalentados, con nuestro ánimo quebrantado por el gran dolor, deseándoles que alcancen cristiana resignación.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I am sure that you have spoken for all of us.

A. SALGADO SANTOS (Brazil): I wish to express the Brazilian Governments gratitude to this Commission and for the words pronounced by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, of sympathy for the demise of Minister de Fréitas. The Brazilian Government deeply regrets his death, having lost a very valuabl'e and exceptional public servant.

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 1
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 1
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 1

11. Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives
11. Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et objectifs à moyen terme
11. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y objetivos a plazo medio

CHAIRMAN: I shall now give the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Mr Brewster, who will give some explanations of the document we are going to examine this morning, document C 83/II/REP/I.

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The document which we have before us was dealt with at one long meeting of the Drafting Committee and it provoked long discussion and very hard work. It is my pleasure and privilege to present it to the Commission this morning.

I would just like to invite your attention to two changes which should have appeared in the final document but they have not. Therefore before we start I wish to draw your attention to them and ask you to follow them as we go along. First, on page 3, paragraph 7, after "programmes" appearing in the eighth line of paragraph 7, this should immediately be followed by the sentence beginning "The Conference stressed in this connection that", in the eleventh line, going right down to the end of that sentence: "to deliver effectively its approved Programmes." That full section should follow immediately after "programmes" and then the paragraph remains as it is.

On page 13, again the English text, line 4, second from last word substitute "basing" for "basic". The sentence reads "it emphasized the importance of basic policy, it should read "it emphasized the importance of basing policy formulation and planning on a more thorough identification". That is paragraph 69.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (Mexico): Por favor, quisiera que se repitiera la modificación que hubo en el párrafo 7, que no logramos entenderla: dónde entra, qué frase o cuál es la que se quita. Por favor, una nueva aclaración.

F BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): What I said in respect to paragraph 7 is this, we have the paragraph beginning "the Conference" and in the English text line 8 finished with "and effective delivery of programmes." Immediately following that line we should continue the paragraph with the Conference stressed in this connection that" and that goes right down to the end of the sentence "effectively its approved programmes." All of that should follow after line 8, so other words there are five lines following line 8.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL. (México): ¿Quiere eso decir que las tres líneas que están intermedias desaparecen, según el Comité de Redacción? O sea, que pasan hacia abajo.

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: So that we may proceed uninterrupted I would like at this stage to give the floor to Mr Shah to give an explanation regarding page 4.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): May I provide some comments of explanation about the resolution on the Budgetary Appropriation 1984-85 which would be inserted into the text of the Report, the practice as followed in the past years and as proposed to be followed now is that the budgetary appropriation Resolution is considered in the Plenary at the same time as the

Plenary considers the Report of Commission II on these items. At that time Plenary receives a supplementary document which gives the text of the Resolution at the rate of exchange which will prevail on the day that the Resolution is considered by Plenary.

You will recall that the text of this draft resolution appears in the document of the Programme of Work and Budget on page 45 of the English text. The text of the resolution would not alter but it is the figures which would alter as the text given in the document is at the rate of 1.190 lire to the US dollar whereas the text to be considered in the Plenary will be at the rate prevailing tomorrow. For the information of the Commission the rate when the markets opened this morning was Lire 1.623. This is only the opening rate, of course. The fixing of the day is set later at about 1.00 o'clock but to give you an idea about what this rate implies, at Lire 1.623 to the dollar the total effective work and budget would amount to \$420 million 700 thousand, instead of the figure of \$451 million 627 thousand at the rate of 1.190 to the dollar.

CHAIRMAN: The delegates have had yesterday and part of last night to study carefully the draft report and I believe you should be ready now to give your comments so that we can prepare the final document for presentation to Plenary tomorrow. We will proceed through this paragraph by paragraph and I shall be requesting you to indicate if you have observations to make on the paragraphs.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 4

PARAGRAPHE 1 à 4

PARAFOS 1 a 4

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 1 hay que agregar la conjunción "y" en la primera frase: la "Conferencia estuvo de acuerdo con la evaluación de la situación mundial y con el criterio seguido".... Esto aparece en el texto inglés.

CHAIRMAN: Yes. Paragraph 1, as amended, is approved. Paragraph 2?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je crois que dans le paragraphe 2, il y a un problème de traduction en français. A la quatrième ligne, il est dit: "Stagnation industrielle... chômage et déficit budgétaire sont le lot des pays développés." En fait, il faut dire: "... sont les maux des pays développés".

Nous pensons également qu'à l'avant-dernière ligne du même paragraphe où il est écrit: "Les pays en développement... doivent supporter... des balances commerciales en détérioration", il faudrait dire "en déficit". Les termes de l'échange sont en détérioration, mais les balances commerciales sont en déficit.

Donc, il y a deux modifications: "lot" est remplacé par "maux" et "balances commerciales en détérioration" est remplacé par "balances commerciales en déficit ou déficitaires".

CHAIRMAN: The first part will be taken care of as a translation problem.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: With the second proposal I think we are in a little difficulty because French is so much more precise than English. In English if you say "deteriorating trade balances" it covers two situations, one is that the balance is already in deficit and the other is that the deficit is getting worse. I think that would be understood from the English but in French I think the delegate is right in saying "en détérioration" does not convey the idea in itself, "en détérioration" from an already bad situation, a situation of deficit, so if you are going to change it I think you have to put in both ideas that negative trade balances are deteriorating further.

CHAIRMAN: Congo, does that satisfy you?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Oui.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro colega de Barbados y sus compañeros de Comité han hecho un buen trabajo y sólo nos proponemos presentar unas pocas enmiendas dirigidas a reforzar el texto de esta parte en el informe, que es el tema fundamental de esta Comisión. El párrafo 2 empieza de una manera muy vaga. Yo creo que hay que decir que "La Conferencia opinó que la gravedad de la situación ..." "La Conferencia opinó que la gravedad de la situación ...", porque estamos aquí para expresar opiniones.

CHAIRMAN: It looks to me as if most other sentences start like that.

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): When we looked at this in the Committee we just took the view that we were explaining here, or setting out what the world economy and social situation was but I have no difficulty in saying it was "the Conference" at this particular stage. It was just an explanation of what followed before the Conference agreed the assessment and the Committee thought the assessment was what we were given by paragraphs 2 and 3. That is why we did not put "the Conference" at the beginning of paragraph 2 but we have no difficulty with this particular explanation.

CHAIRMAN: Colombia, would you still insist even with that explanation?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sí, señor Presidente, porque en el párrafo 1 empezamos por decir "La Conferencia", luego no se trata simplemente de antecedentes, sino que ya estamos dando opiniones. Además en el párrafo 4 también se habla de "La Conferencia" y yo creo que esta situación básica debe ser expresada a nombre de la Conferencia y no en forma vaga como aparece en el párrafo 2.

CHAIRMAN: Since the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has no difficulty in inserting "The Conference" we would perhaps accept that.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I was only going to endorse what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said regarding paragraphs 2 and 3. Both these paragraphs follow from paragraph 1, which says that the Conference agreed with the assessment of the world situation. Paragraphs 2 and 3 then talk of the world situation, which is contained in the Director-General's introduction. Then paragraph 4 talks about the reaction of the Conference to that assessment. So we have no difficulty. But perhaps it is not really necessary to include "The Conference" at the beginning of paragraphs 2 and 3, but we can go along with it if some delegates feel strongly about it.

CHAIRMAN: Since no one has difficulty with the words "The Conference expressed the view that" we will accept that.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je reviens sur la proposition formulée par la délégation congolaise visant les "balances commerciales". Je suis d'accord avec le Directeur général adjoint pour penser que la préoccupation de la version anglaise est de montrer une situation dégradante progressive des balances commerciales et, à mon avis, on pourrait dire en français: "Les balances commerciales constamment déficitaires". Ce serait plus significatif que de parler de "balances déficitaires et dégradantes".

CHAIRMAN: There is a suggested version here which reads "growing trade deficits". How does that do with you, Senegal?

M. B. SY (Sénégal) : Je ne modifie pas la structure de la phrase. Je dis simplement "Balances commerciales constamment déficitaires".

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL ADJOINT: Le problème est que le déficit ne change pas, mais il se détériore.

M. Balla SY (Sénégal): Le mot "constamment" ne traduirait pas une situation stable mais un phénomène qui se répète. Mais je n'insisterai pas davantage. Qu'on dise: "Des balances commerciales déficitaires ou dégradantes".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your cooperation. I am glad we did not have to call on France to intervene.

B. H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Compte tenu de l'importance des problèmes de malnutrition et de pauvreté, j'aurais souhaité une tournure un peu plus engagée pour le paragraphe 4. Voici ce que je proposerais:

"La Conférence lance un appel pour qu'en dépit de la situation économique mondiale aucun effort ne soit relâché pour l'accomplissement des engagements internationaux en faveur de la réduction puis de l'élimination de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté. Elle reconnaît la FAO comme devant être au premier rang du combat visant à atteindre cet objectif qui est commun à toute l'humanité."

BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): What I can say on this paragraph is that when we discussed it in the Committee we made some amendments to make the original stronger at that particular time. We thought we had captured the feeling, and the suggestion of the delegate of Benin seems to be intended to make it even stronger. It is just in the first part of the paragraph that the changes occur. I thought that what the Committee had here was adequate for the purposes, but I am open to the directions of the Commission on this one, I have an open mind, but I thought that the Committee had in fact strengthened the original text and what we have is a pretty strong text on this paragraph.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): I am sorry, but if we have to speak each in his language we will have to find lots of differences. If we go back to the Arabic text, I think it reflects exactly what the Drafting Committee wanted to convey and does not go far from what our friend from Benin is suggesting in French. It is probably the language that changes the composition of the phrases. But basically I think we have to leave the text as it is in English because as it is translated in Arabic it gives the same meaning which I have just heard from my colleague from Benin.

A. BOTHNER (Norway): It may come as no surprise to this audience that my delegation would be very happy to support the proposal made by our colleague from Benin.

J. SAULT (Australia): When we were discussing these paragraphs in the Drafting Committee they were very much the background paragraphs which introduced us to this item. We can endorse the thoughts that have been expressed by Benin, but I wonder whether it would be better, if they are to be included, to have them under a separate heading, something like "priority to elimination of hunger". If we were to do that I think we should perhaps make the paragraph a little broader to say not only that no effort should be spared in achieving international commitments, but no effort should be spared in achieving national and international commitments.

CHAIRMAN: Looking at the nature of the problem, since neither version presents any problems in Arabic, and the people who are reading the English text can live with either, although the feeling is that the latter version is stronger, perhaps we should opt for the stronger version in the English language, and in Arabic it would probably convey the same meaning. If people who are using languages other than English do not have any difficulties I think we can take the suggested version.

G. FRADIN (France): Je ne vois aucun inconvénient à ce qu'on adopte la version française proposée par le représentant du Bénin. Il me semble toutefois qu'en dépit de la remarque faite par notre collègue du Liban, la version française est sensiblement différente de la version anglaise, et il me semble difficile d'adopter le texte du paragraphe 4 proposé par le représentant du Bénin sans modifier la version anglaise. Puisque vous avez sollicité tout à l'heure mon intervention sur les questions de fond, Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais que la version française dise: "de n'épargner aucun effort", au lieu de dire: "de ne pas relâcher l'engagement et les efforts...".

CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Secretary to read the redrafted paragraph and see how it fits with other languages.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): I will_win read_{read} what we have taken down in English. We have also taken down the original French. But in English it would read something like the following: "The Conference launched an appeal that, in spite of the current world economic situation, no effort should be spared in fulfilling international commitments to reduce and eventually eliminate malnutrition and poverty. It recognized that FAO had to remain at the forefront of efforts toward this objective which was universally shared."¹¹

A. GAYOSO (United States of America) : I do not see any problems in accepting that language which the Secretary has read. It seems to me, however, that because we are expressing a firm commitment toward alleviation of malnutrition and poverty that commitment should be at the national level as well as at the international level.

The second point I want to make is that I assume given the very high quality of translation FAO usually provides us that we will end up with a text that is similar in all official languages. So that if one reads in English, "The Conference will have launched an appeal", and if one reads it in Arabic, or French, or Spanish, one will have read that the Conference also launched an appeal in all those languages.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): My request for the floor was only to support the point made by the distinguished colleague from Australia, and I see now that the USA has picked up that point as well. The problem that we are alluding to is of such a serious nature that surely it is not only a responsibility of the international community, but of the national communities as well.

CHAIRMAN: I will now ask the Secretary to read the redrafted paragraph to incorporate this idea which Canada, Australia and the United States have just stressed.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): I believe we could insert the word "national" and the sentence would read, "The Conference launched an appeal that in spite of the current world economic situation no effort should be spared in fulfilling national and international commitments", and the rest of the sentence would remain as read before.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): Please correct me if I am wrong, but usually in backgrounds we do not launch appeals, we just state facts about present things. So, I think, I would like to go back to what one of our colleagues here said, that probably this suggestion might come up later in the text, but leave the background as it is, because in the background we usually state things that are present or past.

M. B. SY (Senegal): Si nous continuons à cette allure, nous risquons de passer la journée avant d'adopter la moitié du rapport. La rédaction d'un texte peut toujours varier selon le style du rédacteur. L'essentiel est pour nous de retrouver les idées force.

Pour en revenir au texte, je pense que doit être réétudiée l'introduction du terme "nationaux". Il conviendrait qu'on n'épargne pas les efforts pour le respect des engagements internationaux et qu'on renforce les efforts nationaux. Je ne vois pas qu'on puisse demander à un Etat de respecter ses engagements nationaux. Je crois que ses efforts nationaux doivent être renforcés dans la contribution à l'aide internationale.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Fundamentalmente para apoyar lo expresado por el distinguido delegado del Líbano en el sentido de que este concepto expuesto por el distinguido delegado de Benin es un concepto válido que nuestra delegación apoya plenamente.

Apoyamos plenamente el hecho de que la Conferencia de la FAO lance un llamamiento enfático, importante, con el fin de que se combata la malnutrición y la pobreza, pero coincidimos con el distinguido delegado del Líbano en que este no es el lugar para ponerlo. Estamos en un capítulo de antecedentes, puede ser que en un punto más adelante, que podía ser el de "Criterio" o el de "Estrategias, Prioridades y Objetivos"!, en fin, se ubicará este llamamiento con el cual estamos totalmente de acuerdo y apoyamos plenamente que se pusiera más adelante en el documento, pero no aquí.

J. MCHECHU (Tanzania): I am quite happy with the way the Drafting Committee has expressed this background information here as it is. It does convey the right meaning, and the way our colleague from Benin has put it it reads more or less like a resolution, you see. When you talk about background you state the situation as it pertains at that particular time, or in the past. So I am quite happy with what it reads in paragraph 4, and I will go along with what the Drafting Committee has said, in a fairly strong simplistic and very clear background position, which flows very well from paragraph 3. So I will be happy to leave it as it is, without even including the word "national". Actually it expresses the current world situation, and it does not relate with a national aspect of it. So I would rather have it left as it is, Chairman. I will support the Drafting Committee expression here.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je ne suis pas de l'avis du Mexique. Le paragraphe 4 figure au titre des généralités, il pourrait être conservé en l'état mais il faudrait toutefois que soit retenue l'idée de lancer un appel un peu plus tard à la communauté internationale face à la situation économique mondiale qui prévaut. Donc je suggère que ce paragraphe soit retenu et que soit également retenue l'idée de lancer un appel qui serait explicité plus tard.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I will now go back to Benin. The idea you have suggested is very well appreciated, and there is every feeling that it will be accommodated someplace else. Do you have any difficulty with that, Benin?

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Non. Je suis d'accord.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now I go on to Australia and Canada. You suggested inclusion of "national effort". If this idea of an appeal could be coupled with the national commitment at some other place, would you have any difficulty? No problem. Thank you very much. In the meantime perhaps Benin and Canada or Australia might assist us by thinking of the appropriate place where we will fit in that idea of launching an appeal coupled with the national commitment.

In the meantime on this paragraph are there any more observations?

G. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Sr. Presidente ¿entiendo que el párrafo permanece tal como está redactado sin ninguna modificación?

CHAIRMAN; Yes, exactly. Any more observations? No. Thank you.

Paragraphs 1 to 4, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 5

PARAGRAPHE 5

PARRAFO 5

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous avons une objection à soulever. Dans la dernière phrase de ce paragraphe il est dit: "En particulier, l'intégration des objectifs à moyen terme dans le document ... donne plus de transparence aux débats". Pour notre part, nous pensons que la transparence est à attribuer au document et non pas au débat et nous proposons que le texte soit repris comme ceci pour la deuxième phrase: "En particulier, l'intégration des objectifs à moyen terme facilite l'examen des propositions du programme et donne plus de transparence au document". Cette transparence attribuée au document facilite effectivement la compréhension.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): Myself and some of my Scandinavian colleagues stressed, or mentioned, during the discussions the item of Medium-Term Planning, and recommended the General Assembly Resolution in .that case. I would like to add one sentence in this paragraph, which reads as follows: "Some members stressed the importance of Medium-Term Planning in the Organization and referred to the recommendations made in the General Assembly Resolution 37/234."

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Before we go on to this one, does anybody have problems with the suggestion made by Congo?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I leave to the Commission, Mr Chairman, what reaction it has to the proposed amendments, taking account of the fact that several delegations, as I recall, disagreed with this idea, but what I want to clarify is that as proposed the amendment gives a misleading impression. It gives the impression that the General Assembly resolution made recommendations to FAO. It did not. It applies to the United Nations Medium-Term Planning in the United Nations. So that if you want to refer to that you would have to say "to the recommendations of the General Assembly Resolution as applied to the United Nations" or words to that effect, so as to make it clear they do not of themselves apply to FAO.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): If that proposal is correct, as also Mr Shah told us, that there were no recommendations to FAO but to the whole United Nations system, yes.

CHAIRMAN: Norway and Yugoslavia, do you want to speak on this point of the Resolution?

A.BOTHNER (Norway): I did support my Dutch colleague when we talked about this and naturally I am happy to support him now. Of course one should aim at working out some language that is also compatible with the views just put out by the Deputy Director-General.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): There are in fact two points; one is that which Mr West has just now explained. I am familiar with the Resolution and it clearly uses the term "United Nations" with obvious reference to the UN proper.

The second concerns how the amendment proposed started. Some members stressed the importance - and I think it also leads to a misleading message perhaps - that only those members were aware of the Medium-Term Planning importance, so perhaps it might be better to say "in that context" and then the reference to the Resolution as applied to the United Nations.

C.VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Yo quisiera hablar después de que usted conceda la palabra al distinguido Embajador de Colombia que la pidió mucho antes que nosotros.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo quería compartir el punto de vista del Sr. West en el sentido de que es necesario evitar confusiones y situar la función de nuestra Organización en su propio contexto. De manera que sería deseable que los colegas que se refirieron a este asunto y que ahora han presentado esta adhesión, presentarán una nueva redacción y así quedará bien clara la situación.

CHAIRMAN: Since the suggestion is that the amendment should be polished, I hope that the movers of the amendment are polishing up the language while we are going on with the debate. In the meantime, I give the floor to Mexico.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Para sumarme al distinguido Embajador de Colombia, yo siento que fueron muchas las delegaciones y fue prácticamente la Comisión la que elogio la actividad de planeación a plazo medio de la FAO y no recuerdo que se haya recalcado o tengamos que recoger este criterio que realmente corresponde a otra Organización en el seno de la comunidad internacional.

El hecho de incluir una idea de este tipo puede dar la impresión de que la FAO no está haciendo una planeación a plazo medio, lo cual es totalmente equivocado y erróneo porque es de las organizaciones que sí lo hacen y lo hacen con una gran eficacia.

Entonces creo que realmente, inclusive, una redacción modificada o diferente a ésta, estaría totalmente fuera de lugar en el texto que estamos revisando.

CHAIRMAN: Do the Netherlands and Norway want to press ahead with the amendment, change the words, or leave it out?

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): I ask for some time in order to propose a new text which convenes the remarks which have been made.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): If the distinguished delegate of the Netherlands is going to come up with a new formulation maybe I can wait to have that formulation and then react, because my initial reaction, Mr Chairman, is that in paragraph 5 we are basically talking of the merger of the Medium-Term Objectives into the Programme of Work and Budget document. It is not talking of the Medium-Term Planning, whether it is good or bad; it is basically about format and presentation as the heading says - it is both format and presentation. Within that context the only thing that is relevant is that the Medium-Term Objectives, a separate document, has been merged in the Programme of Work and Budget. Here I do not see immediately any relevance in the UN Resolution being incorporated but I am willing to wait until my Dutch friend comes up with a new formulation.

CHAIRMAN: Does either Norway or the Netherlands have any reactions to that last intervention?

A. GAYOSO (United States of America): My eyes were wandering about and I found paragraph 9 at the bottom of page 3 of the English text which I have the feeling takes care for the time being of the Conference agreeing with Medium-Term Objectives, so that we could leave paragraph 5, which is format and presentation, as it is without any further discussion.

CHAIRMAN: I had previously asked if Norway and the Netherlands had any observations to make to the Pakistan suggestion. There is a further suggestion from the United States about moving that amendment. Does either the Netherlands or Norway still insist on incorporating the amendment?

A. BOTHNER (Norway): Mr Chairman, sorry to keep you waiting but we are perfectly in agreement to leave paragraph 5 as it is, and then we would be happy to have some inclusion in paragraph 9 to that effect.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Following on that, Mr Chairman, which I would agree is a wise decision, I would offer some technical assistance and refer the two delegates to the Report of the Council, the Eighty-second session of the Council, which is CL 82/REP paragraphs 126 and 127. Perhaps after consulting that they would find it easier to draft their amendment to paragraph 9 if they still want to go ahead with one.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr West. Any more observations on paragraph 5?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): ;Si l'on adopte le paragraphe 5 en l'état, cela veut dire que l'on n'a pas tenu compte des observations que nous avons faites d'attribuer la transparence au document et non pas au débat. Je voudrais une précision à ce sujet.

CHAIRMAN: Nobody has an objection to your objection or your observation, so it is incorporated.

I want to remind you of the observations that were made by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee on the rearrangement of sentences in this paragraph.

Paragraph 5, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 5, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 5, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 6 and 7

PARAGRAPHERS 6 et 7

PARRAFOS 6 y 7

S, SCHUMM (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I would like to refer to the sentence in paragraph 7 that begins - this is about six lines down - "The Conference recognized that this modest increase". Now we have not yet reached the end of our rationalization efforts and there are still many possibilities open to us for increasing the effectiveness of this Organization. Consequently I would like to amend the text very slightly and drop "a minimum level". I think that if we do that, then we will be taking account of what was expressed by other delegations. A deletion of these words would not affect the meaning of the sentence.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Dans la première phrase, on dit : "La Conférence a loué le Directeur général...". J'aurais préféré un autre terme, que l'on loue son esprit d'initiative ou d'innovation.

En suite on parle de: "3,6 pour cent dans les ressources..."; j'aurais préféré que l'on dise : "3,6 pour cent des ressources".

On dit également : "... tout en limitant la croissance nette de programmes à 0,5 pour cent globalement"; je préférerais que l'on dise : "... tout en limitant globalement la croissance ...".

Enfin, on dit : "... en réduisant le coût des services d'administration et de soutien au strict minimum..."; je pense que l'on pourrait dire : "... les coûts des services d'administration au strict minimum et qu'en supprimant...".

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Creo que este es uno de los párrafos que más se discutieron en el Comité de Redacción, lo cual podrá confirmar el Presidente del mismo. Realmente el equilibrio y el balance que se lograron entre las distintas posiciones e ideas en este párrafo son admirables y dignos de elogio. Lo que queremos sugerir es que no se haga ninguna modificación, que se le mantenga tal cual está, dado que realmente llevo mucho tiempo acordarlo dentro del Comité de Redacción, y argumentos como los que se están exponiendo ahora fueron ya escuchados y discutidos aquí y se llegó a esta solución, que es una solución de transacción. Por otra parte, quiero recordar que vamos apenas por el séptimo párrafo de nuestro documento y que si seguimos así, como decía algún delegado antes que yo, no vamos a terminar en todo el día.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your useful observations.

M. NAKAMURA (Japan): If I understand correctly, the sentence starting from the ninth line, "The Conference was particularly appreciative of this renewed evidence" has been deleted. However, I do not understand why these beautiful words should be deleted and I wish this sentence to remain as it is.

CHAIRMAN: The beautiful words have not been deleted. That sentence has merely been moved to become the last sentence of that paragraph, and the sentence that comes after it came before it.]

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je crois que ma démarche ne visait pas à modifier le paragraphe. Le rapport reflète les débats du Comité de rédaction. Nous sommes en présence de plusieurs langues. En français, on ne peut pas dire "3,6 pour cent dans les ressources". Il faut parler de l'augmentation de quelque chose. Il s'agit seulement d'une question de forme dans une langue différente qui ne veut pas bouleverser les idées d'un texte. De même, au début, je préfère louer les qualités de quelqu'un plutôt que de louer quelqu'un, C'est là le problème. Il ne s'agit pas de modifier les données précises du texte, puisque je n'étais pas au Comité de rédaction.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think you should be very worried; most of your suggestions have met with cooperation. The only thing would be the spirit of initiative, and I do not think that changes the substance of the paragraph

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): En fait, vous m'avez précédé. Je voudrais dire simplement que nous sommes conscients des efforts faits par le Comité de rédaction. C'est pour cela que je veux rassurer également la délégation du Mexique, et nous ferons en sorte que nous trouvions toujours un consensus dans les débats.

Le Sénégal nous a proposé un certain nombre d'aménagements qui, en fait, ne modifient pas le fond du texte. C'est une question de traduction. Ce qu'il a dit est exact en ce qui concerne le pourcentage de 3,6 pour cent attribué au Programme technique. En français, on doit dire: "3,6 pour cent des ressources". Nous ne pouvons pas le discuter.

Le délégué du Sénégal a proposé également que l'on inscrive le mot "globalement" tout de suite après "tout en limitant ...". Cela ne change pas le fond de la question.

La seule question qui reste ouverte est l'opportunité de louer ou non le Directeur /?énéral. Il pense pour sa part qu'on ne peut pas louer quelqu'un, mais ses initiatives et ses efforts. Nous devrions peut-être nous prononcer sur ce point. Mais pour le reste, c'est une question de traduction.

CHAIRMAN: Those will be incorporated.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): I tend to agree with my colleague from Mexico here because I would like to tell you that in our Drafting Committee session we had many ideas coming up and we tried as much as possible to reduce repetition, we tried to minimize the eloquent words and phrases that might tend to repeat themselves. If my colleague who suggested the addition of "l'esprit d'initiative" and "innovation" after the Director-General's qualities, reads that - probably because I have the English text - these qualities have been included in this text. As a matter of fact, with regard to the problem that my French speaking colleagues are facing and that we are facing in the Arabic text also, we came to the conclusion that as long as the meaning is the same as the English, I could simply recommend it without having to go back; simply recommend to the Secretariat the changes that would give the Arabic text the meaning that is intended in the English text. Probably if we could convey this to our friends here, we could save a lot of time and we could proceed more quickly in our discussions.

G. FRADIN (France): Je voulais simplement appuyer mes collègues du Sénégal et du Congo dans la défense de la langue française.

CHAIRMAN: Could we, in the interest of time, try to confine our observations and comments to matters affecting the substance, unless the language totally distorts the meaning. Does anyone have any objection to the suggestion by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany to eliminate the four words: "to a minimum level"?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que la propuesta más sabia fue la hecha por el colega de México, en el sentido de que se adopte este párrafo 7 tal como está, sin ninguna modificación.

TESEMA NEGASH (Ethiopia): I personally would endorse the proposal made by the delegate of Mexico and supported by Lebanon and Colombia. This is a difficult paragraph and if we start proposing, then counter-proposals will come up and we shall end up discussing the same paragraph for days. The "minimum level" as stated here is in fact for some of us below minimum. Therefore if there is a proposal to delete those words, we shall put forward another proposal saying "to below minimum level". So, in the interests of time, I would go along with Mexico and Lebanon.

C.VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Gracias Presidente: Para reiterar rai proposición, que ha sido apoyada por otras delegaciones.

S.ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): I just wanted to ask: whenever we call for a reduction it has to stop somewhere at any rate, it cannot continue indefinitely. That is why we discussed this point in our Committee and we thought that stopping it at the bare minimum level would be appreciated by everyone. And that is why we feel that we must maintain the previous plea to keep this sentence as it is.

M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador): Nuestra delegación también estima que introducir modificaciones a este párrafo nos llevaría a discutir todo el día y no podríamos ponernos de acuerdo nunca. Estimamos que la meta al nivel mínimo es lo mínimo que podemos establecer en este párrafo para llegar a un consenso. Por ello apoyamos la propuesta de México, ratificada por Colombia, Etiopía y otras Delegaciones.

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): I should like to support our German colleague who suggests that - administrative services and support services could, in fact, be streamlined further. I know of no large organization which does not allow for some improvement to take place, even if it is only a transfer of technology or a reduction in the labour that can be utilized. I therefore support the suggestion made by our colleague from Germany that "to a minimum level" be taken out of this Report.

H. BENATTALLAH (Algérie): C'est l'un des paragraphes les plus importants que nous ayons à approuver. La suppression de certains termes à certains endroits entraînerait inévitablement des ajouts supplémentaires à d'autres endroits. Si on adoptait ce paragraphe qui nous satisfait pleinement, on avancerait beaucoup.

M. NAKAMURA (Japan): The Japanese delegation would like to associate itself with the view expressed by the New Zealand delegation and we support the amendment proposed by the German delegation.

A.BERGQUIST (Sweden) : Being a member of the Drafting Committee I can assure members here that we spent a considerable time on this paragraph. We are all here concerned with effectiveness and saving money for the Organization and one way to save money would be not to dwell further on this paragraph so I support the proposals of other members of the Drafting Committee that we adopt the paragraph as it is.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): After these words of wisdom I have nothing else to say but to support my colleagues from Sweden.

H.J. ARBUTHNOTT (United Kingdom): I would like to support my German and other colleagues for the omission of the words "to a minimum level". Somebody expressed concern that this could not be pursued indefinitely. The elimination of those words does not suggest that it would be because we already have the sentence which has now moved up to the penultimate sentence which says that this "should not need to extend expectations that it would be pursued indefinitely" so that I do not think taking the words out "to a minimum" alters that point. I agree with one of the earlier speakers who says that one cannot say what is a minimum of any one kind. Circumstances may change, one cannot commit oneself to setting up a certain level forever.

A.GAYOSO (United States of America): We have during the course of the Conference fully recognized the tremendous efforts made by the Director-General moving towards improved efficiency in this Organization. I have to support in that connection, because it is a dynamic situation, the proposal made by New Zealand and so well reiterated by the United Kingdom at the elimination of the words "to a minimum level" does not affect the thought that we all have that some things cannot be pursued indefinitely, which is so well expressed later on in the penultimate phase. The idea is we cannot at this time prove one way or the other that we have reached the optimum point on support and administrative costs. Technology is here, new technology is coming, and things will change in a very dynamic sense.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I thought that after the words of wisdom from Sweden we would perhaps go on to paragraph 8 but it would seem we are stuck on paragraph 7: When I look at the paragraph I feel that this particular sentence where you want to eliminate the words "minimum level" is referring particularly to two policy parameters that are enunciated in the earlier paragraph and the minimum level, which incidently we wanted to be pronounced as "bare minimum level", refers to the fact that there is a modest increase in the technical programmes shifting resources from the general administration and support services. Within that total context on this Programme of Work and Budget you have shifted resources from the administrative services to the technical services and by doing so you have left the administrative services to support that level of delivery of the technical services and at that level it is the bare minimum required for the delivery of those technical services.

The other idea which is subsequently incorporated in the paragraph in the subsequent sentence is an entirely different idea, that it is not to be a continued long run process, that it has to come to an end at some time so these are two entirely different ideas. So the idea of the minimum level here, which we would like to see changed to bare minimum level, refers to the shift of the resources from the administrative to the technical services and it also refers to the fact that delivery of the technical services is not possible unless the general administrative services are kept at a certain level and that level is the minimum level. That is why we feel that "minimum level" has to remain there because this refers to this Programme of Work and Budget so we think this should remain and perhaps you would make more progress by agreeing to the earlier proposal of the Mexican delegation that we do not try and pick holes in this paragraph and go on.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: We have the verbatim here. We do not find in the verbatim that Germany, New Zealand and the United Kingdom have said what they want to put now in the Report. The Report is only a picture of what was discussed here. They cannot add now anything to the debate. If they would have said it then we could say "three countries" or "four countries" not "the Conference". You cannot have the whole Conference saying this, which was never said even by yourself. The Report is just a reproduction of what was discussed here and what was discussed is in the verbatim. It is not in the verbatim and we have been wasting a long time on this issue. In the other meeting which is taking place in the other room, when additionnai posts are asked for with an increase in the administration budget, the same country approves and applauds. When it comes here to FAO we would have to cut to the maximum, and we should still cut and cut and cut. To come back and say it again: those countries did not express themselves in the way they want the Report to express itself, when the matter was discussed.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Director-General. I think the delegate of Pakistan has also made an explanation. Does Germany have any comments to make on that explanation?

S. SCHUMM (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I do not want to prolong this discussion but of course we are not really discussing the substance once again. We simply have to adopt the Report and include in this Report what was said in the discussion. Now we feel this was actually said, but, of course, the whole Commission need not identify itself with this. This is not what I asked. Therefore, as a compromise I would suggest, so as to reflect what was meant that "the majority" or "the great majority", that I leave to you, "felt that this could represent a minimum level". We could certainly express that the great majority was of this opinion but at least there was no unanimous view on this.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: This is a report for the Plenary and when there is "a great majority" it means "the Conference". We cannot make this "the great majority, the small majority, the few" etc., it is "the Conference". A majority plus one makes the Conference. Then we say "the Conference" and then we say "a few", not "the great majority or other majorities" etc. This is how the things have always been done, especially on this important subject. It is the Conference, it is not a great majority, the Conference means the majority.

CHAIRMAN: I want once more to appeal to the delegations that we must recognize that we do not have all the time on our hands.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je pense que nous avons consacré suffisamment de temps à cette question et que le commentaire fait par le représentant du Pakistan a pu éclairer nos collègues.

Je suggère que nous nous prononcions pour l'adoption du texte tel qu'il nous est soumis et demande à ceux qui hésitent encore à s'y rallier, qu'ils comprennent que le texte exprime bien notre pensée et que ce qu'il y aurait lieu de craindre en "réduisant les coûts des services au strict minimum", c'est que les programmes soient compromis.

H.J. ARBUTHNOTT (United Kingdom): I wonder if we could come to a compromise by suggesting that it should say "support service costs to a currently minimum level". I think that takes into account what the delegate from Pakistan was proposing.

CHAIRMAN: "Currently minimum level."

S. SCHUMM (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I find it rather difficult, what do you mean by "minimum level"? What is the definition of "minimum level"? If the Commission feels that this "currently minimum level" is a compromise, of course English is not my mother tongue, then I will not be opposed to this but I have some hesitations nevertheless.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your cooperation.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Nuevamente para insistir en que se mantenga la redacción tal cual está. Realmente, como nos decía el Director General esta observación nada más la hicieron muy pocas delegaciones, como consta en los reports que recibimos; entonces, realmente el querer por un lado reabrir la discusión y por otro lado imponer un criterio que no es el de la Comisión ni tampoco el que pueda ser el de la Conferencia nos resulta en este momento extemporáneo.

Vuelvo a reiterar mi proposición que se mantenga el texto como está dado que fue un texto que se discutió muy ampliamente en el Comité de Redacción, que llevó muchas horas en el Comité de Redacción y se llegó a un compromiso y transacción y ninguna modificación va a mejorar o alterar, o mejorar realmente este texto que fue muy sesudamente trabajado.

Es nuestra sugerencia, por tanto creo que estamos perdiendo tiempo y perdiendo recursos, como decía la delegada de Suecia, y podíamos pasar a otro párrafo y dejar éste tal cual está.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think there is a certain amount of confusion. I do not recall anyone in the debate proposing that the level of administrative and support services proposed in this budget should be further cut. I do not think anybody said that. Some delegations, many, the Conference did say that is was a minimum and that I think is what the verbatim reveals. The problem only

arises because now in reflecting the views that this was a minimum some delegations feel that they are being committed in some way but on the other hand if you cut out this reference to a minimum then you are committing the Conference in a different direction, you are saying cut further. This is a new idea which has come up during the discussion of the Report to try and put a restriction on the level of the support for the future but as far as the debate is concerned I do not recall anyone saying that the provision for administrative and support services proposed in the budget should be cut further.

CHAIRMAN: I did earlier on make reference to the very excellent explanation that was made by Pakistan and I think that was accepted. The German delegate, who made the suggestion, would have no problems with the word "currently", and that does not alter the substance of the paragraph. Could we agree on going on like that without any further waste of time? Thank you very much for your cooperation. The paragraph is adopted. If you are not clear, Mexico, only with "currently" added before the words "minimum level".

C.VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Nosotros hemos insistido en que el texto se mantenga igual al que acordó el Comité de Redacción. El incorporar el factor "actual" modifica totalmente el sentido que se quería incorporar en esta frase y abre nuevamente la discusión, además de que no resuelve ningún problema.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mexico. I think you have reopened the debate.

S. ABOUJÁOUDE (Lebanon): I fear I have to reiterate the words of my colleague from Mexico. I do not think that adding 'Currently' would help in any way because if we have to delete 'minimum level', then the sentence that we have included pertaining to not lead to expectations in the future would have no meaning, because if we had thought at that time we could reduce these costs further we would not have said in the discussions that took place in the Drafting Committee that this situation cannot continue indefinitely. For that reason I would like to move to adopt this paragraph as it is.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): If we insert the word 'currently', then the meaning of the paragraph is in contradiction with the next sentence, which stresses the expectations that this cutting down cannot be pursued indefinitely. Therefore, though this specific paragraph has been discussed extensively here and in the Drafting Committee, in which I participate, I share the feeling of other delegates that this paragraph should remain as originally drafted and agreed upon by the Drafting Committee.

J MCHECHU (Tanzania): I support other speakers, Mexico in particular. The word 'currently' is inappropriate. I think it should be struck out. Let us adopt this paragraph with the minimum amendments proposed by Senegal and let us move ahead.

K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): A minimum level is obviously in a time context, it has a time dimension, this is not ad infinitum, and therefore 'currently' becomes redundant. The simple fact is that when we talk of minimum level we talk of a biennium, and therefore 'currently' is redundant and it should be struck out and we should adopt the paragraph as it is.

CHAIRMAN: I believe that we cannot go on arguing on this point. It is clear that a very large majority in this Commission would like to have the paragraph adopted as presented by the Drafting Committee. I think it is clear that the few delegations that wanted to stress the point that 'minimum level' should be deleted from the paragraph should now be persuaded in the interests of consensus and progress in our work and that we could move toward the adoption of the paragraph.

A.GAYOSO (United States of America): In a spirit of cooperation and trying to bridge some of the different opinions that have been expressed here, I would like to propose three words that I think articulate what Pakistan explained to us this sentence meant. The phrase would then read: "By further reducing administrative and support services costs to the minimum level for 1984-85."

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia) : If we take the sentence that we are discussing now that contains 'minimum level' in the context of the next sentence that Cyprus rightly drew our attention to, I think it is quite obvious. The next sentence says that it could not be pursued indefinitely. Indefinitely is a very strong term. It means that it could continue for some time, surely the next biennium, but not indefinitely. Indefinitely in this context means zero level. I think the meaning of the two sentences together makes it absolutely obvious what 'minimum level' means in this sentence. It is absolutely obvious that the reference to 'minimum level' is the current level, the minimum for the next biennium.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): If you want to change anything, Mr Chairman, I need to explain again. If the paragraph stands as it is, I have nothing else to add.

R.F.J. NETO (Angola): Je voudrais tout simplement savoir si votre représentation reconnaît encore le principe de la démocratie. Je pense que la majorité des membres ont approuvé ce paragraphe tel qu'il est. Nous nous demandons pourquoi nous devons faire un jeu de mots, réajuster ceci ou cela pour donner satisfaction à deux ou trois délégations. Je pense que les choses son claires. La majorité a approuvé le paragraphe, je pense que nous pouvons continuer et passer à d'autres paragraphes.

CHAIRMAN: In view of what Pakistan and Angola have said, Colombia and Mexico, do you insist on having the floor, because we have to pass now?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo solo quiero apoyar lo que acaba de decir Angola. Adoptemos el párrafo 7 como está y pasemos al párrafo 8.

CHAIRMAN: Mexico, do you insist? Thank you very much

Paragraphs 6 and 7, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 6 et 7, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 6 y 7, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 8 to 12
PARAGRAPHES 8 à 12
PARRAFOS 8 a 12

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): In accordance with what was suggested under paragraph 5, I have a new text under paragraph 9 which is as follows: "Some members draw the attention of the Conference to General Assembly Resolution 37/234 with regard to medium-term planning".

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Nuevamente quiero intervenir para insistir en que no se cambie este párrafo y se mantenga lo acordado por el Comité de Redacción. Una mención de este tipo daría la impresión de que la FAO no realiza la planeación a plazo medio, lo cual está totalmente fuera de la realidad. De hecho si lee uno el párrafo, se habla de planeación a plazo medio y a largo plazo.

Creo que la FAO es una de las pocas organizaciones dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas que realiza una planeación efectiva y el mencionar esto da la impresión de que la FAO no lo hace.

Yo le sugeriría al distinguido Delegado de Holanda que retirara esta proposición.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je crois que si certaines délégations ont insisté sur la résolution de l'Organisation des Nations Unies sur la planification à moyen terme et que d'autres n'ont pas soulevé d'objection c'est que nous avons fait nôtre l'importance soulignée de ce système. A partir de ce moment il n'est pas nécessaire de vouloir - singulariser des délégations sur un point qui avait recueilli un consensus. Il s'y ajoute que, étant donné que nous avons réaffirmé notre approbation pour des actions de la FAO orientées dans le même domaine, citer l'Organisation des Nations Unies d'une manière singulière n'est pas une démarche capitale qui devrait nous retenir aussi longtemps. Je pense que nous pourrions dans cette optique approuver ce paragraphe comme l'a suggéré la délégation du Mexique et passer rapidement parce qu'il y a d'autres problèmes plus importants et plus vitaux pour nous, pays en développement, dont nous devrions discuter plutôt que nous attarder sur des problèmes de fond, qui finalement nous amèneront à escamoter des problèmes importants au niveau du rapport.

CHAIRMAN: Netherlands, do you really insist on the amendment?

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): As the Director-General has said, this Report should reflect what has been said during our discussions and what is in the Verbatim Record. I think there is ground to put this sentence. We discussed before that we could put it under paragraph 5. There was no consensus about it and there was a proposal to discuss this matter under paragraph 9. That is now my proposal, which does not include the suggestion that we criticise FAO in this matter.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: When I intervened before on this I did not want to take up too much of your time, but I do think it is desirable that all members present should know what they are doing, because the Resolution has been referred to but it has not been described. The fact is that this Resolution lays down an enormously elaborate pattern for preparing a separate medium-term objectives plan with quantified information in it, programme by programme. As Mr Shah told you at the end of the debate, the Secretary-General in his opening of the Fifth Committee in the General Assembly in effect made a plea to the General Assembly not to give him instructions like this because it was making his life impossible in managing the United Nations. This is not a Resolution about the importance of medium or long-term objectives or planning to achieve those objectives. It is about how to set up a medium-term plan in great detail, and is precisely what you have rejected in saying that you approve the incorporation of Medium-Term Objectives into the Programme of Work and Budget, as presented to you at this Conference. Some delegates want to say, in effect, that they do not agree with that. They drew attention to a different way of doing things. I think it was two who said this, and again I repeat if you just include a reference to the Resolution, without clarifying that it does not apply to the FAO, it applies to the UN, and it is totally different from what you are doing, you are just giving a misleading impression of the subject you are discussing.

CHAIRMAN: Before we give the floor to other delegations, Netherlands, do you want to insist?

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): Well, I give the floor to my colleague of Norway.

A. BOTHNER (Norway): I think we should take our point of departure in what the Director-General just said on another paragraph, that the Report should faithfully reflect what was actually said in the Committee, and it is a fact of life that two members mentioned this point, and referred to this resolution, and rightly or wrongly, regardless of its relevance, it would be fair to reflect in the Report what was actually said in the meeting.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): Well, Mr Chairman, I have very serious doubts with regard to the reference proposed, but it is really fact and I think we have to be fair. Some members made that reference in the course of our debate, and let it be reflected. I want only to succeed that we still add two words, as related to UN. United Nations, so as to make it clear that it was not directed towards the UN system in general. It is medium-term plan for United Nations, that means UN proper, 84-89, as simple as that.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Realmente nosotros nos encontramos en toda la documentación de las distintas Organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas con una serie de referencias cruzadas que muchas veces la hacen ilegible e incomprensible

Realmente yo en lo personal no sé que contiene o qué dice la Resolución 37/234 de Naciones Unidas. No sé si en alguna parte tenemos ese texto para ver de qué trata porque no me gustaría que se aprobara un informe del cual estamos aceptando una Resolución de otra Organización diferente a la nuestra cuyo texto no conocemos.

Lo que pediría es que nos lean ese texto de esa Resolución y mantener la idea de que se mantenga inalterado este párrafo si eso resulta muy difícil.

S. ZAHARIEV (Bulgaria): I was trying to cooperate with everybody here and not take the floor and bother the Conference and the meeting with too much talk about it, but as a member of the Drafting Committee I am feeling a little bit touchy, because several points which have been quoted, which took us quite a lot of time to discuss in the Drafting Committee, have now tried to be completely amended, even completely changed. So by supporting the very first proposal of my Mexican colleagues to keep as much as possible to the original text, and I fully endorse the extremely wise words of my distinguished Swedish colleagues who say that we have to try to be effective ourselves, and to bear in mind how much it is costing for our stay here now for interpreters, and we are going to have to stay even this evening, because we never can finish in the way that we are moving. I once again appeal to everybody to try to be as cooperative as possible. Several people have quoted the Director-General as saying that we have to respect the opinions of the few. Of course we have to respect it, but the Director-General does also say that the Conference is to be respected, and here in this sentence we start with the words "The Conference", and we clearly understood "The Conference" is the great majority. So if the great majority is of one opinion, let us try to keep this opinion as much as possible, as it is explained here on that very document.

CHAIRMAN: I think at this point we should say that there were many more things that were said during the discussions, that have not been reflected in this Report, and not only because they were not of immediate relevance to what comes into the Report, but does Norway and Netherlands want to insist, in the light of the fact that the reference they are making seems to be causing confusion, because even the amendment suggested does not go a long way enough to indicate the immediate relevance of that Resolution.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): Mr Chairman, as I told you during our discussions the Netherlands attach great importance to medium-term planning and, therefore, our proposal to put it somewhere in the Report, with the text that it were only some members. Also I refer to a General Assembly Resolution which could be used as a referring point, which was accepted in the General Assembly with consensus. I have made my point here in the discussion, and I do not want to stop the progress of our discussion about the Report, and I leave my proposal.

CHAIRMAN: Does Norway concur with that? So we leave the amendment out. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Paragraph nine is approved. Paragraph 10?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je pense qu'il y a également une difficulté au niveau de la traduction. A la troisième ligne de ce paragraphe, on essaye d'écrire le concept élargi mais je pense qu'on pourrait, dans la version française, trouver les mots qui conviennent, qui sont déjà consacrés en quelque sorte et la phrase pourrait être libellée comme suit: "La Conférence a mis tout particulièrement l'accent sur les besoins spéciaux et urgents du continent africain et a pris bonne note de l'importance qui est attachée au concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire " parce qu'il y a une expression consacrée, sur le concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, on ne fait plus de description.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Congo. I have been promised that the Secretariat will bring the French in line with the English, and reflect your views there.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Je voulais simplement proposer que l'on remplace "a pris bonne note" par "la Conférence a vu l'importance qui est attachée".

R. F.J. NETO (Angola): Ma délégation voudrait tout simplement donner son appui total aux amendements proposés par les honorables délégués du Congo et de la République populaire du Bénin.

G. FRADIN (France): En ce qui concerne l'amendement proposé par le Bénin, il y a un petit problème pour la version française. Il me semble qu'il est difficile de dire: "Appuie l'importance". Cela ne me semble pas tout à fait correct. Est-ce que l'on ne peut pas trouver une autre formulation comme "approuve l'importance", ou laisser les choses dans l'état? Mais dire "appuie l'importance", cela ne me paraît pas une bonne formulation.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, France. I get your point. If we were to take the word "support" to replace "highlighted" it would read, "supported the attention", Now you are talking about "importance", which is in French. Would you accept, "supported the attention"?

G. FRADIN (France): Si vous voulez, M. le Président. Ce n'est pas extrêmement bon, mais je ne me battra pas là dessus.

K. TRAORE (Guinée): J'aurais souhaité que l'on dise: "La Conférence a fait sienne la nouvelle conception révisée et élargie ...".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Guinea but the broadened concept has not yet in its entirety been submitted to the Conference for adoption. So far it is being developed and it is being discussed by the different Committees within the Organization, so I think it might be premature to say that the Conference adopted the broadened concept. If you do not mind we might stick with the "supported the attention that has been given to the revised and broadened concept of food security".

M. B.SY (Sénégal): Autant je pensais effectivement difficile d'appuyer une importance, de même il m'est difficile d'appuyer une intention. Ou bien on souligne l'importance qui est attachée à la nouvelle conception, ou bien on approuve l'intérêt, ou l'on peut dire "l'importance accordée à une chose". On peut donc souligner l'importance, ou approuver l'intérêt ou l'importance.

G. FRADIN (France): Je voudrais simplement appuyer ce que vous venez de dire. L'amendement proposé à ce concept élargi n'a pas encore été soumis. Il est difficile d'exprimer ce que la Conférence désirera approuver.

Je voudrais dire aussi que ce que propose le Sénégal me semble une bonne chose. On pourrait dire: "a souligné l'importance". Ce serait une très bonne formulation.

CHAIP'AN: I want to make sure we are clear what we are accepting. I will ask the Secretary to read the amendment.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): We have a problem which arose initially because of a slight variation between the French and the English texts which came out of the translation process. The last proposal made, I think, would come out in English "and stressed the importance given to the revised and broadened concept of food security". If this is satisfactory in all the languages we can incorporate it that way from the English. I believe it would be "appuyé l'importance accordée" in French.

CHAIRMAN: I don't see any indication of desire to speak, paragraph 10 is therefore approved. Paragraph 11?

A.BOTHNER (Norway): Mr Chairman, on the fourth line I would like to replace the words "fish production" with "development of fisheries". I believe that was also changed when we adopted the report of the Council, and it would bring the whole thing in line with the other elements of that paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 11, as amended, is approved. Paragraph 12?

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Señor Presidente: Pienso que en el penultimo renglón, en lugar de "especiales", pudiera sustituirse por "urgentes" y a corto plazo", y así quedaría "las necesidades urgentes y a corto plazo, etc". Más adelante quisiéramos agregar asimismo: "La Conferencia apoya la importancia concedida al PCT por el Director General, y reconoció el efecto altamente positivo de este Programa para los países en desarrollo".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much; it will be taken care of. Did everyone get the amendment? I will ask the Secretary to read it.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): This would be an additional sentence I believe at the end of paragraph 12, and it would read as follows:- "Likewise the Conference supported the importance given to the TCP by the Director-General, and recognized the highly positive effect of this programme for the developing countries".

M.E. BONDANZA DE FILIPPO (Argentina): Simplemente, la delegación de mi país quiere apoyar la propuesta del delegado de Cuba porque, efectivamente, numerosas delegaciones hicieron mención, entre ellas Argentina, y por lo tanto creemos conveniente que eso quede registrado en el informe.

E. HERAZO DE VITI (Panamá) : Nuestra delegación apoya lo que acaba de decir el delegado de Cuba, pero creo que hay solamente una pequeña cuestión de redacción en español. En la frase "que permitan una respuesta a las necesidades urgentes y a corto plazo" sigue otra "y" que podríamos suprimir, dejando la oración en esta forma: "a las necesidades urgentes y a corto plazo que no podrán satisfacerse con otras fuentes".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much; that will be taken care of.

Paragraphs 8 to 12, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 8 à 12, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 8 a 12, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 13
PARAGRAPHE 13
PARRAFO 13

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos referirnos a la tercera fase del párrafo 13. Esa tercera frase del párrafo 13 sigue aún representando la opinión de la gran mayoría y a que se hace referencia al comienzo de la segunda frase del párrafo 13. Queremos proponer que donde dice "y que, en el futuro, deberán garantizarse unos niveles de recursos correspondientes, etc.", Queremos cambiar la expresión de "tratarían de garantizar" por "deberán garantizarse". Esto corresponde, repito, a la opinión de la gran mayoría, y al final del mismo párrafo 13 está la opinión de los pocos miembros que creen que deben seguirse aplicando restricciones financieras. De manera que esperamos que ésto no ofrezca dificultades.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Perú): Me refiero a la última frase. Recuerdo que en el Comité de Redacción, el sábado, se habló de criterios de flexibilidad para la aplicación de las restricciones financieras. De manera que inclusive hubo miembros que insistían sobre este punto y estuvieron de acuerdo en que las restricciones financieras deberían tratarse con gran flexibilidad. Me gustaría incluir esa palabra acá, la palabra "flexibilidad".

CHAIRMAN: I would now like to ask the Secretary to read the penultimate sentence as amended. In the meantime I would like Peru to indicate exactly where the word "flexible" on the concept of flexibility, should come into the last sentence.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): Mr Chairman, this would be the penultimate sentence. The English text would read, "While being ready to join the consensus on the Director-General's realistic proposals, they emphasized that this could not be interpreted as a precedent towards any continuing trend of budgetary restraint and that in the future resource levels to match the magnitude of the tasks assigned to FAO should be ensured".

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): I do not really have problems, but probably those who are going to read it later on will have lots of problems and we really do not want to put things that are not going to be taken up fully in the future. I think this problem also has been discussed in our Committee and we thought that instead of imposing things on people we would care to put only that "they would seek to ensure". It would give the same meaning but at the same time would not really restrict people to something that probably they would not apply to. So I would like to leave the text as it is please.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Colombia, would you be very hard about this?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): A mí me parece que el texto actual es muy débil, pero si el colega del Líbano dice que esto fue discutido en el Comité de Redacción y nadie apoya mi propuesta, pues, obviamente, la retiro.

CHAIRMAN: Is the delegate of Peru ready to indicate where the word "flexible" comes in?

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Perú): Dejo a cargo del Comité de Redacción esto. Yo creo que podría decir "subrayaron la necesidad de seguir aplicando con flexibilidad las restricciones financieras" y continúa lo demás.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): As you can imagine, this paragraph was debated at some length - though perhaps not as much as paragraph 8 - in the Drafting Committee and I think that the good advice that we got on paragraph 8 should pertain to this one as well. This is a reflection of a negotiated text which probably does not satisfy anyone fully, but to reopen some of these basic concepts will lead us into another long and perhaps fruitless debate.

J. SAULT (Australia): I concur with my colleague from Canada. Perhaps our colleague from Peru might recall that it was in response to the comments that he and other members of the Drafting Committee made about the flexibility point, that this language which appears here was introduced; and it is considerably more flexible than that which was originally proposed in the Drafting Committee.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je suggère de dire: "On a souligné la nécessité de continuer à limiter, dans toute la mesure du possible, le budget, d'autant plus que la conjoncture économique est difficile dans le monde."

Nous avons craint tout à l'heure qu'on continue à réduire le budget. On pourrait effectivement demander qu'on continue à limiter le budget "mais dans toute la mesure du possible".

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Perú): Yo me he permitido decir esto porque textualmente lo dijo el señor Shah; lo tengo aquí escrito y él fue el que citó, cuando yo hablé del contexto del crecimiento cero, que en el caso de los problemas de alimentación se debería usar con flexibilidad; no es una palabra mía, sino que fue de él. Eso es lo que tengo escrito textualmente y yo creo que nada invalida, ¿o es que ellos proponen que se aplique con inflexibilidad el criterio de restricciones financieras?. Si proponen que se aplique con inflexibilidad entonces no podemos poner "flexibilidad", pero si ellos creen, como prometieron cuando se habló del crecimiento cero, que en el caso de los alimentos se iba a aplicar "con flexibilidad", entonces yo quisiera saber en qué invalida la frase el decir "con flexibilidad".

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As has just been said, this was a section that gave rise to a considerable amount of discussion and I think the delegate of Peru is correct: we did refer to the question of flexibility. The delegate of Australia is also quite correct: we did speak in terms of compromising and we thought at the time that the best rendition of what we could get between the two sides is what appears here in this particular text. I must acknowledge, however, that we did discuss the notion of flexibility but in the end we did settle for what we have here.

J. MCHECHU (Tanzania): I propose that we adopt the sentence as it reads here because my understanding is that once you speak of continued financial stringency, and then you say "particularly", you really bring in an element of flexibility because you say "particularly in the difficult economic situation". That means you qualify it so actually the way it reads here, there is already a flexibility because it is a particular situation. I therefore really do not see that the addition of the word "flexibility" here would change the meaning at all. We had better leave it as it is because it has already been qualified.

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of Peru, would you really like to be inflexible about "flexibility"?

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Perú): Yo creo que la situación económica predominante en el mundo es una coyuntura, es una cosa coyuntural. La palabra "flexibilidad" yo no la veo implícita en la última frase. La idea de la "flexibilidad" era otra. La idea de flexibilidad era, y esto sería reabrir el debate, que en la cuestión de crecimiento cero, y ahí comenzamos, alguien pensaba que era una cosa simplista, que era decir no damos más dinero y hasta esta cantidad. Entonces lo que se dijo es que para aplicar con flexibilidad el crecimiento cero lo que quería decir era racionalizar los gastos a tal punto que cada proyecto tenga un costo mínimo pero si hay más proyectos, digamos, tienen que crecer las aportaciones financieras para hacer más cosas.

Entonces la palabra "flexibilidad" quería decir que fuera un poco flexible, no aplicar gramaticalmente lo que quiere decir "crecimiento cero". Crecimiento cero quiere decir "nada" porque en matemáticas "cero" es la nulidad. Entonces la flexibilidad es lo que le daba a los que patrocinan el crecimiento cero un poco de flexibilidad; no era tan simplista el hecho de decir "cero", no doy más dinero; doy flexiblemente más dinero de acuerdo con las nuevas acciones que haya que hacer en el nuevo bienio, que no son iguales a las del anterior.

Esa es una cuestión interpretativa, señor Presidente, y si no hace daño, lo que abunda no daña yo quisiera saber cuáles son las razones por las cuáles los dos delegados, mis dilectos amigos, de Nueva Zelandia y de Canadá se opondrían a que se diga "con flexibilidad". Si ellos se oponen yo entonces retiraría la propuesta, pero quisiera que me explicaran porqué se oponen.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Yo coincido totalmente con las observaciones que ha hecho el distinguido y mi dilecto amigo el Embajador del Perú, pero también quiero llamar la atención de que éste fue otro de los párrafos difíciles, de gran discusión en el Comité de Redacción y que realmente el que hayamos llegado a esta redacción obedece a un consenso, a una negociación que se estableció en el seno del Comité de Redacción y que yo le aconsejaría que retirara por favor la observación a esta cuestión de flexibilidad, que sea flexible con la flexibilidad y que nos permita seguir adelante con el trabajo de esta Comisión. Realmente, estando de acuerdo con él sí quisiera que entienda el esfuerzo que significó dentro del Comité de Redacción, del cual él también forma parte, el llegar a esta redacción y que retire esto para que podamos seguir adelante.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mexico, and thank you, Peru, for your cooperation.

Paragraph 13, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 13, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 13, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 14, INCLUDING RESOLUTION
LE PARAGRAPHE 14, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION
PARRAFO 14, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Shah told you at the beginning that tomorrow when the Report goes to Plenary, we would be producing a LIM Document giving the text of the Resolution including the Chapter totals and Budget level at the rate which the Conference will have to decide to adopt. I just wanted to say in that connection that it is going to be very difficult for the Conference to reach this decision because the rate is fluctuating so much: two days ago it was 1626, then yesterday it was 1616; it started this morning at 1623, this evening it might be 1630, tomorrow morning it might be 1616 again. So probably whatever rate goes into this document will not be the rate tomorrow. In any case, since it is generally the practice to round up the figure, the document tomorrow should also be regarded as a preliminary proposal. The Conference will have to decide on the rate to the best judgement it can make tomorrow, when it deals with this point. The Secretariat will of course provide the latest possible information on the rate but it may be necessary to read out a new set of figures even after the production of the LIM Document. The only way to overcome that would be to take an average for a certain period, but at the moment I am not suggesting that we do that. We shall review the situation overnight.

CHAIRMAN: So we are not discussing paragraph 14.

Paragraph 14, including Resolution, not concluded
Le paragraphe 14, y compris la résolution, est en suspens
El párrafo 14, incluida la Resolución, queda pendiente

PARAGRAPH 15
PARAGRAPHE 15
PÁRRAFO 15

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Nada más hacer un pequeño comentario sobre el término "tipo de cambio". Realmente, si el tipo de cambio está oscilando en los niveles que estamos viendo, el presupuesto de la FAO en términos reales se va a reducir y el incremento del 0,5 por ciento en términos reales que estamos autorizados va a desaparecer al considerarse los tipos de cambio actuales. Esto lo digo como un señalamiento para que los países miembros de la FAO tengan conciencia de qué significa esta situación y que realmente hemos estado discutiendo sobre una serie de detalles que con estas oscilaciones en el tipo de cambio realmente va a salir perjudicado el presupuesto de la FAO.

Paragraph 15 approved
Le paragraphe 15 est approuvé
El párrafo 15 es aprobado

Paragraphs 16 and 17 approved
Les paragraphes 16 et 17 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 16 y 17 son aprobados

Paragraphs 18 and 19 approved
Les paragraphes 18 et 19 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 18 y 19 son aprobados

Paragraphs 20 to 25 approved
Les paragraphes 20 à 25 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 20 a 25 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 26 TO 34
PARAGRAPHERS 26 A 34
PARRAFOS 26 A 34

Paragraphs 26 to 28 approved
Les paragraphes 26 à 28 sont approuvés
los párrafos 26 a 28 son aprobados

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): It is not an observation but rather a correction that I would like to add to paragraph 29. There is a plant protection project that has to be referred to because it is a specific project that we mentioned. I do not have the exact name of it but we can refer to it easily. It is not a programme but rather a project.

CHAIRMAN: We do not have the immediate words to insert there but it will be looked into and it will be put right.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): "The Conference recognized the importance of crop protection and expressed its support to the Cooperative Action for Plant Health Programme. It also expressed its support for the project on Action Programme for Improved Plant Health" and it continues like that.

CHAIRMAN: Lebanon, you do not intend to leave out support to the global strategy?

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): No, no. It is included but I am just referring to the exact name.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I have tried to follow attentively the suggestion of the delegate of the Lebanon but may I respectfully point out that this paragraph deals with the whole programme. It does not refer to any particular project and in the discussion in the Commission I understand that it was support given to the entire programme in plant protection, including its aspects of improved wheat management, the development of a computerized information system, etc. Unless we have misunderstood it, it might be perhaps better to leave the wording to the programme because after all individual projects are comprised in the programme.

CHAIRMAN: As it stands, delegate of Lebanon, your addition on the first sentence would be acceptable, but would you go along with that explanation.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): I would if we had action programme and plant protection.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Paragraphs 29 to 34, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 29 à 34, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 a 34, así enmendados son aprobados

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voudrais faire une remarque de forme sur la traduction de la dernière phrase du paragraphe 35 ainsi conçue : "qui l'une et l'autre sont essentielles à un développement rural équilibré". Je suggère : "... qui sont l'une et l'autre essentielles au développement...".

CHAIRMAN: That can be taken care of.

M. B. SY (Sénégal):Egalement une petite remarque de forme. A la troisième ligne où l'on dit: "elle a noté avec satisfaction la place importante qui est faite à la formation..." je propose que l'on dise : "la place importante qui est donnée à la formation...".

M.A. MEDANI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): On paragraph 37, Mr Chairman. When we compare the various texts we see a difference. I would like the Arabic text to be exactly the same as the English text.

CHAIRMAN: I suggest on these sorts of matters, like we said with the delegate of Lebanon, please give those to the Secretariat so that they can put things in line.

I. MAZOU (Niger): L'amendement que je voudrais proposer concerne la deuxième partie du paragraphe 37. Au lieu de: "la Conférence a souligné l'importance du rôle de coordination que doit jouer la FAO..." nous proposons: "la Conférence a souligné l'importance du rôle d'assistance de la FAO aux organisations interafricaines en matière de coordination dans la lutte contre les maladies animales afin que sa longue expérience..." le reste sans changement. A notre connaissance d'une part les débats n'ont pas été dans ce sens-là, d'autre part au niveau des organisations interafricaines, notamment en matière de lutte contre la peste bovine et certaines maladies de ce type, des résolutions ont été prises confiant la coordination des luttes à opérer précisément à l'OUA/IBAR, aidée par d'autres organisations soeurs.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I was trying to find the reference to this discussion in the Commission and if I recall correctly the discussion in fact was very much on the lines of what had gone on on the Council the week before. If I may read the relevant part of the Council Report on this subject, "the Council reiterated its recommendation that FAO support for the proposed Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign should cover not only technical assistance for the Organization of African Unity, Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources but also responsibility for the back-stopping and monitoring of the progress of the campaign, as well as coordination of the very substantial bilateral and multilateral donor inputs that were needed". All this was, of course, summarized to be reflected in the draft report you have before you.

CHAIRMAN: Niger, does that accommodate your concern?

I. MAZOU (Niger): Malheureusement, le Niger était absent au départ de cette réunion, en sorte que c'est avec regret que nous n'avons pas pu souligner cet aspect des choses. Mais enfin je rappelle tout simplement que des résolutions, au niveau des organisations interafricaines ont confié cette organisation à l'OUA/IBAR. C'était un rappel. Alors les absents ont tort dit-on, je n'insisterai pas outre mesure si la Conférence a déjà pris position en ce sens.

TESEMA NEGASH (Ethiopia): I think the coordination in this respect, especially the rinderpest aspect, to my recollection is to be taken care of by FAO along with other inter-African organizations including OAU, IBAR and OIE.

S. SIDIBE (Mali): Je pense qu'il y a deux problèmes. Ce qui a été dit au Conseil n'est pas forcément ce qui a été dit à la Conférence. Concernant une campagne particulière, comme la peste bovine, des réunions ont déjà été tenues, avec l'aide de la FAO d'ailleurs, et c'est l'OUA qui est chargée de cette coordination avec l'assistance de la FAO. Je ne parle pas de l'ensemble des maladies animales, comme la trypanosomiase, mais je pense qu'il est bon de préciser ce détail.

CHAIRMAN: At this stage may I ask Niger to read the suggested amendment again.

I. MAZOU (Niger): "La Conférence a souligné l'importance du rôle d'assistance de la FAO aux organisations interafricaines, en matière de coordination dans la lutte contre les maladies animales, afin que sa longue expérience ..." le reste sans changement.

P. OLMOS MORALES (Uruguay) : Creo, sin perjuicio de reconocer lo planteado por las delegaciones de los países africanos, que el párrafo puede también aplicarse a las actividades que está realizando la FAO en otras regiones, concretamente en el caso de America Latina y el Caribe se han realizado en los últimos meses seminarios en cuanto a organización de campañas en materia de sanidad animal. Inclusive en nuestra intervención en el debate de este punto de la Comisión habíamos señalado nuestro apoyo a las estrategias, generales en materia de sanidad animal. Por eso nos parecería que el último párrafo tal vez tendría que quedar en la forma en que está redactado sin perjuicio de que en las dos situaciones que se han planteado aquí, de la peste bovina en Africa y la peste porcina en Africa, que están tomadas a título de ejemplo en el texto actual, se puedan hacer las aclaraciones que desean las distintas delegaciones de los países africanos.

Tesema NEGASH (Ethiopia): According to the Resolution of the Council FAO is not to be limited to assisting Inter-African agencies but it is to take full part in the coordination of these activities. I think Mr Shah can help us in referring to the recommendation or the resolution of the last FAO Council, with reference to rinderpest..

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): In fact there is some basis for this difficulty, because what I referred to a few moments ago was the discussion on rinderpest, and there to insert what has been suggested by Niger would apply only to the African organizations, whereas this sentence in this paragraph deals with animal diseases in other regions as well, as also pointed out by Uruguay. So if one wishes to consider a way out one might say something like: "The Conference stressed the importance of FAO's active collaboration with other organizations concerned at the intergovernmental level in coordinating animal disease control", and the rest of the sentence would remain unchanged. This might be a way out.

CHAIRMAN: Niger, how does that go down with you?

I. MAZOU (Niger): Cette formulation, nous agréé.

CHAIRMAN: We will stop at this point.

PARAGRAPHS 35 to 41 not concluded

LES PARAGRAPHES 35 à 41 sont en suspens

LOS PARRAFOS 35 a 41 quedan pendientes

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13h00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/II/PV/11

Twenty-second Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session

COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones

COMISION II

ELEVENTH MEETING

ONZIEME SEANCE

11ª REUNION

(15 November 1983)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 15 h 00, sous la présidence de

C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 11ª reunión a las 15.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de

C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 1 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 1 (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 1 (continuación)

II. Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)

II. Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

II. Programa- de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 35 to 41 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 35 à 41 (suite)

PARRAFOS 35 a 41 (continuación)

M. SALAMEH (Syria) (original language Arabic): My comment is on the Arabic text of paragraph 39. I do not have anything to say concerning the English text. In the Arabic text there are two words, the word which means "influence" and I suggest that we should say "emphasize" so it is not "the influence" on the employment but "the emphasis" on the employment. Then concerning the "close cooperation" we say "on" in Arabic. It is again concerning the Arabic text.

CHAIRMAN: Could you please make the observation again?

M. SALAMEH (Syria) (original language Arabic): The two words I would like to replace in the Arabic text are the words "tathir" which would become TAKID in the Arabic text, i.e. "emphasis" instead of "influence".

And then there is the word "Ala altawunial wathiq" i.e. in "close cooperation", not "cooperation". That concerns the Arabic text, it is a correction of the Arabic text only.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. That has been taken note of and it will be dealt with. Any comments on paragraph 39? The paragraph is approved. Paragraph 40?

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Es una observación de estilo, fundamentalmente. Dice el párrafo: "La Conferencia apoyó la asistencia a las instituciones nacionales que se ocupan del fomento de la carne y de la leche". Aquí lo que quisiéramos agregar es: "el fomento de la producción de carne y de leche"« Puede ser que esto sea nada más válido para el español porque en inglés se entiende la idea, pero es la "producción de carne y de leche".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The Secretariat has noted that. Any more observations? None. The paragraph is approved. Paragraph 41? Approved.

Paragraphs 35 to 41, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 35 à 41, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 35 a 41, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 42 to 48

PARAGRAPHERS 42 à 48

PARRAFOS 42 a 48

M. SALAMEH (Syria) (original language Arabic): In paragraph 43 I think we should add the pollution of food after the pollution of air and water, because food is part of the environment, so we should say the pollution of food, water and air.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): J'approuve la rédaction du texte anglais, mais j'éprouve quelques difficultés à comprendre, dans le texte français, l'expression "les pluies acides". Peut-être serait-il bon d'expliquer ce terme par toute une phrase et j'en appelle au Secrétariat.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je ne reviens pas sur l'expression "pluies acides" mais je pense qu'il y a dans la première phrase, une erreur de dactylographie. Il est dit en effet: "... dans les programmes concernant l'agriculture, les forêts et les pêches aussi bien que dans les programmes et activités de développement rural" et je pense qu'il aurait été préférable de dire: "ainsi que dans les programmes" sinon je ne comprends pas la phrase.

CHAIRMAN: I have been promised by the Secretariat that that can be taken care of, but there are two technical explanations that have to be made here: first, concerning pollution and, the suggestion by Syria also to add food to the environmental degradation; and of course, the question of acid rain from the Congo.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): First, on the question of including food pollution in this paragraph: as the Commission will have noted, this paragraph deals with environmental pollution and hence we are talking about the Programmes dealing with soil erosion, forest depletion, desertification etc. I do not think that food pollution would come in too well in this paragraph. Of course, the distinguished delegate is right in drawing attention to the problems of food pollution, but these are dealt with under a different programme, the nutrition programmes.

With regard to the question raised by the delegate of the Congo concerning acid rain, the term acid rain is, I am told, a technically correct one. It refers to precipitation affected by environmental pollution which has struck particularly certain countries in Western Europe and also in Eastern Europe, The Federal Republic of Germany, Poland and some other countries have in fact recognized the importance of this phenomenon in their countries and the damage it causes, particularly to their forests. The term of course covers the pollution due to industrial emissions, industrial pollution as it then affects precipitation. The translation into French, "les pluies acides", is, I am told, also the correct terminology. And with that, if the distinguished delegate can be satisfied with our explanation, I think we should leave the text as it is.

CHAIRMAN: Is the delegate of the Congo satisfied with the explanation on the meaning of acid rain?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je remercie M. Shah de l'explication qu'il vient de donner; c'est une information que j'ignorais.

F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) : I agree with Mr Shah that heré there does not come in anything about pollution of food. We would rather have that later when we discuss food and nutrition. It is clear in Arabic and in English and exactly gives the idea which we were intending to explain in this paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Paragraphs 42 to 48, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 42 à 48, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 42 a 48, así enmendados,son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 49 to 56

PARAGRAPHES 49 à 56

PARRAFOS 49 a 56

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Dans le paragraphe 52, certaines expressions me gênent. On parle notamment: "d'étudier la dynamique de la pauvreté rurale". Puis de "la confrontation des expériences entre pays".

Je pense que puisqu'on dit: "il importe d'identifier des groupes cibles parmi les ruraux pauvres", on aurait simplement dû dire au lieu de "la dynamique de la pauvreté rurale", "la dynamique de leur pauvreté".

Et au lieu de la "confrontation des expériences entre pays", je suggère de dire "l'importance qui est attachée à la diffusion des informations et à l'échange d'expériences entre pays".

F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait): I am sorry, Sir, to take you back to paragraph 50. It is only a matter for clarification. In the Arabic version the words (istitane El Aradi) which in English are called land settlement, we would rather just keep it (islah al zirai wal istitane) and drop "El Aradi". Then the meaning will be clear for us: instead of land settlement we have a word for settlement only, that means land settlement.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Excusez-moi, avant d'adopter le 52 je voudrais revenir en arrière pour une remarque d'ordre général valable pour le reste du texte. Jusqu'ici, dans les différentes rubriques nous commençons par "la Conférence" et à la suite on mettait "elle" ou "la Conférence". A la dernière phrase du 52 on lit: "on s'est félicité". Je voudrais que l'on convienne une fois pour toutes de ce qu'il y a lieu de mettre. Dans certains comités de rédaction, quand nous mettions "on", cela avait un caractère plus ou moins restrictif et sous-entendait que tous les participants n'étaient pas d'accord. Est-ce que cette règle est de rigueur ici? A-t-on adopté une autre stratégie? J'aimerais savoir s'il ne vaudrait pas mieux mettre "la Conférence" et continuer avec "elle" ou remettre "la Conférence", au lieu de mettre "on" qui est un peu trop vague étant un pronom indéfini. Par la suite lorsqu'il y a des "on" je voudrais savoir si c'est dans un sens restrictif ou si cela tient à d'autres raisons.

La question s'adresse au groupe de rédaction qui doit nous dire si quand il met "on" cela veut dire qu'il n'y a pas eu consensus, ou si cela veut dire autre chose.

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The matter of whether we used "the Conference" or "it" was discussed as well. At some stage in the Drafting Committee we thought that as we were working towards having a Conference document, a consensus document, we should at all times wherever possible lead with the introduction "the Conference" and we thought when we had sufficiently established we were speaking of the Conference we could then go into the indefinite "it" with part. I think there was no other explanation for "it" and "the Conference" is an alternative in other places.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): C'est mon point de vue, peut-être les autres pensent-ils autre chose. Nous estimons pour notre part que dans le cas où le consensus a été obtenu il vaudrait mieux utiliser "la Conférence" ou "elle" au lieu de mettre "on" qui pourrait donner lieu à confusion.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): I would like to confirm what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said just before. As a member of the Drafting Committee, as I recall, there has been a consensus that whenever a new paragraph started we agreed to start it with "the Conference" but the second sentence, for example, if there was again need to refer to the Conference, we could mention "it" so as far as I recall there was a consensus on how to phrase the paragraphs.

O. BILBEISI (Jordan): It is a matter only of a suggestion for the second sentence in paragraph 53. I would suggest to add the following, "it endorsed the proposed increase of resources to stimulate the participation of women in production and marketing of agricultural produce through extension education." Because after all these women have to be taught about the modern practices through extension education.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): It is true that women have to be helped through extension but this question also was probably dealt with and we thought that probably there would be something else rather than extension to help the women be educated with, so this is why we left the sentence as it is and we propose to keep it as such.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): I just want to endorse what my colleague from Lebanon has said. If we are to accept the amendment to this paragraph we probably might run the risk of excluding all the channels of stimulating the participation of women.

CHAIRMAN: Any further 'observations? The amendment is not taken.

Paragraphs 49 to 56, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 49 à 56, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 49 a 56, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 57 to 59

PARAGRAPHERS 57 à 59

PARRAFOS 57 a 59

M. SALAMEH (Syria) (original language Arabic): In the end of paragraph 59 we should add the following expression "the Conference noted that in order to meet the necessity of applying the enlarged concept of food security as it is suggested, we should adopt the food considerations by all those who work in this field, such as the programmes of the Organization, FAO, the World Food Programme, and that these considerations should be taken into account in the work and resolutions of the World Food Council and the evaluations of the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research and its international centres".

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Tout à l'heure j'ai fait une objection et il m'a été répondu que, dans la mesure du possible, chaque paragraphe commençait par "la Conférence", que dans le corps du paragraphe on avait la latitude d'écrire "on" ou "elle", mais ici, au paragraphe 59, je crois que c'est une exception, on commence par "on". A moins qu'il y ait d'autres raisons que j'ignore je pense que l'on devrait commencer par "la Conférence s'est félicitée de ce que la FAO ... " pour rester conforme à la règle qui m'a été donnée.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Yo creo que nuestra Delegación no tienen inconveniente en apoyar la sugerencia del distinguido Delegado del Congo. Ahora bien, por lo que se refiere a la proposición del distinguido Delegado de Siria, realmente lo que pensamos es que las ideas que él expuso no corresponden al texto del párrafo 59. En todo caso, debería ser un párrafo distinto que se incorporara posiblemente en alguna otra parte del informe, pero no en ésta que trata de los problemas de nutrición, porque se está queriendo incorporar también por un lado el concepto de seguridad alimentaria, y por el otro, al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Realmente creemos que la idea del distinguido Delegado de Siria habría que ubicarla en alguna otra parte del documento. Pero lo que sugiero como método es que con la sugerencia del Congo se apruebe ex párrafo 59 y que se procure entonces buscarle una ubicación a la idea que está planteando el distinguido Delegado de Siria.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I am addressing myself only to the proposal just made by the Representative of Syria. While I fully respect his important views I think there are three considerations to bear in mind here. Firstly, this part of the Report is dealing, as you know, with Programme of Work and Budget and the discussion which took place on that subject in this Commission. This particular section of the Report deals in particular with the Programme 216 which concerns the nutrition programmes of FAO under the Regular Programme. For this reason I do not very clearly see how it would be possible to reflect his important views in this part of the Report.

Secondly, it is a question for the Commission itself to consider that it is not the validity of a view at this stage which would warrant its inclusion in the Report but whether that view was really aired and discussed during the debate that the Commission had on this item. I do not recall that such a discussion took place but, of course, I would bow to the wisdom and to the memory of the Commission.

Thirdly, the subject that he has raised in this proposal was of course a subject which was considered in our sister Commission, Commission I, when it dealt with the subject of world food security and the enlarged concept of food security. For this reason the delegates might wish to consider the appropriateness of such a proposal being included in the relevant part of the Conference Report rather than in this particular draft Report.

CHAIRMAN: Syria, would you like to reconsider the inclusion of this amendment in paragraph 59?

M. SALAMEH (Syria) (original language Arabic): On what has already been said on paragraph 59 on the Codex Alimentarius, I think that what I put forward could still apply, because this does refer to the broadened concept of world food security, especially as we thought it was a good idea to refer to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

CHAIRMAN: Would you perhaps consider introducing that at some later stage when we are dealing with food security? Thank you very much. We approve paragraph 59 as it stands.

Paragraphs 57 to 59 approved
Les paragraphes 57 à 59 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 57 a 59 son aprobados

Paragraphs 60 to 64 approved
les paragraphes 60 à 64 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 60 a 64 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 65 to 71
PARAGRAPHES 65 à 71
PARRAFOS 65 a 71

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos proponer que al final del actual párrafo 70, que termina con las palabras "determinados productos", se coloque allí una coma y se agregue lo siguiente: "así como la asistencia y el apoyo de la FAO a las reuniones sobre el CEPD del Grupo de los 77".

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I was just checking my notes on the discussion that went on and I do not think we had any difficulty with this paragraph. While I appreciate the suggestion made by Colombia, I have no reason to think that we should not stay with what we have here, but certainly I am in the hands of the Commission in this regard.

CHAIRMAN: In other words, what you are saying is you do not remember it being mentioned in this sense?

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): That is correct, Mr Chairman. I do not think there was any discussion at all on this.

J. SAULT (Australia): I cannot recall this point being raised in the Commission. It certainly was not raised in the Drafting Committee.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We wish to support the amendment proposed by Colombia. We personally feel that there should be no difficulty because the paragraph is dealing with ECDC, but if there is any problem we can suggest a slight modification which we hope Colombia would accept. We could say "as well as FAO's assistance and support for meetings on ECDC", and we do not have to make any reference to the Group of 77. That would fit into the paragraph because it is talking of ECDC as such.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any further observations?

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): We see no objective to the proposal of Colombia, but as a matter of principle, because our Chairman of the Drafting Committee and other people, especially Australia, mentioned that this issue was not raised in the Drafting Committee we would like to stick with what we have at the moment.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo admiro sinceramente y profundamente el celo a veces excesivo de quienes tuvieron el privilegio de participar en el Comité de Redacción sobre la insistencia en conservar este texto, pero espero que también esos colegas reconozcan el derecho que tenemos nosotros a reflejar aquí asuntos que no sólo fueron planteados por nuestra delegación en esta Comisión, sino por varios ministros y representantes de delegaciones en las sesiones plenarias, como los ministros de México y de Colombia, que se refirieron al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la FAO, a actividades de la FAO, a la necesidad de que la FAO apoyara la cooperación económica entre los países en desarrollo. Creo que este es un hecho que no ofrece ninguna controversia y que nuestra adición debe ser adoptada por esta Comisión.

Sra. M.E. BONDANZA de FILIPPO (Argentina): Mi delegación quiere expresar su apoyo a lo que acaba de decir el señor Embajador de Colombia. Hubo muchas delegaciones, inclusive nuestro propio ministro, que se han referido en múltiples ocasiones a la importancia del CEPD. Creemos que el párrafo que la delegación sugiere que se añada va a enriquecer el texto y concuerda perfectamente con lo que se ha dicho acá en la Conferencia. Lo que sí aceptamos es que se suprima esa referencia al Grupo de los 77, que levantó alguna objeción.

A, SALGADO SANTOS (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation would also like to support the proposal made by Colombia, as we have not been part of the Drafting Committee, but as the Drafting Committee would not really mind if we made these amendments. I think that the proposed amendment made by Colombia would have to be inserted in paragraph 70.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Sólo quisiera referirme para apoyar la proposición del distinguido delegado de Colombia. Creemos que esta adición se enmarca perfectamente dentro de lo que se ha discutido aquí, es decir, se le ha prestado un gran apoyo en las muchas opiniones sobre la cooperación entre países en desarrollo y creo que esto refuerza la labor de FAO y se hace un más categórico planteamiento.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Ma délégation n'a aucune difficulté à appuyer la proposition de la délégation de Colombie. Il semble bien en effet qu'au cours de la plénière l'accent a été mis sur cette idée. Nous soutenons donc cette proposition.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections we will approve the paragraph with amendment but without reference to the Group of 77.

Paragraphs 65 to 71, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 65 à 71, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 65 a 71, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 72 to 81

PARAGRAPHE 72 à 81

PARRAFOS 72 a 81

M.E. BONDANZA de FILIPPO (Argentina): Respecto al párrafo 74, la delegación de mi país solicita que se supriman tres palabras en el cuarto renglón, según la versión española: "las consiguientes responsabilidades". Consideramos que esta mención no es procedente en este párrafo, que se refiere a las oportunidades de los Estados Ribereños, según el nuevo régimen de los océanos, sobre todo porque así este párrafo va a quedar concordante con los términos que se han utilizado en el Comité de Pesca. Podríamos citar especialmente el párrafo 9 y también los párrafos 51, 52, 53, 54 y 68. Así va a quedar concordante, repito.

P. OLMOS MORALES (Uruguay): Mi delegación comparte la sugerencia hecha por la distinguida delegada de Argentina, a los efectos de que este documento quede coherente con lo acordado en la reciente reunión del Comité de Pesca.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México) Para apoyar la sugerencia hecha por la delegación de Argentina. Completaríamos la propuesta sugiriendo una modificación al término "océanos" por "mares", que sería más precisa.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections we shall approve paragraph 74 as amended.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): On paragraph 80: first may I state that we have carefully read the whole document, not necessarily the first part of it. Secondly, I think a small editorial change to "The Conference commended". I would suggest that we say simply "noted", just not to give the impression that we are complimenting ourselves. It is a fine difference. I am just suggesting instead of "commended" just include "noted".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Entiendo muy bien la intención de la propuesta que ha hecho nuestro amigo el delegado de Yugoslavia, pero por principio no nos gusta el término "tomar nota". Creo que sería mejor decir "La Conferencia destacó los resultados".

E. HERAZO DE VITI (Panamá): Solamente para reiterar nuestro apoyo al distinguido delegado de Colombia cuando dice : "La Conferencia destacó".

CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections we will adopt the paragraph 80 as amended.

Paragraphs 72 to 81, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 72 à 81, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 72 a 81, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 82 to 89 approved
Les paragraphes 82 à 89 sont approuvés
Los párrafo 82 a 89 son aprobados

Paragraphs 90 to 94 approved
Les paragraphes 90 à 94 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 90 a 94 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 95 to 98
PARAGRAPHES 95 à 98
PARRAFOS 95 a 98

H.J. ARBUTHNOTT (United Kingdom): On paragraph 98 can I propose that the words "should be" be inserted between "complementarity" and "ensured". The wording does not convey any comment on whether or not there is complementarity or duplication at the moment. It merely would say, that there should be this exhortation or advice as desirable, so that if anybody is duplicating at the moment they should stop, and if they are not duplicating so much for the better. It seems to me better to have an exhortation rather than just a statement which does not convey anything very much.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que este párrafo 98 refleja el resultado de los debates a través de los cuales quedo claramente establecido que había complementariedad y que no había duplicación entre las funciones de las Oficinas Regionales y los Representantes de la FAO; de manera que tal vez es más conveniente dejar este párrafo en su forma actual.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I feel diffident to talk about the English language when the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom has spoken on the subject, but the fact is that if you include "should be" that precludes the fact that already there is complementarity, and by saying that "was ensured" is also an advice, but also recognition of the fact that there is complementarity. So I think we will have to be happy with the language as it is, because this reflects the factual position, and also the trend of the debate in the Commission.

J. ZIMMERMAN (Denmark): I would like to support the points of view expressed by the United Kingdom. I recall that several members, or some members, including my own, dealt with the three elements of the decentralization i.e. the FAO Representatives at the country offices and the Regional Offices, and we asked some questions, and received some answers. Our intervention later expressed that those answers did not give information on the background of the increased budget for FAO representatives. We did not have anything against the budget as such, we just wanted information. We did not receive that. So in our minds, in our hearts, there is still a little doubt about whether there is a duplication or not and, therefore, I would like to support the points of view expressed by the United Kingdom delegation.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): I share the view expressed by my colleague from Pakistan. In fact, one is a statement of fact, and that is what we have right now in front of us in the prescribed text and the amendment more or less is relatively advisory. My delegation does not see any harm in that, but that we would like recognition to be taken of what actually is, in fact, the case. That means that "The Conference recognizes that complementarity was ensured". If there is a suggestion for an advisory note, maybe the Conference might wish to adopt that, but we want acceptance of the fact that complementarity was ensured. Thank you very much.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Lorsque la question est venue en discussion, les partisans de la thèse que soutiennent nos amis se sont exprimés; mais d'une manière générale il avait été reconnu une certaine complémentarité entre les bureaux régionaux et les représentants de la FAO dans les pays. C'est l'idée qui a prévalu. Il serait bon que le consensus qui a alors été réalisé se reflète dans la rédaction de ce paragraphe.

H.J. ARBUTHNOTT (United Kingdom): Then what about "should continue to be"?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Con ánimo de compromiso aceptamos la propuesta alternativa que ha hecho la delegación del Reino Unido. Podríamos decir "La Conferencia reconoció que estaba y debía mantenerse la complementariedad".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your cooperation. Is the proposal by the United Kingdom accepted by all?

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Could you kindly read the paragraph as amended, so that we can see it in the full context.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): Paragraph 98 would now read "The Conference recognized that complementarity should continue to be ensured and duplication avoided between the Regional Offices and FAO Representatives and expressed its continued support to the activities of the Regional Offices," The next sentence would then remain unchanged

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I am certain it is quite obvious that I am not an arbiter on the English language, but it does not sound, at least to my English, that the Conference could recognize that the complementarity should continue to be, I would rather assume that it should be, "the Conference emphasized that the complementarity should continue to be ensured", something like that.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. If there are no further observations after that improvement, then paragraph 98 is approved.

Paragraphs 95 to 98, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 95 à 98, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 95 a 98, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 99 to 102

PARAGRAPHERS 99 à 102

PARRAFOS 99 a 102

J. ZIMMERMAN (Denmark): To our mind the balance of the text of 99 is not weighted correctly. In fact some members expressed their feelings about the share of the budget for the TCP as a part of the overall budget, and at least the Danish delegation, supported by a few others, expressed that they felt that the share of the TCP in the overall budget should not exceed the present levels, and I would like to propose as, for instance, a new paragraph 100, a very short text saying "Some members felt that the share of the TCP in the overall budget should not exceed the present level".

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): May I take the liberty of explaining that these three paragraphs 99 to 102 were worked out in great detail in the Drafting Committee. That does not preclude the Commission from re-looking at them but, Mr Chairman, an attempt was made to bring out a balance between different opinions expressed on the subject, and at the beginning of paragraph 100 you have one set of opinions and subsequently another set of opinions. As far as the share of the TCP in the total budget is concerned, I believe you will recall that the Pakistan delegation very specifically suggested that in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 13.5 percent was anticipated, whereas in the actual Programme it is not 13.5, and we said it was not adequate.

Despite the fact that we wanted that idea to be incorporated, as a means of compromise we left it to be reflected as it is done in 102 about the level of the budget. So we think, if you try and disturb the balance now then we would also insist that our opinions, supported by various members and delegations, are also incorporated, because we feel very strongly about TCP and we also feel that it could have been 13.5 percent of the total budget.

CHAIRMAN: Denmark, do you still want to insist in the light of that explanation?

J. ZIMMERMAN (Denmark): Yes, I think I have to. It is not because Denmark has anything against the TCP. We recognize the TCP and appreciate its role, but as you will recall from the discussion, we have in fact raised one question for information, and the question was that we were wondering about training which has taken up one-third of the programme of the TCP, and we did not get an answer which was satisfactory for us. So it is in this context that we express that we have a little doubt about the future increase or the future share of the budget of the TCP, and I hope that other countries will support it, because there were in fact as far as I can remember four or five countries which dealt with our point.

A.R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Il conviendrait de savoir ce que la majorité des pays qui ont bénéficié du PCT pensent de ce programme. Je crois que ces pays seraient pour l'augmentation du PCT. C'est pourquoi je ne suis pas d'accord pour qu'on modifie le texte.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Ma délégation appuie le point de vue du délégué du Cap-Vert. D'après le consensus qui s'est dégagé, il était prévu que le PCT irait vers une augmentation dans les années à venir, et je m'étonne du texte qu'on nous propose maintenant.

W. HERMKES (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My delegation supports the proposal put forward by the Danish delegation. We have an extensive and basic approach. We took up a clearcut stance with the TCP, and with respect to the overall budget it was our feeling that is now being proposed by the Danish delegate as an additional text. Could I perhaps also recall that we put forward this view and this position as a basic one which follows from our multilateral policy of cooperation in development. This position of ours is an essential part and was an essential part of our statement, and therefore we value it that this position be also reflected as it was worded in the report.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): En el párrafo 99, segundo renglón, quisiéramos hacer un señalamiento. Dice: "Tomó nota" y sugerimos que se utilice la palabra "destacó".

Quiero, por otra parte, sumarme a lo señalado por los delegados de Benin y de Cabo Verde en el sentido de que la mayoría de los países se expresaron en la Comisión para fomentar y tal vez aumentar en los períodos venideros la participación del PCT; por lo tanto, de alguna manera debiera quedar reflejado esto en el documento; es nuestra opinión.

CHAIRMAN: Now Denmark was suggesting a new paragraph 100. Does anybody have anything against paragraph 99?

M.F. ROHNER (Suisse) : Non, je n' ai rien contre le paragraphe 99, mais je suggère que le complément proposé par la délégation danoise figure à la fin de ce paragraphe.

T. YOSHIKAWA (Japan): Concerning the TCP, we expressed our concern also on the level of TCP. We stated at this Commission that it would be desirable to set up certain upper limits at the TCP level and we cannot agree unlimited increase of TCP more than its present level. We observe that not only my delegation but also some other delegates expressed the same position to us, and therefore we wish to refer to this position in the report, and we would like to associate ourselves with what the Switzerland delegate just expressed and we would like to put the sentence which the Danish delegate expressed at the end of this paragraph 100.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I think we want to be very clear on what we are debating here. The distinguished delegate from Denmark suggested a new paragraph 100. Now we are on paragraph 99 and nobody has anything against it, and I feel that if you have nothing against it we should adopt it and then bring up new ideas outside the framework of 99. Agreed. 99 is approved.

Now, Denmark, can you please table your proposal of 100?

J. ZIMMERMAN (Denmark): Well I'm trying to be helpful and I think it was Cyprus which expressed that many members have had another point of view about the share of the TCP, i.e. that they have great sympathy with the increased share of the TCP in respect of the overall budget, and this is in fact true. I recall that many members had this point of view, so in order to be helpful Mr Chairman I would propose that we also incorporate in the new paragraph 100 this point of view saying, "Many members had a great sympathy with the increased share of the TCP in the overall budget". That is a sentence in itself, and then comes my proposal saying that "some members felt that the share of the TCP in the overall budget should not exceed the present level". I think this is clearcut and expresses the meaning of the several points of view.

CHAIRMAN: Before we go on with the debate I would like to ask the Secretary to read the new paragraph as suggested.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II) It would read "Many members have great sympathy with the share of TCP in the overall budget. Some members felt that the share of TCP in the overall budget should not exceed the present level".

H. MENDS (Ghana): I really thought that amendment was not necessary but we are very grateful for the spirit of compromise that the Danish delegation has shown. I would rather go for something like "while the majority of the members advocated for an increased share of the TCP allocation", because that is exactly what happened, at least all the delegations from the developing countries that took the floor, including my own, advocated and in fact decried the diminishing portion of it as compared with the size of the job that must be done in the field. So we can see while the majority of the members advocated for an increased share in the TCP allocation in the regular budget, some members felt that the share of the TCP should not exceed its present level. I think we could go along with that if it was necessary at all.

J. ZIMMERMAN (Denmark): I think it is a very good idea, this last proposal.

CHAIRMAN: Now Cyprus, Cuba, Pakistan and Germany, do you still want to speak in the light of the agreement between Ghana and Denmark?

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): It is not on that point but on the matter on which the delegate of Denmark made with respect to Cyprus. I did not understand very well to which intervention he refers, the distinguished delegate from Denmark. If it is on the discussion in Commission II my intervention was meant precisely, expressing the appreciation of my delegation to the TCP and requesting actually increased assistance from the TCP programme. In no way and no occasion have I ever intervened to state there should not be any more resources. No. So probably the distinguished delegate may be referring to the intervention from some other state.

At the same time I would like to say that I took part in the discussion in the Drafting Committee on these four paragraphs and it was an issue which consumed a lot of time and we reached this agreement to this formulation after a long discussion. There are also many members of the Drafting Committee including myself, who expressed appreciation of the TCP and looked to increased assistance from it

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Permítame que me refiera al párrafo 102 toda vez que casi todo está en un conjunto.

El párrafo 102 se refiere a la asignación correspondiente a la del Presupuesto; es decir, se explica que hay correspondencia proporcional a la amplitud de necesidades experimentadas por los Estados Miembros.

Quisiéramos agregar a este párrafo la frase siguiente: "Sin embargo, la mayoría de las Delegaciones se pronunciaron a favor de que los recursos asignados al PCT sean incrementados en los años venideros, mientras que algunos miembros expresaron su preocupación por este aumento."

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I will seek first your advice. I thought the intervention was on paragraph 100 which, as I see it - perhaps I am wrong - would read: "While appreciating fully this role and value of TCP, some members felt that the share of TCP should not exceed the present level" or words to that effect. Then they also emphasize "the need for additional information on its implementation", and then we come to the majority view along the same lines. Perhaps I was wrong but I think it is the most logical way to reflect the views of the minority and the majority. But now, on the substance, we have to be aware that, at least to a certain degree, to fix any share or to fix the present share implies a play with figures. You will hear the delegate of Pakistan after me and my friend Tanwir Ahmad will then advise you that the TCP share in fact dropped as compared with the increase in the Programme. Originally it was 13.5 at the Summary stage, while now in the present biennium it is 12.7 but it was 13.5. So let us be serious about the figures that we want to refer to.

CHAIRMAN: Once more, delegates, I think we have to be clear about what we are debating. The delegate of Denmark has suggested a new paragraph dealing with views on the level of the TCP. Of the remaining paragraphs, the only one that is closest to that idea is 102 and therefore I would suggest that we proceed with 101 and then when we come to 102 we can see how we can best fit that proposal into the Report.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): I must confess that I am not with the group in this proposed new paragraph. First of all, if you ask me personally, I would like for this new paragraph to be deleted completely from the document. Secondly, I do not think it is a good idea to include any amendment to paragraph 102. We have different views expressed about TCP, the large majority, a few members, some members. This has been taken care of in paragraph 100; by this I mean the present paragraph 100, not the proposed paragraph 100. I do not think it is wise for us to go into paragraph 102 which is a clear reflection of the Conference decision. Now we are going to introduce some element of doubt and controversy if we allow the proposal to be attached or appended to paragraph 102. I do not share that view and I am sure it might be misleading to the Conference and even to any other person reading the Report.

W. HERMKES (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I wish to address myself to paragraph 100 as it was proposed by the Danish delegation and read out by the Secretary. This proposed text was amended by way of a proposal by the delegate of Ghana. My delegation feels that this wording gives a very balanced description of the various views that are held by the majority of the delegates and a small minority. We therefore feel that this proposal of the Ghana delegate can be fully supported by us and we propose that this proposal be read out once more by the Secretary, in order that the entire Commission can have a fresh and updated version of it.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): This would be a paragraph 100 before the paragraph 100 in the present text and, as amended, I believe it would read as follows: "While the majority of members advocated an increase in the share of TCP in the overall budget, some members felt that the share of TCP should not exceed its present level".

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): We support that formulation. Later on I would like to come back to a point that was raised by the delegate of Yugoslavia.

J. SAULT (Australia): This issue did take up a considerable amount of time in the Drafting Committee. I would just like to point out to members the structure of this section of the Report. In paragraph 99 we talk about the TCP in general; in paragraph 100 we talk about the differing views that are expressed, first of all, by a small group of countries - some members - and then the views of the majority of members. Then we go on to paragraph 101, and in 102 and we end up that although there were differing views expressed, there was, I think, unanimity on the question of the level of the TCP in this particular Programme of Work and Budget.

I have no difficulty with the formulation of paragraph 100. I do doubt whether the amendment is necessary if you consider the totality of these four paragraphs. I am inclined to agree with the delegate from Sierra Leone and also of Yugoslavia who, I think, was of the view that if we do want to expand the views of some members, then this could be done within the context of the existing paragraph 100, rather than having a new and separate paragraph again recording differing views.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): Although we did not speak to the issue of the level of the TCP, we realise that it was spoken to and think it should be reflected somewhere here in the report of it. I tend to agree that if we do not want it as a new paragraph 100, then it could be combined either with the old paragraph 100 or perhaps added to paragraph 102, although I rather concur with the delegate of Sierra Leone that that would dilute that paragraph somewhat. In any case I think that the reflection of the discussion on this point ought to be included somewhere.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): J'ai suivi ceux qui m'ont précédé, nous ne revenons pas sur le paragraphe 99 mais il est difficile, au stade actuel, de ne pas tenir compte de la structure du texte. J'ai essayé de lire attentivement les quatre derniers paragraphes de ce rapport; à mon avis, la suggestion qui est faite ne trouve pas sa place au niveau du paragraphe 100, parce que là où on parle un peu de niveau, c'est au paragraphe 102, mais nous pensons qu'en ajoutant la proposition faite au paragraphe 102 cela lui enlèverait de sa valeur et voudrait dire qu'en définitive il n'y a pas de place pour cette proposition. Je crois que le paragraphe 100 est suffisamment explicite, il tient compte des avis des uns et des autres, de ceux de la minorité et de ceux de la majorité; on ne peut pas, là, tout de suite, aborder la question des niveaux des budgets. A la limite, c'est au paragraphe 102 que l'on pourrait envisager la possibilité de discuter de cette adjonction mais pas avant.

J. GAZZO F.D. (Perú): Yo creo que algunos delegados quizá no conocen bien para qué sirve el PCT. Por lo menos recojo esta impresión porque el PCT es un fondo que tiene gran flexibilidad y sirve también para solucionar problemas de emergencia que surgen a veces inesperadamente. Es el caso que algunas veces para acciones urgentes, una desgracia, se usa el fondo del PCT. Por consiguiente, el decir que los fondos no deberían crecer, quiere decir que si hubiera muchas de estas desgracias, digamos, el PCT no tendría fondos.

Hay otra cosa fundamental, el PCT es lo único que ha salvado la ejecución de algunos proyectos que se quedaron sin fondos por parte del PNUD; habría proyectos que se hubieran perdido si es que el PCT no hubiera surgido como un fondo salvador que ha permitido que éstos trabajen. Además yo creo que si hay alguien que tiene autoridad para decir si los fondos del PCT son suficientes, somos los usuarios y nosotros los usuarios tenemos conciencia de que el PCT es un fondo muy ágil, un fondo que trabaja con gran serenidad y que es un catalizador de otros proyectos de mayor envergadura.

Por consiguiente, el PCT está cumpliendo una serie de funciones crecientes y yo creo que lo que hemos acordado es que en este Presupuesto los fondos deben darse al PCT. Y debemos conocer en realidad para qué sirve el PCT; cortar fondos significa prejuzgar que no va a haber situaciones de emergencia, las cuales hoy el PCT ha atendido porque ha tenido un fondo de regular cuantía.

Por consiguiente, yo dejaría todo como está y quizá no en el artículo 100 sino en algún otro artículo; el 102 podría pasar al 103 y quizá podría hacerse un 102 en el cual se vuelque en cierta forma lo que quieren decir algunos delegados, pero el fondo fuese para lo que está sirviendo el PCT, para una serie de acciones que hoy no se pueden hacer con ningún otro tipo de fondos porque han disminuido mucho.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): As the delegate from Australia pointed out we have looked at the structure of these paragraphs and as the structure stands now the paragraph 100 in the Draft Report speaks about the two different points of view on the TCP but particularly on the subject of whether or not there is a need for additional information on the TCP projects, so as far as a paragraph or any modification of the level is concerned that does not fit in structurally, the way the report is structured. If it can go in anywhere it can only go in paragraph 102 which is talking of the level and here it is saying that the TCP is considered to be commensurate with the extent of certain requirements of member countries.

I would beg your indulgence but I would perhaps after I finish, request the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to explain that it was yesterday, while we were approving this, looking at this Draft Report, we, in particular the delegation for Pakistan, very forcibly stressed that this paragraph 102 does not reflect the debate, because we had "the majority of members stressed an increased share of TCP in the overall budget". We had repeatedly stressed that and it was only out of a compromise that we agreed with this text in paragraph 102. As far as the level of this TCP is concerned, as the Chairman of the Programme Committee just mentioned, and I have been mentioning here, in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget there was an anticipated share of 13.5, the present proposed Programme of Work and Budget has 12.7 and the last biennium I think, if my memory does not fail me it was 12.9. So as far as that is concerned there is only the fall in the TCP share in the percentage of the overall Programme of Work and Budget and that was what we were expressing our concern on throughout, not only in Commission II, also in the Plenary and in the Drafting Committee. So we accept the text of 102 as a compromise saying that it is commensurate with the Budget. Actually the majority of the developing countries feel that it is not commensurate, it should be even more and the volume should not only be more, the share of TCP in the overall budget should be more and I do not want to elaborate how effective TCP is, how flexible it is, how it meets the requirements of the needs of developing countries and how appreciative the developing countries have been in the short term intervention of TCP, where the developing countries also mobilise their own resources to match the funds which the TCP provides. It would perhaps reopen the debate and that is what we are trying to do here. What we are trying to do is to develop the debate and as paragraph 102 stands now it is a compromise of what the actual content of the debate was. We would have wanted to strengthen paragraph 102 to say that it is not commensurate and it should be increased, so we would suggest that this text, though it is a compromise, it should be retained as it is, as worked out by the Drafting Committee, because it reflects all the shades of the opinions expressed during the debate and we strongly urge that it be left as it is.

CHAIRMAN: Before we go on to the debate, if this report is to reflect the debate, specially in the Commission, I believe it is an indisputable fact that there was a majority of opinion in support of increased resources of the TCP but there were registered very articulately resolutions about the further growth of the TCP. In other words, delegations that indicated otherwise pointed out that they hoped that TCP resources would not go beyond the point at which they were reflected in the budget. Now it seems to me that those two points of view which, however during the debate were not necessarily completed, ought to be reflected and the best way in which they have been put together, is in this proposed paragraph 100. Now the question is between the four remaining paragraphs we have to decide where to reflect those two points of view because those were expressed very clearly during the Commission debate and they are not reflected on any of the remaining paragraphs, at least in the clear manner in which they were stated.

J. ZIMMERMAN (Denmark): Allow me to make apologies to the Cyprus delegation because before I referred to an intervention of the Cyprus delegation, an intervention which in fact did not take place. I misunderstood who was talking and I think the Cyprus point of view is very clear and mentioned in the verbatim of the Third Meeting.

I do not think that some delegates have understood what the meaning of my intervention was. We have said nothing about the resources channelled to the TCP in absolute figures. In fact we might accept increased resources in absolute figures to the TCP. What we have said something about is the share of the budget and the background is our question whether, as far as we can see, one third of the TCP activities is training and we have the opinion that at least a certain proportion of this training belongs to other programmes. Therefore we propose this sentence that "some members felt that the share of the TCP, in respect to the overall budget", that means we consider the balance of the different programmes. We have said nothing about increased or decreased resources in absolute terms but I think we have a very good proposal which in fact is in two parts, one was this "by the majority advocated" and so on and then I joined it with my proposal and I see there might be difficulties to fit this proposal into the present articles and therefore I propose a new article and I think the text in the new article proposed is in fact subjects which most of the delegates had dealt with, the delegates which had supported my point of view and many delegates which have supported the other point of view and I think this should be reflected in the Report.

CHAIRMAN: Let us get those delegations who would like to suggest where we fit in this idea.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): It is apparent that instead of wanting to have the debate reflected in the report we are opening up a new debate which in my opinion and in the opinion of my delegation is not of any help to us. I agree with you that both views were expressed during the debate. The majority of delegations that spoke actually wanted the TCP level to be increased and a few delegations expressed that the level was rather high but in the opinion of my delegation the Report as it is, from paragraph 99 up to 102, in our view reflects adequately what was discussed when we were discussing the TCP under the Programme of Work and Budget. In view of this I want to support what had been expressed earlier by quite a few delegations, I can remember Pakistan, Australia and Sierra Leone, that we leave this report as it is and adopt the paragraphs as they are. I do not think we need to include paragraph 100 as has been suggested.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): I would only once again support the proposal that was put forward by the Danish and Ghanaian colleagues. I had hoped now that the debate had moved further and I could have treated the other point that I was interested in but I will raise it in this point because my colleague from Pakistan has made allusion to it and I would like some clarification from the Secretariat. We are told that at one point we were talking about 13.5 percent in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and now it is at a figure much less than that. However, if my memory serves me, Mr Shah or Mr West when they introduced the item spoke about when the new exchange rates or the more realistic exchange rate is used the percentage of resources allocated to that Programme will then become approximately 13.5 percent. So if we can get a clarification on that at least we could eliminate that from people's minds as a point of doubt.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask Mr Shah. Denmark, would that be of any help to you?

J. ZIMMERMAN (Denmark): I do not think so. We have not dealt with whether it was one or the other percentages. Our point was as I expressed before that some of the activity taking place in TCP should take place in other programmes and therefore our point: is that the share seems to be too big but we raised the same question about it, the time was short and we did not get a proper answer and therefore it is our point that whilst some activity should be in other programmes, that the share is too high or seems to be but I think the text is rather smooth, it says "some members felt" and if you recall the last Conference we raised the same point. That, of course, should not be taken as valid now but at the last Conference we said that the TCP now must have reached this point.

CHAIRMAN: Canada, do you still insist that the question should be asked even though it will not help Denmark?

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Our purpose in asking the question was not to help the Danish delegation per se. My point was really that when he made his intervention the delegate of Pakistan indicated that not only was the share not large enough, it was decreasing. So what I am seeking is some clarification from the Secretariat as to whether or not that is a fact.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I will reply of course, as you request, to the question raised about the share of the TCP in the total Budget. I gave this information during the debate but not all members who are present now may have been present at the time. The share of the TCP in the Budget for 1982-83 was 12.9 percent. When the Director-General presented his Summary of Programme and Work for 1984-85 in the spring, he made his proposal without including the cost increases as is normal, he was dealing with the Programme proposals. With the Programme addition of \$2.3 million for the TCP the share of the TCP in the proposed Budget without cost increases came to 13.5 percent. It was only when the cost increases were presented by Chapter in the document that you have before you, Sir, that with the cost increases of \$7.7 million, ali at the rate of 1190 lire to the dollar, the share of the TCP came down to 12.7 percent of the proposed Budget at 1190 lire to the dollar. As I explained, however, Mr Chairman, if you take a lire/dollar rate which is closer to that of today, let us say at 1550 lire to the dollar, the share of the TCP at the same dollar level comes to 13.5 percent. At 1600 lire it comes to 13.6 percent. In providing this clarification I had, if I may repeat, drawn attention to the need to concentrate on the dollar rather than on the percentages.

May I, since you have given me the floor, reply to another aspect which has arisen in the discussion, and that is the reference made by Denmark to the share of the TCP which goes to the category of training. He has referred to it more than once. To this I would only reply that the categories of assistance for which the TCP is directed and used are of course the same categories of assistance established when the TCP was established in 1976. Training, and particularly training at the grass roots level, basic training, was an important category and there is nothing new in this. A second aspect is that as the TCP is unprogrammed there are no percentages in advance marked for the training category, so it would not make sense to say that more or less of the TCP should be used for training or not used for training. As a result of that no forecast can be given for the future. What proportion of the TCP would be used for training depends on the valid requests received, which are justifiable, which can be supported and for which projects would be approved. I hope I have answered for my colleague on my right.

A final point I would mention on the TCP for training is that the Regular Programme funds under other budgetary chapters, under technical and economic programmes and trust fund resources, also undertake a great many training activities and if they did not the requirements for funding under the TCP for training would be even higher.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I am not sure that my intervention will now be helpful, because I raised my flag, some time ago really to support the point of view that you were expressing from the floor, Mr Chairman, which as I understood it was to the effect that in relation to the Danish amendment a point of view has been expressed and a contrary point of view has also been expressed which should be reflected in the Report. The issue therefore seems to me simply to revolve around the problem of where it should be placed, and I understand that Yugoslavia at an early stage in this debate suggested that it could be incorporated into paragraph 100. I still believe that it is possible to incorporate into paragraph 100 different views concerning both the role and value, as are contained at present, and the question of level. I would be prepared to make a suggestion as to how this could be done if you believe that it would be helpful at this stage of the debate, as I support the view which you expressed some fifteen minutes ago, Mr Chairman, that it would be right and proper to reflect both the points of view made in this debate on the level in the Report and I believe that it could be done quite simply by adding to paragraph 100.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I am trying to be helpful in a technical sense, as I understood your ruling was that differing views should be reflected in paragraph 100. So I would suggest a concrete text as one way out of the situation that we are facing now. I suggest the following: "While appreciating fully this role and the value of TCP, some members felt that the share of the TCP in rural resources" - or Regular Programme Resources, as you wish - "should not exceed the present level. They also underlined the need for additional information" and so on. Then comes the third sentence without any change. I will try to spell out the majority view. "The majority, however" - or the vast majority, as you wish, Mr Chairman - "strongly opposed the view that the TCP share in the Regular Programme resources should not exceed the present level. On the contrary they felt that the Director-General should seriously consider increasing the share of TCP in future biennia", or something along those lines. Then there would be a major technical change in the then third sentence: "They also considered that an independent review of TCP would be unnecessary". Lastly, in the light of the differing views and especially in the light of what Pakistan underlined, paragraph 101 or paragraph 102 should be amended to say: "In conclusion, the Conference supported the role and the record of the Technical Cooperation Programme", full stop, without going any further. That might be a way out.

CHAIRMAN: On the formulation, United Kingdom, did you say you had a suggestion?

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): The suggestions made by my colleague from Yugoslavia are much in accord with what I had been prepared to propose. The views attributed to the member countries who spoke concerning their doubts about the continued growth seemed to be adequately reflected. I believe the views that reflect the majority of members could be slightly shorter than the version that Yugoslavia suggested by making it simply a positive statement that they advocated increase but if the sense of the insertion is acceptable to the Commission perhaps we could look at the wording separately.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je m'excuse de devoir revenir sur ce que j'ai déjà dit. Je pense personnellement que le paragraphe 100 est équilibré. Il parle en effet du rôle, de l'intérêt et de l'examen du PCT. C'est précis. On nous suggère de parler du niveau des ressources. J'ai déjà suggéré que si discussion il doit y avoir, elle doit être ouverte sur le paragraphe 102. J'ai écouté ce qu'ont dit les membres du Comité de rédaction et ils ont déclaré que ce paragraphe a été rédigé sur la base d'un compromis. C'est également ce que je pressens parce que ce texte ne donne pas satisfaction à la majorité qui souhaite voir augmenter les ressources attribuées au PCT.

Etant donné que nous voulons obtenir un consensus sur cette question, je demande que le paragraphe 102 soit adopté en l'état, sinon je proposerai la suppression de ce paragraphe et une nouvelle rédaction.

Où on exprime l'avis de la minorité et celui de la majorité en ce qui concerne le niveau des ressources attribuées au PCT et dans ce cas on ouvre la discussion sur le paragraphe 102.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I thought we were closer to some common understanding. May I request the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia to draft the entire paragraph so that we can look at the complete paragraph.

D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): Yo había pedido la palabra antes de que Yugoslavia y el Reino Unido hubieran propuesto el nuevo párrafo, pero de todas maneras nuestra delegación cree que ya los distinguidos delegados de Australia y Pakistán han explicado ampliamente las deliberaciones del Comité de Redacción al respecto y realmente nosotros vemos que entre los párrafos 99 y 102 que nos ocupai. está muy bien explicado lo que se dijo aquí en las deliberaciones por la mayoría de los delegados. Por lo tanto, nuestra delegación no ve porqué se deba añadir algo que no fue lo manifestado por la gran mayoría, y en tal caso si se insiste en alguna modificación pensamos que esta deba ir también en el párrafo 102.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): I think, trying to avoid some redundancy, because we have really debated this question at large, if we go back to the text we feel that there is a sequence of logic in it. First we have 99, that we have already adopted. One hundred is nothing but a continuation and explanation of 99, and it should be adopted without any alteration or change. Then we come to 101 also, that is a continuation and adoption, and 102 here, I will have to come back to that. I think the debate here was the same as we had previously in the Drafting Committee, and the consensus was at that time, because we had a majority, a vast majority, a great majority, as it used to be called, and a minority, who would like to reflect their opinions. Well, the consensus was that instead of showing that much difference between members of this Organization, we felt that as long as we all agree that TCP is a programme that should continue, we have all commended this programme, and feel that it has been doing lots of helpful activities to lots of countries, as my distinguished colleague from Peru tried to explain earlier. We feel that instead of being limited in its budget, and limiting its level of budget, we felt at that time - the majority felt - that it should get increased allocations, and it should have more flexibility to work. In this respect then, we accepted, and only we accepted at that time, as our friend here, the distinguished delegate from Pakistan said, to come up with this paragraph 102, which was the real reflection of what we thought at that time, and it really concurred the views of the majority and minority, and we felt that a programme like that never should be limited with figures or with levels, because by virtue of its flexibility it should be flexible. And I propose that the three paragraphs here be left as such and be adopted.

NGA-MA MAPELA (Zaire): Faisant suite à ce que vient de dire le délégué du Liban, ma délégation voudrait rappeler que le programme du PCT est un programme dont les activités s'exercent dans les pays en développement et non dans cette salle. Cela signifie que si on veut réellement augmenter le niveau de l'aide allouée dans le cadre du PCT, c'est que c'est réellement la volonté des gouvernements des pays bénéficiaires qui souhaitent que ce niveau soit augmenté. Nous voyons mal comment d'autres pays peuvent s'y opposer alors qu'ils ne sont pas allés sur place pour voir les réalisations. C'est pourquoi, comme le Liban, nous souhaitons que ce paragraphe soit maintenu tel quel.

CHAIRMAN: There are now two proposals: one to reflect, as was done in the debate, the different views, and the other proposal is to accept the compromise which was arrived at by the Drafting Committee. Could we focus our discussion on those two?

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I was going to make a suggestion that before we go into that, since the original amendment was proposed by my distinguished friend from Denmark, and it seems that it was the aspect of training within the TCP which was of concern to the Denmark Government, and it has been explained that the component of training from the TCP cannot be shifted to the Regular Programme, and the level of training depends on the amount of requests received from the developing countries, so perhaps my Danish friend was not even talking about the level of the TCP at all, he was only talking of one component of the TCP, which entirely is dependent upon the amount of valid requests received. So I was thinking maybe after that explanation from the Secretariat our distinguished delegate of Denmark does not want to press that any further. Perhaps that could be ascertained, and we would have no problem.

J. ZIMMERMAN (Denmark): It seems now that on our earlier request to receive more information about this programme than we got in the Commission's meeting, but as it was expressed by the Director-General, this record should reflect what is said in the Commission. It might be wrong, it might be right, but I am not able here to change what my colleague in this chair had said in the Commission, and I think that we have dealt with the discussion in an honest way, and had given our points of view in that period. We raised this little point. Others are opposed to that, and I think that one of the compromise proposals quite clearly reflects that there are two points of view. In this respect, and it should be reflected in the Report.

J. MCHECHU (Tanzania): The view of my delegation is to leave 102 as it is, because it is a fair compromise of the two views. If we all agree that the Drafting Committee went through this rigorous debate, and tried to accommodate the two views, and to me this is a fair compromise of the two views, then definitely it would be repetitious to say the same things here again on paragraph 102, or even the old 100. So the view of my delegation is that 102 is a fair compromise of the two views, and let us adopt it as it is.

E.P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): We will be very brief. We understand the explanation which has been given from the rostrum about training, but we have some serious difficulty with accepting that

the section of 102 which reads from "the corresponding allocation" to "member countries" in fact reflects what the majority of the delegations indicated. We feel that whatever we put finally should indicate clearly that there was a desire for an increase if at all possible.

J. LADAN (Nigeria): I think that going through the discussion all over again will not help us to take any decision earlier. If we look at the paragraphs from 99 up to 101, I think they summarized beautifully what had been discussed in the Plenary, and paragraph 102 is also a beautiful paragraph, which if the delegate from Denmark will understand the majority views, probably he may consider his proposal and help us in the debate.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): When I earlier took the floor it was not on the essence of the substance of these three paragraphs of the Draft Report. It was on another point, for which I thank the distinguished delegate of Denmark for his correction. On these three paragraphs it is true that in Commission II, and I do not want to reopen the discussion, a difference of opinion was expressed as to the nature of the functions of the TCP. These differences of opinion, as I was also on the Drafting Committee, are well reflected in paragraph 100, and that paragraph, together with 101 and 102 have, indeed, taken the Drafting Committee all Saturday afternoon. So the difference of opinion is reflected in paragraph 100.

With respect to the Budget, to the resources of TCP, if we try to fix an amount, or a level, and we reflect that in the Report, which was not the opinion of the majority of the countries, then we defeat the purpose of the TCP, which is to meet unexpected, unforeseen needs, which cannot be determined in advance, and thus set a level of the Budget. It has to meet emergencies which cannot be foreseen. Therefore, having in mind the majority's view, which was expressed in Plenary, that an increased amount of resources should be flown to the TCP, and that was the view held by my own country, and having in mind the different view which was put by a number of countries with respect to the level of resources of the TCP, in the Drafting Committee after prolonged discussion we arrived at the phraseology of paragraph 102, which we really defended as a compromise of the discussion and the views held in Commission II. I, therefore, urge Commission II that the phrasing of paragraph 102 be adopted as it stands. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

J. ZIMMERMAN (Denmark) : I have listened very carefully to this discussion, and I think that this discussion, has been much more useful than the discussion we have had in the Commission as such. I think that we have made our point clear, and the opposite point has been made very clear. Having made our point clear, and also having said that we have nothing against the TCP as such - we raised some small questions, and this has been the background for our intervention here. But already we have discussed this at great length, and we are satisfied with these discussions, and the points of view expressed. So in order to save time I would withdraw my proposal, and I am ready to adopt the article as it stands in the Report.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Quisiera referirme un poco a lo que se debatió en el Plenario en el que se expresaron dos conceptos; uno sobre la vigilancia de los proyectos, la necesidad en la vigilancia de los proyectos para algunos países, con la cual la mayoría no estuvo muy de acuerdo. Y creo que eso queda claramente expresado en el párrafo 100.

Sin embargo, las cuestiones relativas al Presupuesto muy debatido no queda reflejado muy claramente, por lo menos así lo interpretamos, dentro del tema, de los párrafos que hemos analizado.

Somos de la opinion que en el párrafo 102 debe hacerse una adición de una frase que recoja y refleje los puntos de vista de unos y. otros en el sentido del aumento o reducción de los presupuestos para el PCT.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates could we do this. The suggestion of Denmark was to create a new paragraph 100. Since that has been withdrawn, can we move on to consider the original paragraph 100. Are there any objections to paragraph 100 as it stands in the report? No objections, therefore it is adopted.

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): Just a point of clarification from the Drafting Committee. This business of independent review we raised during the Commission session, because of the perceived difficulties that obviously the TCP was running into, and also if in fact there was going to be justification for increased resources into TCP we felt that independent review, independent of the Organization and external to the Organization, was very important indeed. I would just like to ask the Drafting Committee whether "independent review" here does reflect that sort of intention.

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): On this particular point the Drafting Committee spent a considerable time as well. We discussed the need for review and how the review of the TCP were being conducted currently, and I think we finally agreed that it was desirable to have independent reviews in the way the delegate of New Zealand conceives it as well. The desirability of it was expressed as we see here.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I am going back to paragraph 100.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Only to speak to the point that has just been elucidated by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. We also participated in the Drafting Committee and spoke to the question of external or independent review. At the time that the paragraph 100 was being put together we understood that the word "independent" would be interchangeable with "external", and that is why we did not object to the use of the word "independent".

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Precisamente en este párrafo quisiéramos sugerir y agregar la frase que no sé si tomó la secretaria.

CHAIRMAN: Cuba, would you like to insist on that even in the light of the explanation of how long the debate was in the Drafting Committee and that this was a compromise between what you want to add and what other views have been? Would you like to insist?

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Sí quiero insistir por cuanto debiera quedar reflejada de alguna manera realmente lo que se discutió en el debate general con respeto del Comité de Redacción que ha trabajado ampliamente en esto. No sé si habría algún inconveniente en que se agregara lo relativo a que la mayoría de los países se pronunciaran a favor de estos fondos o aumentos, mientras algunas delegaciones expresaron su deseo de que no aumenten estos fondos.

W. HERMKES (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Mr Chairman, the request on the part of the delegate of Cuba is exactly the same as the original proposal put forward by the delegate of Denmark. My delegation supported that proposal and furthermore it contends that this was a justified proposal. We support the Cuban delegate's proposal and to this we would like to give the following explanation as well. It is not here a matter of having the debate on the principle of TCP being opened up again; this concerns a matter of procedure and procedure alone. We have to establish what this Committee has said about the share of TCP in the overall budget, and here I wish to remind you, Mr Chairman, of what you yourself found and noted, that a majority of delegates spoke in favour of the raise of the TCP level and a minority, to which my delegation belonged, argued that the percentage of TCP in the overall budget should not be raised. This is a totally neutral, impartial statement and finding, and we furthermore appreciate it, as the delegate of Cuba does, that this be reflected" in the same neutral way in the text.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I was going to intervene before, and now I am not sure whether my intervention will be welcomed by anybody, because I have an alliance between Cuba and Germany here and I do not want either of them to think I am opposing their point of view, but while the report should reflect the debate it does not have to reflect every opinion that was expressed on every subject. It has to reflect the general sense of the debate. Only when people want to introduce something really important, substantive and concrete should we give it a reflection, and if anybody, even one delegation, has an official reservation to express, it should be expressed.

What worries me about this now that you have decided not to amend paragraph 100, is, quite frankly, that you want to amend paragraph 102, and I must say that I like paragraph 102 very much as it is because it ends on a positive note which relates to a provision in this Programme of Work and Budget, and if you start introducing arguments that some felt this and the majority felt that, from my point of view - which is not of course the decision which the members have to take - but from my point of view the paragraph is better as it is as a conclusion to the report on this subject.

Furthermore, just one point to remind everybody, we are not talking about the dollar terms as I think Denmark or somebody else said; we are talking about the proportion of the TCP to the total. Now one way of changing the proportion of the TCP to the total is not to have a zero growth budget but to have a large programme increase going to other programmes, and then the TCP will be a smaller proportion but not necessarily a smaller amount, and it is entirely dependent on how much programme growth is proposed for the next biennium, and how much the cost increases are, and how much the currency rate is, as to what percentage you come up with. So I would conclude that I would prefer, if my preferences have any influence at all and are of any concern to anybody, I would prefer to leave 102 as it is. If you wanted to introduce amendments, the right place to do it was 100 and not 102.

M.E. BONDANZA de FILIPPO (Argentina): La delegación de mi país no había intervenido hasta el momento en este debate. Luego de escuchar todas las expresiones que se han vertido y sobre todo después de escuchar la explicación que nos ha dado el Sr. Director General Adjunto quiero apoyar su parecer en el sentido de que es mejor dejar el párrafo 102 como está. En ese sentido entonces le pediría al Sr. Delegado de Cuba, si no tiene a bien, retirar su propuesta a efectos de que podamos terminar con este punto.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Realmente después de escuchar la explicación brindada por el Director General Adjunto y escuchar la propuesta de la distinguida Delegada de Argentina, nosotros retiraremos esta propuesta que habíamos hecho en aras de adelantar el tema.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): It is really unnecessary now for me to speak except that I have wanted to simply express agreement with the point of view that had been put forward by the Deputy Director-General about the terms of paragraph 102. It is quite clear that this was intended to be a reference to a consensus view by the Conference on the question of the TCP allocation for 1984-85. I would have been prepared to have supported my Cuban and German colleagues with a form of words which would have made it quite clear that we are looking far beyond that period as far as the views being expressed by the two sides, but as my Cuban colleague has now agreed to withdraw I think, perhaps that is the end of that, as they say.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous sommes de ceux qui souhaitent que les ressources du PCT soient accrues, mais après avoir entendu les différentes explications et admis que le paragraphe 102 était une solution de compromis, pour rester juste nous ne pouvons pas tirer la couverture de notre côté, c'est pourquoi nous souhaitons que ce paragraphe soit adopté en l'état et qu'on n'en discute plus.

Paragraphs 99 to 102, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 99 à 102, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 99 a 102, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 103 approved

Le paragraphe 103 est approuvé

El párrafo 103 es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: I thank you all for your cooperation, and I believe it is fair to say that the distinguished delegates were aware that we would have to work late tonight as we had the debate which I think was very very useful. It was informative and educative to many people.

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 1, as amended, was adopted
Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, partie 1, ainsi amendée, est adoptée
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 1, así enmendado, es aprobado

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

14. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme

14. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO

14. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): M. le Président, le Directeur général souhaitait très vivement introduire lui-même ce point très important de l'ordre du jour. Le retard dans les délibérations cet après-midi l'en a malheureusement empêché, car il est maintenant retenu par d'autres engagements très pressants. Il m'a donc chargé de vous lire le texte qu'il avait l'intention de vous présenter en relation avec l'objet du débat de cet après-midi, c'est-à-dire la considération du projet de résolution contenu au document C 83/LIM/18 sur l'objectif des contributions au PAM pour la période 1985-86. Ce texte, que le Directeur général aurait souhaité pouvoir lui-même vous présenter est donc le suivant:

"M. le Président, permettez-moi quelques brèves réflexions, au moment où la Commission va examiner le projet de résolution soumis par le Conseil concernant l'objectif de contribution au PAM pour la période 1985-86.

En tant que coparrain du programme, avec le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, et en outre investi de responsabilités particulières pour son bon fonctionnement, cette question me tient particulièrement à coeur. Le niveau des ressources conditionne en effet les moyens d'action du Programme. Les objectifs fixés doivent être pris avec le plus grand sérieux et la volonté déterminée de les atteindre. Or, il faut constater que les objectifs fixés pour les périodes 1981-82 et 1983-84 n'ont été atteints jusqu'ici respectivement qu'à concurrence de 85%, et quelque 80%.

Pour la période 1985-86, l'objectif qui vous est proposé est de 1 350 millions de dollars. Ce chiffre apparaît un minimum lorsqu'on considère l'immensité des besoins urgents non couverts et la capacité du Programme à utiliser efficacement des quantités croissantes d'aide alimentaire. En fait, c'est un compromis laborieusement réalisé au sein du Comité des Politiques et Programmes d'aide alimentaire.

Le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et moi-même avons pour notre part, sur la proposition du Directeur exécutif du PAM, recommandé un objectif de 1,5 milliard de dollars. Le chiffre finalement retenu, et qui a déjà reçu l'aval du Conseil de la FAO et de l'ECOSOC, est donc des plus modestes. Il est en tout cas amplement justifié si l'on considère que le Comité des Politiques et Programmes d'aide alimentaire, à sa session de mai dernier, a retenu que 20 millions de tonnes de céréales constituaient un indicateur utile des besoins en aide alimentaire pour 1985.

Pour gouverner, je rappellerai que l'aide en céréales plafonne présentement aux alentours de 8,7 millions de tonnes.

Début 1984, je convoquerai, conjointement avec le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, une conférence d'annonce des contributions pour la période 1985-86. J'espère que tous les gouvernements et organisations intéressés, les donateurs traditionnels mais aussi de nouveaux participants, y viendront, prêts à annoncer leurs contributions. Je souhaite surtout que celles-ci soient adaptées en fonction de l'objectif que vous aurez fixé. Comme vous le savez, il s'agira d'annoncer deux types de contributions: d'une part pour les ressources régulières du Programme, d'autre part, à la Réserve Alimentaire Internationale d'Urgence.

Lors de la Conférence précédente de 1982, la décision d'inclure dans les annonces les contributions relatives à la Réserve avait été prise au dernier moment, et certains pays n'avaient pas eu le temps de prendre toutes les dispositions nécessaires. Ce n'est plus le cas cette fois. J'espère en conséquence que tous les gouvernements et organisations pourront indiquer leurs intentions à l'égard tant des ressources ordinaires du PAM que de la Réserve. En ce qui concerne cette dernière, certes, on peut être légitimement satisfait de ce qu'elle ait atteint en 1983 son objectif minimum de 500 000 tonnes de céréales. Mais comme je l'ai signalé lors de la dernière session du Comité des Politiques et Programmes d'aide alimentaire, la moitié à peine des ressources sont librement mises à sa disposition sur une base véritablement multilatérale. Le reste est constitué soit de contributions bilatérales, soit de contributions destinées à des opérations spécifiques. La part en espèces est aussi très loin d'atteindre l'objectif fixé de 30%.

En outre, près de 85% des allocations sont consacrés aux réfugiés et aux personnes déplacées. Cette proportion n'a cessé d'augmenter au cours des dernières années, et si la tendance continue, on peut craindre qu'un jour il reste bien peu de ressources disponibles pour répondre aux autres urgences comme celles qui se développent présentement en Afrique.

La dotation de la Réserve reste en fait insuffisante pour faire face à des besoins croissants. Dois-je rappeler que le Sommet des pays non alignés, tenu à la Nouvelle-Delhi au début de cette année, a demandé que les ressources de la Réserve soient progressivement portées à 2 millions de tonnes?

M. le Président, je suis satisfait que le Comité des Politiques et Programmes d'aide alimentaire ait décidé d'inclure à l'ordre du jour de sa prochaine session le problème des contributions en espèces et de leur utilisation. Les règles générales du Programme stipulent qu'un tiers au moins du montant total des contributions devrait être constitué sous forme d'espèces et de services. Cet objectif n'a pratiquement jamais été atteint. Les contributions en espèces et services se situent présentement aux alentours de 24-25%. Elles jouent pourtant un rôle capital, non seulement pour financer les transports, couvrir les frais administratifs ou de supervision des projets, mais aussi pour acheter les vivres nécessaires et encourager les opérations triangulaires. Le Programme en particulier doit pouvoir acheter certaines denrées comme le maïs blanc ou le riz dont il ne dispose pas en quantités suffisantes. S'il ne peut se les procurer faute de moyens, il risque de dépendre trop largement des seuls produits disponibles dans les pays contributeurs, notamment du blé, avec le risque d'accentuer, dans les pays récipiendaires, l'accoutumance à des denrées qui peuvent être difficilement produites sur place. Ces questions méritent d'être suivies très attentivement.

Enfin, j'ai noté avec intérêt que le Comité des Politiques et Programmes d'aide alimentaire avait recommandé d'accroître dans toute la mesure possible la proportion des projets de développement. Dans un passé récent en effet, la part des projets directement productifs et des projets transformant des infrastructures économiques et sociales a baissé, au profit des programmes de distribution de vivres. Il faut prendre garde à cette tendance, car l'aide alimentaire doit rester avant tout un investissement, un facteur de production. Elle doit en outre être intégrée aussi étroitement que possible dans les plans de développement des pays bénéficiaires et être utilisée comme une composante naturelle des projets de développement financés par diverses sources, tant bilatérales que multilatérales. Il importe donc de faciliter l'intégration des opérations du PAM dans les plans nationaux de développement et d'assurer leur complémentarité avec l'aide bilatérale et celle fournie par le système des Nations Unies, y compris la FAO.

Cela suppose que l'aide alimentaire ne fasse pas seulement l'objet d'opérations ponctuelles mais, dans la mesure du possible, d'une véritable programmation par pays. L'examen que le Comité des Politiques et Programmes d'aide alimentaire a décidé d'entreprendre du cycle des projets devrait l'aider dans ce sens. La FAO, qui a déjà soumis des propositions au PAM à ce sujet, est disposée à lui apporter tout le concours nécessaire dans cet examen.

M. le Président, avec ces quelques mots d'introduction, je sou mets le projet de résolution contenu dans le document C 83/LIM/18 à votre considération. Je suis persuadé que vous l'appuierez sans réserve, conscient que l'objectif recommandé est vraiment le minimum indispensable pour maintenir le momentum du Programme."

Ainsi se termine le texte de l'intervention du Directeur général qu'il m'a demandé de lire en son nom.

J.C. INGRAM (Executive Director., World Food Programme) : This is the first time I have spoken to this important body, that is to say the FAO Conference and Commission II in particular, and I welcome the opportunity to do so and my main purpose will be to highlight some of the developments that have taken place in the work of the Programme since the Conference met two years ago, a period corresponding approximately to my tenure of office. But first let me remind delegates that while WFP has an important and often crucial role in providing emergency assistance only about one quarter of available resources is used in this way. Our primary concern is with the use of food aid not as a hand out but as an investment resource to promote rural development and the development of human beings who in the last resort are the foundation of all development. Food aid is provided to assist governments in the developing countries in the implementation of developing projects which they themselves have identified of importance in national development plans and programmes and which they implement. In most of those projects the investments of governments is much larger than that of WFP. It is in their interest therefore to see to it that the projects are well chosen and successfully carried out.

Food aid available through WFP for investment is now a resource of considerable magnitude. Twenty years ago WFP started as an experiment with a target of one hundred million dollars over a three year period. It is now the largest source of development assistance, apart from the World Bank, in the United Nations system and is one of the few multilateral assistance programmes whose resources continue to grow. The Programme's activities are no longer experimental or marginal. Thus at this point of time, that is to say today, WFP is administering over three hundred and forty ongoing development projects valued at more than three billion dollars in some eighty eight countries. Over one billion dollars of these ongoing projects are in Africa south of the Sahara.

The last two years have witnessed a significant expansion in the activities and resources of the Programme. Record levels of shipments and commitments have been reached. Commitments to economic and social development projects for the two years 1982-83 will be about 1.3 billion dollars, 27 percent more than the preceding two years. More than two thirds of these commitments have gone to support agricultural and rural development projects. Over eighty percent of those commitments have been allocated to the priority group of low-income, food-deficit countries. As already noted, the Programme has made a concerted effort to respond to the particularly pressing needs of countries in south-Saharan Africa. Indeed, about one third of its commitments over the past two years has gone to that region.

As delegates will know, WFP uses food aid for development. However, it is not immediately self-evident how food aid is utilized in this way. Certainly, opportunities for using it directly to promote increased food production are limited. However, it can be - and is - effectively used by WFP to support the rural infrastructure, both physical and institutional, needed for increased food production, marketing and consumption. It is most effective when targeted on very poor people, for example landless labourers who are employed on labour-intensive work and who receive wages wholly partly as food. Among the poor of rural areas food is usually the most sought-after wage good so that provision of the right food in this way can be an entirely appropriate economic response to the problems of rural unemployment and under-employment.

A glance at the list of WFP-assisted projects approved during the two years 1982-83 demonstrates the considerable range and size of the activities supported by the Programme for food and agricultural development in a wide range of countries. These include: irrigation, drainage and flood control works in Bangladesh, China, The Gambia, Mauritius and Sri Lanka; multi-purpose rural development programmes in Benin, the Central African Republic, China, Ecuador, Niger and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen; cash crop production, including coffee in Angola and gum arabic and tea in the Sudan; rangeland and forage development in Jordan and Kenya; the development of the domestic dairy industry in Bolivia, China, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia and Zaïre; small-scale fisheries development in China and Tunisia; the list I think goes well beyond that but it would be tedious to give you all the details. Suffice it to repeat what I said, but a glance at the projects actually approved during the last two years will demonstrate very effectively the range and extent of the Programme support for agriculture and rural development.

Food aid used as an investment resource achieves its aims and effects in a variety of ways, directly and indirectly. Two decades of experience have resulted in the Programme being able to determine what approach to take in relation to particular countries and specific development sectors. Above all, our experience has shown that food aid can be particularly effective if it is associated with other forms of assistance, financial and technical, as part of a total package intended to deal with sectoral or regional development problems in an integrated way. WFP actively cooperates in appropriate ways with other aid organizations both within and outside the United Nations system. As projects become more sophisticated, decisions about the appropriateness of food aid in support of such projects and how to use it in the most cost-effective ways necessarily become more complex. This means that the challenge to WFP to improve project: identification, design and management is growing. We will seek to meet that challenge in closer concert with the governments of the countries concerned and by strengthening cooperation with other aid organizations for the better utilization of their relevant skills. Let me emphasize in that connexion that collaboration with FAO will, of course be especially important.

On a broader level, WFP is increasingly concerned to support the policy objectives of recipient countries in the food, as well as other, sectors as well as processes of structural adjustment. To this end, food aid must be better integrated into the development programmes of recipient countries and provided in forms fully consistent with their overall development objectives. The aim should be to promote their long-term development efforts while ensuring that food aid should not act as a disincentive to local agricultural production nor have adverse effects on the domestic market or international trade. This means that planning and finance ministries of developing countries must clearly perceive the role that food aid can play as an investment resource and ensure that its value in this regard is fully taken into account when assessing the value of inputs needed to implement national and sectoral development plans. In some developing countries, fortunately, this is already the case but in many others it is still seen as peripheral and of concern to individual ministries only.

Given the importance of appropriate national employment, pricing and food production policies and the increasing importance of WFP as a provider of a sizeable investment resource and the utility of food aid as an investment to provide support during the difficult phase of policy transition WFP's role in the policy dialogue with governments is likely to be of increasing importance.

We stand ready to play our part, albeit within a framework which recognizes the ultimate responsibilities of governments for their national policies,

I have concentrated so far on the Programme's main activity-the use of food aid to assist development. This is not to belittle the importance of our work of relieving distress among those who are victims of calamities, whether man-made or natural. In this connection it is sobering to note that most of the emergency assistance channelled through WFP in the last two years has gone to refugees and displaced persons, the victims of man-made disasters. The Programme has an emergency allocation from its regular resources -currently \$45 million a year - but the major part of its emergency aid comes from the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR), which WFP administers on behalf of the international community. That-standby facility has a current target of 500,000 tons of cereals which has been reached in the past two years. At the request of donors and the afflicted countries, WFP has also assumed to an increasing extent a coordinating role for food aid in large-scale, international relief operations, an in Kampuchea and along the Thai/Kampuchean border for the African refugees in Pakistan, and refugees in Somalia, the Lebanon, Uganda and Central America.

Total emergency relief resources available to the Programme are, of course, less than one percent of the cereal food imports of developing countries alone. Such an amount clearly cannot make a major contribution to meeting situations of widespread crop failure. Moreover, the IEFR, as supplemented by WFP's regular resources, must be administered in accordance with specified criteria which in practice means that it can be most readily used to deal with situations where the individual beneficiaries are readily identifiable and where the overriding requirement that food be distributed free to beneficiaries can be met. As it happens, these criteria are particularly applicable to refugee situations although that perhaps was not the expectation when the criteria were established. If, therefore, the IEFR is to become more a important element in the response by the international community to the various types of emergency situations, as well as some enlargement of the Reserve the criteria for its allocation require some re-examination. In fact, the CFA at its next session will be doing just this.

In speaking of food aid and emergencies at this time one is mindful of the current, desperate situation of many African countries. Under the Director-General's timely and dynamic leadership, FAO and WFP have, as delegations know, been bringing the essential facts to the attention of the world so that the necessary additional food aid and other inputs will be available in time. I join with the Director-General in urging donor countries to act promptly and generously.

For its part and within the constraints that apply to the IEFR, WFP is assisting to the best of its ability. Thus the total of WFP emergency food aid committed in 1983 for the affected African countries amounts to about 150,000 tons of food commodities. So far in 1983 WFP has delivered to these countries 124,000 tons. Some 62,000 tons more will be delivered between now and January of next year. At the same time a good many new requests are under consideration and will be processed as quickly as possible. As I informed the donors' meeting convened by the Director-General, we fully expect the whole of the IEFR and the WFP resources set aside for emergency operations to be fully utilized in 1983.

In order to accelerate WFP deliveries, to keep donors informed of changing requirements and to enable WFP to play the coordinating role I have just referred to, I have established a special WFP operational task force which will stay in being so long as the emergency continues. Meanwhile we will step up the preparation of development projects for the rehabilitation of drought affected areas.

Finally, let me say a few words about the all-important resources situation of the Programme. For the current biennium (1983-84), total contributions to WFP amount to 968 million dollars, the highest amount ever provided for a biennium, representing 81 percent of the target set of 1.2 billion dollars. The amount contributed is over 170 million dollars more than was pledged at this point in time in the last biennium. But this figure understates the comparative position because of current low commodity prices and the appreciation of the dollar against many other currencies.

The Cash and services pledged so far for 1983-84, amounting to 256 million dollars, are nearly 38 million dollars more than the amount pledged at the same time two years ago. The Programme is thus currently enjoying a healthy cash position, with cash holdings available for programme and administrative costs amounting to over 200 million dollars, an increase of some 30 million dollars since the end of 1982. However, prudent management of the Programme's cash resources remains essential, in view of uncertainties concerning future commodity prices, freight and interest rates and other factors. For these reasons it remains important, in view of uncertainties concerning

future commodity prices, freight and interest rates and other factors. For these reasons it remains important that the cash component of pledges continues to be as close as possible to the stipulated one-third.

As for the next biennium (i.e. 1985-86), as Mr Regnier said a moment ago on behalf of the Director-General, the CFA has approved a pledging target of 1 350 million dollars. This target has been adopted by ECOSOC and the FAO Council. This FAO Conference and the United Nations General Assembly are now invited to endorse the adopted target, as stated in the draft resolution before this Conference.

A joint pledging conference will be held at the United Nations in New York on 6 March 1984 at which donors will be requested to announce their contributions both for the regular resources of WFP and for the IEFER, for the biennium 1985-86. I urge donors, with all the earnestness at my command, to respond generously to ensure the full attainment of the target both for WFP resources and for the IEFER. Announcements made at the pledging conference itself are particularly appreciated because the Programme will thereby be given sufficient time to forward plan the effective use of the resources that are made available.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Executive Director of the World Food Programme. As delegates have noted, the Resolution before us is a result of exhaustive discussion in the Committee on Food Aid Policies. It has emerged at the Eighty-first session of the Council at which many of the delegates were represented. We will continue our discussion on this subject tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/II/PV/12

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones
COMISION II

TWELFTH MEETING DOUZIEME SEANCE 12ª REUNION

(16 November 1983)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 15 h 00, sous la présidence
de C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 12ª reunión a las 15.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de
C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II.. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II.. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II.. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuacion)

14. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (continued)

14. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (suite)

14. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed with our work this afternoon I would like to congratulate the Commission on the excellent work done on the last item on the agenda. The manner in which the Conference handled the Report it submitted to them was testimony of the good work you have done, and I hope you will continue to work like that.

We had yesterday afternoon introductions to the Resolution before the Commission, and you will recall that this Resolution has already been through ECOSOC and through the FAO Council. The Member Nations, of course, are here to give words of support and guidance to the Organization, and I would like to request that we confine our remarks mainly to the Resolution in front of us, and if the words are, as I expect, then I would request that we should be brief and to the point, because we are nearly running behind schedule, and would like to keep up with our schedule.

We have a list of speakers, about 15 now, and I would once more request to you please be brief, unless there are very controversial points you want to raise.

M. FAIZUR RAZZAQUE (Bangladesh): First let me clarify a point which may have arisen because of a comment from the Chair last night. My delegation had requested for the floor at an early stage last night, not to raise any objection to the Resolution, on the contrary, Mr Chairman, and furthest from any such objection, we had asked for the floor to be one of the first ones to support the Resolution, and place on record a few constructive and positive points on the subject. Before I get to these points my delegation wants to congratulate the Director-General for his very helpful introduction to the subject, and to Mr Régnier, for a fine presentation. My delegation also wishes to place on record our appreciation to the Executive Director of WFP, for a precise and thoughtful presentation.

World Food Programme is universal in its operations and participation. It has projects in all the three developing regions, Asia, Africa and Latin America, with emphasis on Africa for good reasons. The Programme's priorities of over 40 percent of new commitments going to Africa, and about 80 percent of its total assistance going to low-income food deficit countries, are understandable in the present context. My delegation notes with appreciation that WFP's 37 percent of commitments go to LDC's, to which category my country belongs.

WFP is primarily a development programme. The emergency assistance is important and necessary, but its primary goal rightly is development. It is noted with satisfaction that about 80 percent of its project assistance is in support of projects for agricultural and rural development. In Bangladesh most of WFP's assistance is used for food for work activities, which has a tremendous development input, besides employing hundreds and thousands of the rural unemployed. Bangladesh is a large receiver of multilateral food aid from the WFP. Since 1975 this food aid has been utilized primarily in the Food-for-Work Programme and the vulnerable group feeding. There are other bilateral donors to our Food-for-Work Programme. However, with WFP contributing about 40 percent of the annual resources to the Food-for-Work Programme in Bangladesh, it has so far been the largest contributor to the Programme. In this capacity its resources have been utilized to create seasonal jobs during the lean season for employment in a year for nearly one million people or, in other words, approximately one hundred million man-days of work. Because of receipt of resources through WFP we in Bangladesh have been able to commit some of our own and other donor resources to a pilot project slanted to create jobs for thousands of women only. The fact that we in the developing countries are committing our own resources is a vital factor justifying continuance of food aid.

With regard to vulnerable group feeding WFP resources in Bangladesh have covered nearly 2.4 million under-nourished people. It is not only that these people have been provided with nourishment for a given period, but also that in this period many of them have been imparted with training to earn a livelihood. The resources development in this regard has, indeed, been impressive.

Coming back to Food-for-Work, this aims at reaching food to the poorest section of the population. That this direct targeting has been a success is proved by the fact that over 51 percent of the Food-for-Work workers in Bangladesh have either no homestead or own no land at all. Again the other, and probably the most important aim, is to achieve economic development through use of these resources. That this is also being achieved is evidenced by construction, reconstruction of nearly 62 thousand miles of roads, or one hundred thousand kilometers, and embankments and canals in the

rural areas in Bangladesh. Such a massive construction work, particularly in road-' communication in rural Bangladesh, has greatly assisted agricultural production and the marketing of the produce. In addition building of embankments and excavation of canals have also assisted particularly development in agriculture, through flood control on the one hand, and storage of water for irrigation purposes on the other.

In this light, Bangladesh notes with satisfaction that in 1982 and 1983 the IEFR target of 500 000 tons of food grains has been achieved, thanks to the donors. This is indeed commendable but unfortunately the emergency needs are also on the increase. Natural disasters are as unpredictable as they are frequent. There is an element of unpredictability and a situation beyond control involved here. Hence we believe that the IEFR target should be further raised substantially with a view to ensuring that WFP's regular resources are wholly devoted to development activities. In this light we wish to recommend raising this target to 2" million tons.

Mr Chairman, I have taken some of your time and I know you have asked me to be brief, but I have taken this only to place on record the exceedingly good work done with the WFP resources in Bangladesh with a significant improvement in the organization and management of the Food for Work and Feeding programmes. In Bangladesh we are looking forward to an even better performance of these and a very high level of effective resources and utilization.

Bangladesh also contributes to WFP resources as a token of its strong support and faith in the Programme, like many other developing recipient countries who also contribute to the Programme. In the future Bangladesh will certainly maintain its support, but while appreciating the present state of resources for 1983 and 84, we urge the donors who have so generously supported WFP to fully achieve the target 1.2 billion dollars for 1983-84. In this context it is necessary to make greater cash contributions to the Programme which should be at least one-third of the total pledges in order to allow flexibility in the Programme's activities, including the purchase of commodities from developing countries to carry out its activities in the country concerned or in the neighbouring countries.

The target of 1.35 billion proposed for 1985-86, although adequate to ensure growth in the Programme would be in our opinion inadequate to meet the growing needs of the developing countries, particularly in view of the present food situation in Africa. It is necessary to keep in mind the estimates of about 20 million tons of food aid by 1985 in the developing countries, and the import of over 90 million tons by them as at present. In that context Bangladesh would have been happier to see a higher target, but considering the present world situation we would support a target of 1.35 billion and the draft resolution presented, with a strong plea to fully achieve and even surpass this target in 1985-86.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Señor Presidente, le agradezco en primer lugar el que me haya dado el uso de la palabra en este momento. Usted ha indicado que debemos hacer una intervención breve; en mi caso voy a intentarlo, sin embargo deseo de-jar constancia en acta algunas cuestiones que consideramos importantes.

En primer lugar agradecemos al señor Director General así como al señor Régnier su presentación y comentarios en torno a este tema y al señor Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del PMA por los esfuerzos que ha hecho.

También deseamos transmitir que la ayuda es sin duda esencial para la sobrevivencia de muchos seres humanos en el mundo y el gobierno de México transmite al Director General de la FAO y al Director Ejecutivo del PMA su agradecimiento por la prontitud y eficiencia con que fue aprobado el Programa de Urgencia para refugiados en la frontera sur de nuestro país. Dicha ayuda sin duda es esencial, como decía al principio, para la sobrevivencia en este caso de 45 000 refugiados cuyas precarias condiciones han cobrado ya innumerables víctimas. Ojalá que la misma eficiencia que permitió la elaboración y aprobación de dicho programa se constate en su ejecución.

Queremos recordar que el PMA fue creado para hacer frente a las hambrunas provocadas por catástrofes naturales o creadas por el hombre y que, por lo tanto, se trata del organismo especializado con que contamos para la organización de la distribución de alimentos en situaciones de emergencia.

Nuestro país confía plenamente en el oportuno apoyo de tipo logístico que brindará el Programa a la distribución de los alimentos que han sido donados.

Afortunadamente el reciente apoyo que ha recibido el Programa y que se ha concretado en un incremento sustancial de las aportaciones de los países donadores ha permitido aumentar la proporción de recursos destinados a programas de desarrollo.

El presupuesto aprobado por el CPA recientemente, que significa un aumento de 3,8 por ciento sobre el bienio anterior, merece también nuestro apoyo explícito.

El PMA ha quedado así dotado de un esencial instrumento para promover la creación de infraestructura económica y social, única forma de dejar un beneficio perdurable en los países en desarrollo.

Lamentamos, eso sí, y nos llama profundamente la atención, es más, diría yo que nos indigna la facilidad e insistencia con que ciertos países, particularmente desarrollados, han apoyado sin mayores miramientos y cuestionamientos de fondo y de detalle todos los presupuestos del PMA frente a la forma de cuantías y minuciosidad con que han actuado en otros organismos, particularmente en la FAO. No implica esto, señor Presidente, que pensemos que sea inconveniente de ninguna manera el aumento presupuestal al PMA, sino que la conducta de ciertos países resulta muy curiosa, así como el retraso en sus contribuciones.

La ayuda alimentaria debe contribuir a estimular la producción y el desarrollo nacional y, por tanto, apuntar hacia su propia eliminación en el mediano plazo.

Queremos instar al PMA a que incremente la proporción de recursos destinados a tal tipo de proyectos, único apegado a lograr el objetivo de la seguridad alimentaria a nivel nacional.

Por otro lado deseamos que el PMA establezca una clara y neta definición del marco conceptual y estratégico que rige sus operaciones pues sólo mediante una definición explícita de los objetivos a lograr tendremos plena seguridad de que los recursos serán utilizados de manera más segura y eficaz.

La visión pragmática del hambre es sin duda importante en los programas de emergencia, pero resulta, así lo consideramos y lo hemos manifestado, totalmente insuficiente cuando se trata de estimular el desarrollo rural.

Aquí encontramos un fenómeno complejo con vías múltiples para hacerle frente y con innumerables efectos colaterales que no se pueden limitar a acciones pragmáticas y conexas.

Deseamos también insistir en el carácter multilateral que debe prevalecer en las operaciones del PMA y consideramos que de proseguir la tendencia a incrementar la proporción de recursos destinados a operaciones bilaterales el Programa correrá el riesgo y el peligro de convertirse en una agencia de colocación de los excedentes de producción cerealera de los países donadores. Esta es una tendencia que debemos frenar y revertir para enmarcar al PMA dentro de la idea del multilateralismo con que fue concebido originariamente.

A fin de no repetir lo que nuestra Delegación ha dicho anteriormente en las reuniones del CPA, deseamos recordar, tan sólo para que conste en acta, Sr. Presidente, algunas recomendaciones que formuló el Consejo de la FAO sobre el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en su 83º período de sesiones en junio de este año y que resulta pertinente citar.

En primer lugar, la ayuda alimentaria no debe utilizarse como instrumento de presión política y el prestigio del PMA depende del criterio equilibrado y no sólo político que adopte en sus actividades y en atender la solicitud de ayuda.

Segundo, el CPA al formular su política y programa debe tener en cuenta el concepto ampliado y los criterios indicados en el informe del Director General de FAO sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Tercero, reiteramos asimismo el carácter complementario de las funciones del PMA y de la FAO que logra su mayor expresión en los recursos crecientes que el PMA asigna a los sectores que la FAO ha definido como prioritarios, como son el desarrollo agrícola rural, la mejora en los niveles de instrucción y la creación de infraestructura para la seguridad alimentaria.

Deseamos que la FAO siga dando al PMA todo el apoyo técnico y administrativo necesario para sumar los esfuerzos y el uso eficiente de los recursos de ambas Organizaciones en el combate del hambre y la desnutrición.

Sr. Presidente, nuestra Delegación desea manifestar su preocupación y total rechazo al uso subrepticio de presiones de cualquier tipo encaminadas a modificar las posiciones de las delegaciones que actúan en Roma en el Törnito de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria.

Delegaciones como la nuestra son meros vehículos de comunicación de posiciones seriamente meditadas y por lo mismo exentas de cualquier subjetivismo.

Antes de terminar, queremos recordar que próximamente se celebrará el 20 aniversario del Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO, cuya celebración está preparando diligentemente la FAO, a la que debemos la iniciativa para celebrarlo.

El PMA es actualmente la mayor fuente de ayuda multilateral, aparte del BIRF que es un abanderado importante en la campaña mundial contra el hambre y la malnutrición. Hacemos aquí un amplio reconocimiento por la labor del Programa en los últimos veinte años y ofrecemos el apoyo de nuestro país para que siga actuando con éxito en el futuro.

Finalmente, queremos apoyar el proyecto de resolución que se presenta a nuestra consideración en el documento C 83/LIM/5 que ya fue aprobado en el 83° período de sesiones de nuestro Consejo.

Destacamos nuestro agradecimiento a los países donadores por haber acordado una cifra de 1 350 millones de dólares de contribuciones voluntarias al PMA de las cuales no menos de un tercio deberá ser en dinero y/o servicios en su conjunto.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): I welcome this opportunity to say a few words on this important item of the agenda. I would like to follow your admonition, Mr Chairman, that we keep to the subject at hand, i.e. the discussion of the resolution, rather than raising all sorts of extraneous issues of policy with regard to the WFP, as this is not really the appropriate forum for such a discussion. This kind of discussion is more properly conducted in the governing body of the World Food Programme. However, we would like to reserve our position and our right to intervene at a later time if that type of discussion does take place.

We were pleased yesterday to hear that the level of WFP resources is at a high, an unprecedented level of somewhat more than \$960 million for the 1983-84 pledging period. We have reached about 81 percent of the target, and that is one year before the end of the pledging period. We are not saying this to pat ourselves on the back but on the other hand it is no reason to hang crepe. We, as a member of this Committee that contributed to the WFP, have, however, to be proud of the fact that this fund - and this is in these economically difficult times - has continued to grow and is still growing. And, as we were told yesterday, it is second only in resources to the World Bank.

We can also take some quiet comfort that the IEFER has once again achieved its objectives. We, in Canada, have long been strong advocates of the value of this programme and have backed our words with concrete action. We have constantly participated in the CFA and have tried to make some helpful inputs into the improvement of food aid as an agent of development. We have also shown our commitment to this fund by increasing our contribution in 1983 from Can.\$190 million to Can.\$250 million of which Can.\$40 million are in cash. We have also increased our contribution to the IEFER from Can.\$6.5 million to 7 million and have tried to announce those contributions as early as possible to assist the WFP and the recipients in their planning.

As regards the pledging target we were fortunate enough to participate in the Contact Group that arrived at the figure of \$1.35 billion for the 1985-86 pledging period. We can certainly testify that that was not an easy decision to reach. All in that room last Spring were fully aware of the immensity of the task with which they were being presented, of deciding on a target when the needs are manifestly so great. To the credit of all concerned, that balance was struck at what we believe is a realistic and perhaps, above all a realizable level of \$1.35 billion.

The task before us now is to agree on this resolution and then demonstrate our commitment at pledging time. Canada continues to be concerned that the donor base of this Programme be as broad as possible, regardless of the size of the contribution, and in this context we would certainly like to point out wonderful examples such as Bangladesh who have so little to contribute and yet do make that extra effort.

We believe this Programme is not a programme of donors and recipients but one where all members, regardless of their financial situation, are deeply committed to the objectives of the WFP and the use of food not only as a temporary solution to emergencies but, perhaps more importantly, as an engine of development that will eventually make the use of food aid redundant. Accordingly, we would urge all to review the needs, the achievements of this programme and its objectives and come to the pledging conference and help, through their pledges, translate their words and high ideals into reality.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Canada for his intervention and especially for his opening remarks.

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): Thailand is an active member of the Committee of Food Aid Policies and Programmes and also a beneficiary of WFP assistance, particularly for emergency food aid. These are good reasons, among other considerations, for my delegation to support the WFP Target for pledging for the period 1985-86.

As this Commission is well aware, Thailand is not a direct beneficiary of food aid, and for long the country has not received any kind of project assistance from WFP. We are defined as a middle income, food-exporting country. Perhaps it should be changed to a lower middle income country.

Emergency food aid to Thailand goes directly to the displaced persons along the Thai Kampuchea border, as already confirmed by the Executive Director in his statement yesterday. The country takes the burden of feeding the hungry and giving first refuge to those displaced persons. They are at present around 135,000 in various centres in the country, not to mention another almost 300,000 Kampuchean people waiting for food, clothes and medicine along the Kampuchea-Thai border.

We are grateful to WFP, FAO and various United Nations agencies, and particularly to the donor countries for their assistance to these unfortunate people. The Royal Thai Government continues to give humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons as long as our capability allows us to do so.

Thailand is not concerned not only with the slow pace of resettlement of those displaced persons in Third World countries but also the decline of food aid assistance to them.

My delegation noted with interest that food aid will now be channelled more to development purposes. We can go along with this proposal, but it is also important to stress here that our problem is merely a part of the problems existing in the world. There are also the same kinds of problems in Africa and the Middle East and other regions. We would therefore remind the Commission that we should not lose sight of emergency food aid.

My delegation, therefore, reiterates its support for the pledging target of WFP and urges that the draft resolution be adopted by the Conference.

Thailand will also participate in the pledging Conference to be held early next year to state our modest contribution to the WFP resources.

J. GLISTRUP (Denmark): We would certainly comply with your ruling concerning this discussion and in this connection we would also like to support very much the remarks made by our colleague from Canada.

My Government has been a strong supporter of the World Food Programme since it was established twenty years ago. The Programme has over the years grown to be the largest development programme in the United Nations system outside the World Bank group. WFP continues to work as an action-oriented development programme with enough flexibility to adapt itself to changing circumstances. As an example, the World Food Programme has met the sub-Saharan African challenge with growing emphasis on development projects in Africa. Furthermore, the Programme has managed to administer large quantities of food aid very efficiently with a minimum of administration costs.

My delegation, which is also a member of the CFA, participated in the approval of the new administrative budget for 1984/85 and the programme which was discussed and agreed to only a few weeks ago. We feel that the Executive Director has now received a vote of confidence from all the CFA members.

My delegation has examined the document C 83/7 and finds the report of the Director-General and of the External Auditor satisfactory. We are following the development of the WFP Information System closely and look forward to seeing the results when the System has been fully implemented.

With regard to the resource situation of the Programme, we are of the opinion that certain difficulties have been experienced in this biennium in managing the food commodities pledged. We hope that the strengthening of the Secretariat which has been made possible by the new administrative budget will prevent recurrences in the future.

My Government is supporting the new pledging target for 1985/86 of US\$1.35 billion. In this connexion we would hope that new and potential donors will join the Programme and that new, as well as traditional donors, will contribute not less than one-third of their pledges in cash and/or in services.

Finally I would like to endorse the adoption of the resolution C 83/LIM/18 and I can confirm my Government's willingness to participate in the Pledging Conference for the period 1985/86 where we hope that pledges will be announced both for the regular resources and for the Emergency Food Reserve, i.e. IFAD.

XIANG ZHONGYANG (China) (original language Chinese): Yesterday we heard the Director-General, Mr Saouma's speech read by Mr Regnier and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme Mr Ingram's presentation on WFP's work. This helps us to understand WFP's work and its progress.

The Chinese delegation thinks that over the past 20 years WFP has made remarkable achievements in making the food aid an effective means of the development of agricultural production. For example, the resources for 1981-82 biennium was ten times as much as the resources when WFP was just set up and the number of developmental projects and the emergency operations has also been increased accordingly. As Mr Ingram said in his presentation yesterday that WFP is one of the few multilateral-aid agencies that has not reduced its resources in recent years. All these are very conducive to the economic and social development in low-income and food-deficit countries. Moreover, WFP has been improving the structure and methods of planning which will put emphasis of food aid on the increase of basic food production, the development of human resources and the strengthening of social and economic infrastructures in the developing countries. This is indeed inspiring and by doing this, it will greatly help the recipients achieve self-sufficiency in food step by step and enhance the self-reliance capability.

In recent years China has carried out a series of new policies and guidelines and also adopted a number of effective measures to speed up the improvement of agricultural productivity and the people's life in rural China. In doing this, we have received active support and assistance from WFP and this good cooperation has already brought about noticeable results in China. For this, we highly appreciate the working spirit of WFP.

After extensive consultation at the Fifteenth Session of CFA, it was decided that the target of voluntary contribution for 1985-86 biennium would be 1.35 billion US dollars and we agree to it. There is a slight increase in this target over the previous biennium. However this increase is still insufficient when compared with the actual need in the developing countries. We hope that the donor countries will, from the point of view of promoting the world economic development and the international cooperation, make every effort to ensure an over-all fulfilment of the pledging target for food aid in 1985-86. The Chinese delegation would like to take this opportunity to express that the Chinese Government will make its contribution in accordance with its present economic capacity.

L. GRUNDBERG (Sweden): The active support of the Swedish Government in favour of the World Food Programme is well known and it is not necessary to repeat it here and now. But not least because of the fact that my country in its capacity of member of the governing body of the WFP, the CFA, we are following the activities of the WFP very closely and we wish to take this opportunity to comment on the actual situation of the WFP. First I would like to thank the Executive Director for his lucid introduction yesterday. It gave a clear and pedagogic picture of what WFP is and what it does and I believe that his introduction constitutes a helpful clarification of many of the main issues regarding the Programme and the way in which it uses food aid.

Now to the current dramatic situation in Africa. WFP will be playing a major role in assisting an Africa so badly hurt by climatological conditions and other difficulties in food production and food distribution. We noted with satisfaction the decision by the Executive Director to establish a special WFP operational task force dealing with the African food problems.

Speaking on emergencies, my delegation has also noted with satisfaction both at the donors meeting on 10 November and yesterday that the whole of the International Emergency Food Reserve and the WFP resources set aside for emergency operations are likely to be utilized in 1983.

Still on emergencies, we also are extremely pleased that the work of establishing criteria for emergency allocations is under way and we are looking forward to the paper being under preparation for the next CFA. We hope that this work will result also in new light on the complicated relationship between emergency operations and development efforts in general.

My delegation is also pleased that the new administrative budget of the WFP has been adopted and that some bottlenecks in the Secretariat will be removed giving the Programme better working conditions and some breathing space.

My country will certainly take part in the joint Pledging Conference on 6 March next year. In this respect I want to underline the importance that the IEFR pledges be separate and additional to the ordinary pledges to the Programme thus avoiding double counting and similar confusion. Permit me also, Mr Chairman, through you, to ask fellow donors to make multi-year pledges to food aid to the extent possible. I think that recent development in Africa has shown more than ever the urgent need for sufficient time to forward plan the effective use of the resources that are made available.

With these words I commend the adoption of the resolution before us.

R. MORBACH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): To begin with I would like to thank the Secretariat for the introduction to this item of the agenda and also the Executive Director of the WFP, for his very comprehensive statement. My Government welcomes the draft resolution we have before us and supports the target for the period 1985-86. This pledging target appears to be a well-balanced compromise between the large requirements and the possibilities of the donors.

As in the past we are going to continue to give our active support to the WFP within the framework of our possibilities and we are going to make our contribution to achieve this target, because we believe that the work of the WFP is efficient, transparent, and looking back at the last 20 years, successful.

I would like to point out the attitude of my Government on this item of the agenda by referring briefly to the deliberations of the Sixteenth session of the CFA which was held in October of this year. This Sixteenth session had three main results, first the approval of the administrative budget estimates for 1984-85, secondly the approval of 18 project proposals of a total volume of \$ 256.5 million and thirdly reactivation of the discussion on the conception and orientation of project-related food aid following the statements by the Executive Director of the WFP and the Director-General of FAO.' What seemed first to be a rather routine-like working session turned out to be a very intensive debate on the location, importance and perspective of the World Food Programme. As far as the proposals of the Executive Director of the WFP on the administrative budget estimates for 1984-85 were concerned, very intensive discussions were held as was expected. The fact that the proposals -following the recommendations of the ACABQ and the Finance Committee of FAO - were finally adopted by the CFA, was due to the fact that it was realized that continued effectiveness and the necessary further increase in efficiency required a marked strengthening of the WFP Secretariat. Let me remark that effectiveness in this connection must also and above all be seen in the complete, useful and effective utilisation of the resources available.

It was not easy for my Government to agree to an increase in the WFP Secretariat staff at a time when national budgets as well as those of international organizations are affected by necessary and sometimes hard saving measures. But our approval was given because of the exceptional circumstances for the World Food Programme, characterised by an increasing volume and a growing complexity of the tasks of the Programme and a slow increase in staff in the last few years; secondly because of the performance so far of the WFP and its importance in view of the world food problem, and thirdly because of the fact that also in future only a small part of the solely voluntary contributions is to be used to meet administrative costs and the costs of project implementation.

We will continue to follow with great attention the development of the work of WFP and we will see to it that aspects of an economical use of the additional funds will be taken into consideration.

My Government is of the view - like the whole CFA - that duplication between WFP and FAO should be avoided. The basic documents for the WFP provide for the largest possible utilisation of FAO's services and the responsibility of the Executive Director of the WFP for a cost efficient administration. My Government hopes that WFP and FAO, as already proposed by ACABQ, will as soon as possible review together the basis for cost calculations and will arrive at a solution which is satisfactory to both parties.

During the Sixteenth session the CFA approved 18 project proposals of a total volume of \$ 256.5 million. We welcome the fact that 12 of these projects are accounted for by agricultural development and represent in volume terms a high proportion, i.e. 78 per cent. Highest priority is to be given to contributions to investments and projects which have a productive orientation in that field. The Executive Director of WFP spoke to the CFA about the twenty years' activity of the CFA and availed himself of this opportunity to put forward "fresh ideas" with regard to the controversially discussed food aid and its further development. Together with the statement made by the Director-General of FAO with regard to the location and tasks of the WFP in the framework of the world food situation these ideas accompanied the discussions of the 16th Session of CFA, also in the sub-committees established to deal with budgetary matters and project work.

The proposals and reports which have been indicated for future meetings on the further development of the programme and project work in the WFP are expected by us with great interest.

R.E. STENSHOLT (Australia): We have before us the resolution on the Target for WFP Pledges to the Regular Programme for 1985-86. We have also heard the introductory message from the Director-General of FAO and the address of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme. I must admit I am not exactly sure what I should be talking about, but I take your ruling, Mr Chairman, that we should concentrate on the resolution. Hence I will confine my remarks in that direction, and I presume that our Report will also be so concentrated.

Let me say that Australia unreservedly supports the new target. We recognize that it is a product of a compromise achieved in the best traditions of cooperation between countries at the first Session of the CFA this year. In fact I must admit that this compromise was very much achieved without any Secretariats being present, and this shows the degree of cooperation which characterised the handling of this particular organization. In so doing Australia recognizes the importance of the Programme and the fact that it is proving to be a relatively well run and efficient multilateral organization. We trust that it will continue to operate in this manner in the future.

The resolution covered the pledging for 1985-86. We have a target for the coming biennium and we note with appreciation that it has now reached 81 percent. It has not reached 100 percent. There is still room to go, and of course there is a little more than a year to go. So that represents both an achievement and a remaining challenge to us all.

With regard to the pledging Conference we urge additional donors to come forward and continue or increase their support for the programme. We also urge that new donors come forward, or even old ones who no longer contribute, be they from the north or the south, the east or the west, developed or developing, OPEC or non-OPEC. This sort of organization of the welfare programmes attracts support from all directions. It is not a United Nations Organization where you see the Group of 77 versus WEOG or any of those confrontations. It is basically an organization of cooperation, and this spirit should continue into the pledging Conference next year.

We hope that countries can support the target in terms of grain and non-grain food, cash or services, or non-food items to the best of their abilities.

In March there will be a second pledging Conference to the IEFER which will be held jointly with the pledging Conference for the Regular Programme. I admit this is not mentioned in the resolution. It makes me wonder why we have not got a resolution on this. It seems to be something we have missed out on, and perhaps we can rectify this next time. We note that the last pledging Conference for the IEFER was successful in spite of having only a few days' notice. Anyway, Australia pledged at last Conference on a multi-year basis over and above our regular contribution through the FAO in terms of grain. I repeat the same call that I made for the pledging Conference for the Regular Programme and hope that donors will come forward next March also for the IEFER pledging Conference.

C.A. HARTMAN (Finland): My delegation listened with interest to the introduction of the Director-General and the Executive Director to this Agenda item. My country has the privilege to be a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, the governing body of the World Food Programme up till the end of next year. It is therefore with particular pleasure that I take the opportunity to comment briefly on the activities of the programme at this Conference of its parent Organization, the FAO.

The WFP is celebrating this year its Twentieth anniversary. During these 20 years, from modest beginnings, the programme has grown to become, next to the World Bank group, the biggest development assistance agency of the entire United Nations system. This rapid development, apart from sharing the trust that the programme has enjoyed from the international community, has also placed great strains on its management and programming capacity. The programme has in fact been approaching a bottleneck situation, where it has had growing difficulties in making efficient use of the food resources put at its disposal so as to direct them to the main target groups in recipient countries.

The focus of the programme has been, and is, on the least developed food-deficit countries. That orientation has from the outset had the full support of my Government because it corresponds to our own thinking and the orientation of Finnish development assistance. At the same time, precisely that orientation has added to the strain on the management and planning resources of the programme.

It was therefore necessary to strengthen those functions in order to forestall a situation where either the resources of the WFP could not be allocated to their full extent and would thus pile up, or were being allocated in a haphazard manner without the reassurance that the target groups aimed at were actually reached. Therefore my Government fully supported the staff increases proposed by the Executive Director of the WFP at the recent Session of the CFA, and which were then subsequently approved. Like other members, we saw them as necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the programme along the policy guidelines established by the CFA.

My Government has taken note of the funding of the Seminar on food aid matters arranged in the Hague

to commemorate the Twentieth anniversary of the WFP. Of those several conclusions, one is maybe particularly interesting. It is that food aid as a development resource is unsurpassed when it comes to reaching the most needy segments among the population of a developing country. That is a finding that should be thoroughly reflected on by donor and recipient countries alike.

Lastly, the draft resolution concerning the pledging Conference for 1984-85 causes no problems for my delegation and we are ready to approve it and to participate in the Conference as a donor.

A. BOTHNER (Norway): A number of statements have been made on this important issue. I would also on behalf of the delegation of Norway add my voice in this respect.

With regard to the matter which is directly the issue in this connection, namely the target for the WFP pledges for the period 1985-86, we have no difficulties with the target of \$ 1 350 million and we support the draft resolution as contained in document C 83/LIM/18. The target has been carefully reviewed and discussed and it seems to us reasonable and realistic. My country has supported the WFP since its inception and we will continue to do so. We channel practically all our food aid through the WFP, including our contribution to the Food Aid Convention.

On the basis of this, and in view of the fact that we are one of the larger contributors, we would naturally see that other donors also would channel an increasing part of their food aid through the WFP.

This is not the time or the place to elaborate on policies. I will therefore in this connection only lend my support to the Executive Director's statement to the effect that food aid should increasingly be coordinated and combined with other types of aid, be it bilateral or multilateral. We also support the priority given to food-deficit low-income countries and the concentration on Africa south of the Sahara.

H. REDL (Austria) (original language German): First I would like to thank the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP for their introductory statement. The Austrian delegation has studied with a great deal of interest document C 83/LIM/18. We have also followed the work of the World Food Programme over the last 20 years.

First I would like to make some basic comments on food aid. In his introductory statement Mr Ingram referred to the development of WFP. A great deal has changed since 1963. In our industrialised countries there is the problem of increasing agricultural production for which there is no market. There is very strong competition for market shares in the international market, using extra budgetary funds. There is an agricultural trade policy of the industrialised countries which certainly endangers the development aid of the donor countries. And there is hunger and malnutrition in the developing countries. There is lack of food, without purchasing power, without the necessary capital. Food aid to the developing countries has often been queried. The Brandt Report emphatically stated it is in favour of food aid but it is certainly true investments, and hence the development of a country, are more important than the supply of food. Criticism of food aid states that it might lead the beneficiary countries to rely on such supplies, and that they might neglect the development of their own agriculture. Food aid should not compete with domestic agricultural production. We will need to see whether we are dealing with a beneficiary country in which the population is in danger of dying of hunger, and food is simply lacking, and then, of course, there is still the question of distribution, or whether food aid is tantamount to an indirect transfer of capital, and in the last analysis might lead to projects for development aid through a revolving fund after the food has been sold at low cut market conditions. We are in full agreement with the recommendations of the North-South Commission, which indicates that food aid should be increased and should be related to the creation of employment and agrarian programmes. Food aid should, of course, also be regular. It should not be endangered every year again.

It is well known that Austria has always given its active support to the activities of the World Food Programme ever since its inception. I can assure you that future activities of the Programme will also have our active support. Therefore we are in agreement with the points made in document LIM/5, and in particular the pledging target for 1985-86.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): The delegation of Indonesia would like to compliment the Executive Director for his excellent introductory statement delivered yesterday, which gave us a clear picture on the progress made by the Programme, the resource position, its policy in channeling food aid, and the special role played in rendering assistance to the member countries of FAO.

Mr Chairman, to follow your advice I would like to limit my intervention to the very crucial issues which merit our full consideration. We have witnessed the very encouraging achievement of the Programme since its inception 20 years ago. Nonetheless, further efforts should be made, taking into account the food situation in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries. Their state and level of food and agricultural development, and the number of hungry and poorest people in the Third World, which, according to the FAO information, are growing, Indonesia wishes to place on record its readiness to intensify its participation in the forthcoming deliberation of the problems, which we believe could make a valuable contribution to the activities of the Programme.

With regard to the direction of food aid, Indonesia wishes to reiterate its strong support to the policy of the Programme, namely to place the highest priority to the poorest people in the Third World, and channeling food aid to development projects, with a view to increasing food and agricultural production. Bearing in mind that increasing food and agricultural production will be one of the most important means to overcome food problems in the years to come, this policy should be continuously pursued by the Programme.

We are fully aware that in order to improve and to expand further the Programme's activities and operations, adequate resources are required. The governing body of the Programme had discussed in depth the target for 1985-86, and approved unanimously its level to the amount of US\$ 1.35 billion.

Indonesia is convinced that there will be no other option but to strongly endorse the proposal made by the governing body of the Programme. In the light of the aforementioned consideration Indonesia earnestly hopes that the Conference will be able to approve the draft resolution on the target for WFP pledges for the period 1985-86 unanimously.

D.E. DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun): La delegation du Cameroun a suivi hier, avec un vif intérêt, l'introduction du Directeur général de la FAO, présentée par M. Regnier, et l'exposé de M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM.

Ces deux exposés font ressortir toute l'ampleur des interventions du PAM tant dans le cadre du programme régulier que dans le domaine tout aussi complexe et prioritaire de l'aide d'urgence au profit des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées.

De ces deux déclarations, il ressort que les besoins à satisfaire dans les pays en développement pour soutenir l'exécution des projets sont immenses; que le PAM dispose actuellement d'une capacité de gestion confirmée; que pour permettre au PAM de répondre sans difficultés aux demandes croissantes d'assistance des pays en développement des ressources adéquates sont nécessaires, et que, pour la période 1985-86, le niveau des ressources requises à cet effet, qui s'élève à 1 350 millions de dollars, a déjà été accueilli favorablement par le Conseil de la FAO et au sein de l'ECOSOC.

Le Directeur exécutif a souligné que l'aide alimentaire dispensée dans le cadre du PAM doit s'intégrer autant que possible dans le processus d'exécution des plans nationaux de développement. Le Gouvernement camerounais partage entièrement cette orientation des interventions du PAM.

Face à l'ampleur des besoins d'aide en perspective, notamment la situation alimentaire préoccupante des pays africains, l'étendue des domaines d'intervention possible du PAM dans les pays bénéficiaires, notre délégation ne peut que souhaiter que tous les moyens logistiques et administratifs nécessaires à la gestion de ce vaste programme soient mis à la disposition des organes opérationnels de cette institution, tant au niveau du Siège que sur le terrain.

Dans cette optique, ma délégation appuie le projet de résolution soumis à la Conférence relatif à l'Objectif des contributions aux ressources du PAM pour la période 1985-86.

J. HEIDSMA (Netherlands) : Since this meeting should only address itself to the target, while policy matters are dealt with by the CFA, I shall limit myself to the first issue.

The Netherlands has had the privilege to be actively involved in the discussion and negotiations in the CFA leading to the unanimously agreed target now before us. In the opinion of my delegation, the process through which the target was set by the CFA stands out as a shining example of productive cooperation between the donor and recipient countries and of an earnest willingness to compromise in order to reach a consensus decision. My delegation supports the target of \$ 1.35 billion wholeheartedly, Mr Chairman. We think, moreover, the target can be reached, and should be reached. But this can only be achieved if more countries would be prepared to contribute to the programme. We would urge all countries to do so.

Finally, I should like to express my country's continuous support to the Programme, and to its Executive Director. With the increased administrative and financial resources available for the management of the Programme, we have every confidence that it will develop in an even more efficient and effective way than is now already the case.

H. BENATTALLAH (Algérie): Nous avons écouté très attentivement les exposés introductifs du Directeur général de la FAO présenté par M. Régnier, et celui de M. Ingram au nom du PAM, et nous les en remercions.

Sensibles à votre appel, nous écouterons notre intervention. Brièvement, deux centres d'intérêt retiennent notre attention: au niveau des ressources sur lesquelles nous avons des observations, et au niveau des infléchissements des politiques et programmes sur lesquels nous avons quelque préoccupation.

Au niveau des ressources, le PAM a dressé un bilan honorable. Nous en sommes satisfaits. Il a émergé comme la plus importante source reconnue d'aide de la famille des Nations Unies engageant 5,3 milliards de dollars pour plus de 1 100 projets dans 114 pays. Il a représenté un facteur de croissance, un soutien à la balance des paiements et au budget permettant de libérer pour d'autres utilisations les ressources en devises des pays en voie de développement. Il a notre plein appui sur ce point.'

Mais les ressources affichent une tendance à la régression. L'objectif de un milliard de dollars pour la période de contribution 1981-82 a été réalisé à concurrence de 84%; celui de 1983-84 pourrait être inférieur à celui de 1981-82 et pour le biennium 1984-85, le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire est parvenu, après de laborieuses tractations, à un consensus sur 1.350 millions de dollars.

Il est déjà établi que ce niveau ne fournit pas un répondant suffisant aux besoins estimés selon les différentes méthodes à 20 millions de tonnes pour 1985. Néanmoins, nous appuyons sans réserve le projet de résolution qui nous est présenté parce qu'il représente malgré tout un progrès dans la prise en charge des besoins alimentaires dans un contexte très difficile.

C'est cependant au niveau des politiques et programmes que nous avons quelques préoccupations, parce qu'ils ont affiché quelques infléchissements. Les contributions en espèces ont chuté de 30 pour cent en 1977-78, à 23/24 pour cent pour 1984-85. Le pourcentage des projets productifs est tombé de 61 pour cent en 1981 à 50 pour cent en 1983, et celui destiné à renforcer l'infrastructure économique et sociale de 19 pour cent à 5 pour cent alors que la part des ressources destinée à des programmes de distribution de vivres, essentiellement à certains groupes vulnérables de la population, s'est accru de 20 à 40 pour cent. Concomitamment, le PAM n'a acheté en 1982 que pour 11 millions de dollars, tandis que 7 millions de dollars seulement sont prévus en 1983.

La dégradation des termes de l'aide alimentaire qui déjà n'aide pas à atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire ni à favoriser son dépassement induit aussi une dépendance plus étroite à l'égard des surplus des pays donateurs.

On invoque souvent le danger d'une réduction des importations alimentaires venant de l'accroissement de l'aide alimentaire. Les arguments selon lesquels un volume croissant de l'aide alimentaire tend à affecter les importations commerciales normales et à freiner l'accroissement de la production locale, ne sont pas convaincants. L'expérience menée en Ethiopie l'a montré.

En fait, le phénomène contraire s'est produit. Depuis 1974, l'accroissement des importations correspond en totalité à des achats commerciaux importants car l'aide alimentaire, malgré une certaine variation, n'a pas augmenté. Dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire, où l'accroissement des importations céréalières a été en totalité de type commercial, l'aide alimentaire reçue en céréales en 1980 est de 8,8 millions de tonnes, volume identique à celui de 1974.

Alors que les livraisons de céréales au titre de l'aide alimentaire ont diminué pour la deuxième année consécutive, les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire ont eu davantage recours aux importations commerciales amenant le niveau de déficit global des balances commerciales pour les produits vivriers à 4 milliards de dollars.

De surcroît, bien que le recours aux "ventes liées" aille à l'encontre des principes de la FAO en matière d'écoulement des excédents, 36 pour cent des fonds fournis par des donateurs bilatéraux ont été utilisés dans les pays développés parce que ces contributions étaient assorties de l'obligation d'acheter dans les pays donateurs eux-mêmes. Soixante-sept pour cent des fonds de la Convention sur l'aide alimentaire sont retournés dans les pays développés sous forme d'achats.

Enfin, régression de l'aide et infléchissement de l'orientation n'encouragent pas les efforts tendant à stimuler les transactions triangulaires. Nous estimons que deux actes essentiels devraient être: la production vivrière davantage que les urgences et la circulation des excédents entre pays en voie de développement devrait être privilégiés. Cela induit naturellement un effort plus important d'investissements en vue d'améliorer la production et les infrastructures et davantage de ressources en espèces pour faciliter les opérations triangulaires.

Nous approuvons enfin l'aide à l'élargissement des bases de contribution.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Ma délégation va également s'efforcer de se limiter au contexte du projet de résolution soumis à notre Commission. Cela dit, je voudrais me joindre aux orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour adresser les félicitations les plus sincères de la délégation sénégalaise au Directeur général de la FAO pour son introduction ainsi qu'au Directeur exécutif du PAM pour sa déclaration fort pertinente et claire.

Cela dit, la résolution en question tend en fait à demander l'appui de tous les pays pour que les objectifs fixés au PAM soient atteints.

Les objectifs du PAM visent essentiellement à trouver les meilleurs voies et moyens pour réaliser une aide alimentaire efficace et intéressante pour les pays qui en ont besoin. C'est une question qui a été stigmatisée par la délégation de l'Autriche qui a formulé une suggestion pour que l'aide alimentaire soit davantage accrue en ce qui concerne les pays en voie de développement.

En effet, le problème de l'aide alimentaire est assez complexe et les pays bénéficiaires doivent d'abord réfléchir parce que, si l'on n'y prend garde et si on ne prend pas certaines dispositions, un résultat contraire à celui recherché peut être atteint. Autrement dit, l'aide peut amener les pays bénéficiaires à prendre des habitudes de consommation de denrées alimentaires qu'ils ne peuvent pas produire, et on arriverait ainsi à insuffler un système permanent d'aide alors que l'objectif de l'aide devrait être une situation transitoire allant vers le renforcement d'une politique de développement en vue d'assurer aux pays nécessiteux l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Il convient donc de veiller à la conjonction et à la coordination efficace entre le PAM et un organisme comme la FAO qui oeuvre dans le sens du développement agricole d'une manière fort heureuse. Et cela devrait également nous amener à souhaiter que la gestion du PAM déjà satisfaisante et que ses objectifs déjà importants soient encore améliorés et qu'on élabore à l'avenir des statistiques beaucoup plus précises et beaucoup plus claires permettant de voir l'importance et les orientations précises de l'aide en faveur des pays qui en ont besoin.

Il serait ensuite souhaitable que les activités du PAM s'orientent davantage et d'une manière beaucoup plus significative (elles le sont déjà dans le domaine du développement rural) vers l'appui des projets susceptibles d'aider les populations qui reçoivent l'aide à concevoir un développement en vue de parvenir progressivement à leur autosuffisance alimentaire. Cela déchargerait ainsi les pays donateurs très généreux d'une assistance qui dure depuis 20 ans. Et l'on se rend compte de plus en plus que la situation se dégrade.

En terminant, je tiens à dire que la délégation sénégalaise, comme celles qui l'ont précédée, appuie sans réserve la résolution qui nous est présentée et souhaite que le tiers des contributions soit versé en espèces compte tenu du fait que certaines dépenses notamment de transport, de mise en place ne peuvent pas être assurées par certains pays.

G. FRADIN (France): Ma délégation souhaite tout d'abord remercier à son tour le Directeur général de la FAO ainsi que le Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial pour leur très intéressante introduction à nos débats.

Le Ministre français de l'agriculture, dans le discours qu'il a prononcé la semaine dernière en séance plénière, a rappelé que, pour la première fois, en 1983, la France allait apporter une contribution en nature au Programme alimentaire mondial. Cette contribution de 17 000 tonnes de céréales est fournie en plus de notre contribution financière et de notre contribution à la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence. Elle représente un quasi-doublement de notre aide au PAM pour l'année 1983, mais je tiens à signaler que, comme l'a demandé instamment le Directeur général appuyé par de nombreuses délégations, la part de notre apport financier reste nettement au-dessus du tiers de notre contribution globale. Je rappellerai simplement que déjà l'année 1982 avait vu notre assistance au PAM se multiplier par deux. Cela suffit, je pense, à montrer l'intérêt et l'attachement que nous portons aux activités de cette institution qui se traduit par notre participation active aux travaux du Comité des politiques alimentaires.

Cependant, la situation économique mondiale dont le caractère préoccupant a été maintes fois souligné rend nécessaire, comme cela a été déjà dit plusieurs fois, une participation active et élargie aux activités du Programme.

Nous demandons donc instamment à ceux qui n'y participent pas encore d'apporter une contribution au budget du PAM et à la RAIU. Nous souhaitons à cet égard que la Conférence leur lance un appel pressant afin d'obtenir leur participation en leur rappelant leurs responsabilités dans l'établissement d'une véritable sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Ma délégation approuve l'objectif de contribution du biennium 1984-86 de 1 350 millions de dollars, tel qu'il a été approuvé à la dernière session du CPA et tel qu'il est soumis à notre Conférence dans le projet de résolution. Cet objectif est en augmentation de 11,5 % par rapport au précédent biennium. Ce chiffre représente, en tout état de cause, un volume d'assistance très important.

Dans son intervention, le Directeur exécutif du PAM a rappelé que 80 pour cent des ressources du Programme avaient été utilisées en 1982 pour des projets de développement dont les trois quarts intéressent le développement agricole et rural et, en particulier, dans les pays les moins avancés. Ma délégation s'en félicite et souhaite que cette tendance se poursuive.

TESEMA NEGASH (Ethiopia): In the interests of time I shall limit my intervention to the draft resolution before us. Ever since the representative of Algeria mentioned Ethiopia in his intervention I feel duty bound to bring to the attention of the Commission that the WFP operation in Ethiopia has been more successful and is in complete accord with the directions and expectations of the governing body of the Programme, i.e. the CFA.

The Committee thoroughly examined WFP's project in Ethiopia and gave its unanimous support during its April session. With this, Mr Chairman, I shall come back to the main thrust of my intervention.

It is gratifying to hear the success story of the WFP and the impact demonstrated by the Programme as an UN agency which uses food aid as a development agent. It is even more gratifying to hear of the ever-growing resources of the Programme which is a clear demonstration of the confidence placed upon WFP and its leadership.

Mr Chairman, from the Report by the Executive Director, we understand that the target for the IEFER of the 500 000 tons for 1983 has been met, and the Pledging Conference for the regular resources and the IEFER for the next biennium is set for March 1984. My delegation therefore takes this opportunity to request to this Commission and the Conference to urge traditional as well as new donors to be generous enough once again in their forthcoming pledge, so that the Programme can effectively meet the duties entrusted to it by the world community.

With respect to the target for WFP pledges for the period 1985-86, the 1.35 billion dollars - the figure placed before us - has been endorsed by the CFA and subsequently by the June meeting of the FAO Council. It is a pleasure for my delegation to endorse once again this target and the resolution thereon. The pledge, though modest, can be considered a great success, particularly taking into account the global economic situation which is clearly unfavourable to the developed nations, as it is to the developing ones.

We therefore strongly commend the CFA, with a very special tribute to the donor nations for their continued commitment to the ideals of the Programme and to the Executive Director and his staff for their untiring efforts in helping the neediest sector of the world community.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): Since we are members of the Council we had a chance to discuss the CFA Report that was presented there. We have made our views on the usefulness of the activities of the WFC known and as such I see no need to go over them again, except to say once more that, given the magnitude of problems experienced by recipients of food aid - problems that are brought about by occurrences such as drought, floods and other calamities which are beyond their control - we felt that the pledging target could have been set at a higher rate of \$1.5 billion. However, in view of the unfavourable world economic situation, we compromise on the figure of \$1.35 billion as contained in the draft resolution, of which not less than one third should be in cash and/or services.

With these few remarks my delegation supports the draft resolution as contained in document C 83/LIM/18.

F. LARBI (Tunisie): Ma délégation voudrait remercier le Directeur exécutif du PAM pour la présentation très instructive et claire des activités du PAM qu'il nous a faite hier.

M. le Président, le soutien de mon gouvernement au Programme alimentaire mondial a été clairement présenté par le chef de la délégation tunisienne lors de la seizième session du PAM.

Ma délégation voudrait apporter son appui sans réserve au projet de résolution qui nous est soumis, et souhaiterait que tous les pays membres, tant donateurs que bénéficiaires, n'épargnent aucun effort pour que l'objectif des contributions du PAM, fixé pour la période 1985-86, puisse être pleinement atteint.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I would very much like to be brief. I did not have the privilege of being present here yesterday to hear the introduction of the Director-General and the presentation of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, but I am quite sure that the introduction of the Director-General must have been characterized by his usual depth of insight and invasiveness and the presentation of Mr Ingram must have been, as usual, lucid and convincing.

My country has a very long association with the Programme, both as beneficiary and as a member of the governing body of the Programme. We have seen it grow from a modest beginning to its present size when it is the second largest multilateral assistance programme in the United Nations system. The success of the Programme and the extent of confidence placed upon it is a testimony of the success and the useful results it has achieved. In our experience we have found the Programme to be cost-effective and helpful; we regard food aid as a valuable and unique development resource capable of reaching the poorest people in the poorest and most disadvantaged areas of the developing countries.

We had the privilege of being associated with food aid for a long time and particularly during the last session of the CFA, we heard with happiness the introduction of certain improvements in the management information system which the Executive Director proposes to introduce. We are certain that the Programme will continuously see to it to refine project delivery, to optimize the use of aid so as to ensure that the necessity of aid is phased out as soon as possible.

The need and necessity of increasing contributions to the WFP has never been greater than it is now, when a major portion of a neighbouring continent, Africa, is reeling under the effects of a crippling drought and certain other natural calamities; when man-made disasters are increasing every day and when world hunger and malnutrition are on the increase. We would have very much wished that the pledging target or the contribution target were much higher than what it is if the modest increase was the outcome of mutual consultation, a spirit of compromise and of mutual confidence between the donors and recipients. We honour this target of contribution which has been arrived at in the 15th session of the CFA. However, we would like to urge that at least one third of this contribution be in the shape of cash so as to enable the programme to enter into more triangular transactions to enable the Programme to purchase food and other commodities in developing countries which are in a position to do so.

We deeply appreciate the comment of our colleagues from Canada and Australia when they said that this is a programme where we are all partners, it is a joint venture of donors and recipients and each one according to his capacities must come forward and contribute to the resources of the Programme. My country with the smallest resources - I must remind we are still a food-deficit low-income country - we have been endeavouring, according to our capacity, to contribute to the resources and we are confident and sure that our support to the Programme will be unstinted in times to come.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity of reiterating what we had stated in the resolution of the non-aligned Conference which met in New Delhi last month, that there is an urgent need for increasing the low levels of IEFR and food aid convention because the needs of the world are increasing; and freezing these floor levels is completely unrealistic.

With these words we fully support the contribution level of \$1 350 million for the biennium 1985-86 and we fully support the resolution namely C 83/LIM/5 and commend it for adoption by the Conference.

M. SALAMEH (Syria) (original language Arabic): We would like to thank the FAO Secretariat and the governing body of WFP for their information on the WFP's activity. My delegation supports the various activities of the Programme which are based on high performance, and productive structures which will improve the food situation of the least well off. We think it is extremely important that at this particularly critical time, that donor countries are aware of the task of the Programme. Beneficiary countries should consider its services as a palliative and not as its predestined course, although it is a sustained effort which is being followed by the international community as a whole.

H.P. STRONG (United States of America): Responding to your desire to be brief, Mr. Chairman, I will take just a few moments. The United States delegation associates itself with those delegations which have congratulated the Executive Director and staff of the World Food Programme on its continuing efforts to meet the growing need for food aid and its continuing efforts to participate in the collaborative efforts, with others, in seeking solutions to increased food production in the low-income food-deficit countries.

The United States delegation would like to associate itself with the remarks of the delegates of Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the determination of the pledge target by the CFA. It would also like to associate itself with the remarks of the delegates of Australia, the Netherlands and India on the process enjoyed in the CFA in reaching the pledging target. We also wish to associate ourselves with the delegate of France and others in encouraging wider participation in achieving the proposed target.

The United States delegation strongly supports the efforts of the World Food Programme to continually strengthen its management systems as it is called upon to program and implement food aid projects of increasing numbers and scale, particularly as may be associated with pledging targets of 1985-86. The United States delegation supports the draft resolution which is before us.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El curso de este debate confirma que el PMA viene trabajando bien, que tiene un sólido prestigio, y en esta Conferencia de la FAO es forzoso reconocer que esos buenos éxitos del PMA se deben en buena parte a la estrecha y eficaz cooperación que el Programa ha mantenido con la FAO. Particularmente en materia de asistencia de emergencia, esa cooperación ha demostrado ser funcional y efectiva y, por lo tanto, deberá no sólo mantenerse, sino reformarse.

En relación con el objetivo, la delegación de Colombia ya ha estado en favor de la propuesta inicial de 1 500 millones de dólares; sin embargo nos sumamos al consenso que se logró en el PMA en relación con los 1 350 millones de dólares para 1985-86 y compartimos plenamente las expresiones de aquellos colegas que han dicho que el PMA representa una común empresa solidaria en la que estamos comprometidos todos los países.

Hemos apreciado muchísimo los conceptos valiosos y las explicaciones de otros colegas, como las delegaciones de Canadá, República Federal de Alemania, Francia y Estados Unidos de América, Estados Unidos, un importante país que ha tenido una función esencial y decisiva desde los comienzos del PMA, y el apoyo de todos estos países a este objetivo nos hace ser optimistas para el futuro, porque todos sabemos que en los últimos bienios nunca se ha cumplido el objetivo que se ha establecido aquí, ni tampoco se ha cumplido el compromiso de suministrar por lo menos un tercio de esas contribuciones en efectivo. De ahí que sumemos nuestra voz a la llamada que hicieron, entre otros, los Países Bajos y Etiopía, para que se alcance esta meta y para que todos los países participen con ánimo positivo en la próxima Conferencia de Promesas de Contribución que va a celebrarse a principios de 1984.

Nuestros colegas de Senegal y de la India, particularmente, hicieron referencia al problema de la contribución en efectivo, que ha causado liquidez en el PMA. Nosotros lo apoyamos, así como apoyamos a nuestro colega de la India, país que es Presidente del Grupo de no Alineados, al que pertenece nuestro país, Colombia, en relación con la necesidad de reforzar el PTIE.

Señor Presidente: acogemos su indicación de que no estamos aquí ahora para tratar de las actividades del PMA, sino para referirnos al Proyecto de Resolución. Por eso vamos a limitar nuestra intervención a expresar unas ideas, muy breves y concretas, que tal vez puedan convertirse, si esto fuera pertinente, en orientaciones y directrices acerca de cómo deben utilizarse los recursos que se le van a conceder al PMA a través del Proyecto de Resolución, que sin duda vamos a aprobar.

En nuestra opinión, como han dicho otros colegas, el PMA debe rectificar su tendencia y dedicar más recursos a los proyectos de desarrollo.

En el seno del PMA se debe confirmar el criterio de que no se deben utilizar los alimentos como instrumentos de presión política. Debe seguirse intensificando la flexibilidad en materia de compra de alimentos y, dentro de las condiciones pertinentes, aumentar las compras en los países en desarrollo, eficientes productores; repetir e intensificar las llamadas operaciones triangulares, que son de doble beneficio para los países en desarrollo. La delegación de Colombia piensa que los alimentos del PMA deben asignarse a los países beneficiarios, sólo a la luz de los criterios vigentes, sin que jamás deba aplicarse ninguna discriminación de ningún tipo y menos discriminaciones de carácter político. El PMA debe atender todas las solicitudes que le hagan los países, enviar misiones a conocer la situación alimentaria en esos países, y, sobre el terreno, juzgar si esos países siguen siendo merecedores de ayuda en el caso de que hayan tenido un proyecto y en el caso de que merezcan ser asistidos por el PMA. En ese marco, naturalmente, y dentro de las posibilidades y limitaciones del PMA, deben identificarse y aprobarse los proyectos, pero repetimos, sin discriminación de ninguna clase.

El Gobierno de Colombia aprovecha esta oportunidad para reiterar su más pleno apoyo al PMA.

J. LADAN (Nigeria): My delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat, the Director-General and the Executive Director of the WFP Programme on their presentation of the document on the subject matter placed before us. We fully support the target of US\$ 1.35 billion for the period 1985/86. We all remember that this amount is in fact a compromise amount. In the past it was argued that targets set by international organizations have never been met. Nevertheless it is our hope that this target will be met and even be surpassed. We therefore call on all the traditional donors and the new donors to come forward with more donations.

We in Nigeria fully support the noble objectives of the World Food Programme. We all recognize that food aid is an effective tool of national development if integrated in the national development plan. It should not be seen to replace the national effort towards self-sufficiency. It is also our hope that food aid should be expanded to reach the needy and the displaced persons wherever they are. Food aid should never be used as a political weapon.

We would like to make another point, for the next target point, we all recognize that World Food Programme receives a lot of food aid and this needs to reach the target groups who need this aid. We therefore appeal to the donor countries to increase their cash and services donated. Those countries should try to increase their cash contributions to a minimum target of one-third of their total contributions. In this way the World Food Programme will be able to reach the target groups, it will also provide the necessary funds to implement the triangular transactions which we all support and also encourage. This triangular transaction will encourage the people in their locality to consume the food which they grow and thereby reduce their dependency upon the imported food which they are not used to.

Finally my delegation would like to stress the importance of the coordination between all donor countries whether bilateral or multilateral to channel their aid so that the beneficiaries can be helped more effectively.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Ma délégation a suivi avec attention l'introduction du Directeur général de notre Organisation ainsi que celle du Directeur exécutif du PAM.

Le Bénin apprécie particulièrement le domaine d'intervention du PAM, surtout l'aspect d'aide au service du développement socio-économique ainsi que l'aide d'urgence. Le PAM est une organisation bien adaptée d'aide multilatérale qui a fait ses preuves tant du point de vue de son efficacité que du point de vue de sa gestion. C'est pour cette raison que mon pays appuie l'objectif de 1 350 millions de dollars, souhaite que les pays donateurs augmentent leurs contributions, et que de nouveaux pays donateurs se joignent aux premiers afin que le niveau global d'un milliard 350 millions soit atteint, eu égard au besoin malheureusement grandissant d'aide alimentaire, en particulier en faveur des populations les plus démunies d'Afrique.

Mon pays soutient et appuie sans réserve le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis et recommande son adoption.

M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador): Atendiendo su solicitud, señor Presidente, seré sumamente breve y me referiré únicamente al tema que nos ocupa.

Mi delegación desea manifestar su apoyo al proyecto de Resolución que nos ha sido presentado. Ciertamente, hubiéramos preferido un objetivo de promesas más alto como el presentado inicialmente, sin embargo, somos conscientes de la difícil situación económica que nos rodea y conocemos los esfuerzos realizados para llegar al establecimiento de esta cifra.

Sin embargo, lo fundamental a nuestro juicio no es el establecimiento de una cifra, sino el cumplimiento efectivo de la palabra empeñada. Consideramos imprescindible, por lo tanto, que se realice un esfuerzo más y se cumplan las cantidades prometidas para el presente bienio incrementándose los aportes en efectivo.

Agradecemos a los países donantes su generosidad, pero estimamos que este incumplimiento incide negativamente en las actividades del Programa Mundial de Alimentos cuya efectividad está ampliamente comprobada y se ratifica cada día más. Dicha efectividad nuestra delegación puede afirmarla con un completo conocimiento ya que nuestro país ha recibido siempre del PMA una ayuda oportuna y amplia. En estos momentos en que el drama que vive El Salvador aumenta nuestras necesidades, el Programa ha acudido con mayor esmero a socorrernos tomando en cuenta la eficiencia con la cual nuestros técnicos llevan a la práctica los proyectos y la entrega de los alimentos que hace el gobierno a todos los que los necesitan, sin discriminación de ninguna especie.

Por ello apoyamos el Proyecto de Resolución y hacemos votos por que la Conferencia de Promesas de Contribuciones que se realizará a principios del próximo año sea todo un éxito y que se cumpla este objetivo de 1 350 millones de dólares, y principalmente que se incrementen sustancialmente los aportes en efectivo.

Para concluir ratificamos nuestro apoyo y satisfacción por la forma en que viene trabajando el Programa, así como también manifestamos nuestra felicitación al Director Ejecutivo y a su personal por su eficiencia y eficacia.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): M. le Président, avant toute chose, permettez-nous d'adresser nos remerciements à M. Régnier, ainsi qu'à M. Ingram, pour leurs exposés préliminaires au projet de résolution qui nous est soumis.

Membre du PCA et du Conseil de la FAO, nous avons déjà eu l'occasion d'exprimer notre position concernant les activités du PAM. Notre délégation est satisfaite de la manière dont le PAM gère les ressources mises à sa disposition et saisit cette occasion pour féliciter le Directeur exécutif du PAM et ses collaborateurs et leur renouveler sa confiance.

Compte tenu des nombreuses demandes reçues, tout en restant objectif, le secrétariat du PAM a présenté une demande de 1,5 milliard de dollars sur la base de laquelle un consensus a été obtenu pour 1 350 millions pour le biennium 1984-85.

Nous venons d'entendre les délégués de quelques pays donateurs, ainsi que ceux de quelques pays bénéficiaires et nous nous réjouissons de la volonté manifeste des uns et des autres d'assurer la survie du PAM.

Au cours de la dernière session du CPA, nous avons adopté 18 projets sélectionnés par le secrétariat du PAM parmi de nombreux autres.

Ainsi que nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de le dire, comme la FAO et le FIDA, le PAM figure parmi les institutions qui oeuvrent pour lutter contre la faim qui sévit dans de nombreux pays, à côté d'autres pays qui courent à l'armement et y consacrent d'importantes sommes en même temps qu'ils se résignent à acquitter leurs contributions, au sein d'institutions telles que le PAM, au nom d'un soi-disant principe de croissance zéro.

Nous aussi souhaitons que de plus en plus de ressources soient allouées au PAM sous forme multilatérale, plus que sous forme bilatérale, compte tenu des risques de pression auxquels cette dernière forme expose ses bénéficiaires. Nous souhaitons qu'au moins 30 pour cent des contributions soient versées sous forme liquide, pour permettre le financement des coûts annexes et la distribution des vivres ainsi que les opérations triangulaires.

Nous soutenons aussi que l'aide doit être allouée davantage aux projets de développement dans lesquels elle doit être intégrée comme une composante au financement desdits projets.

Les besoins du PAM sont immenses, et, à cette occasion, nous lançons un appel à tous ceux qui peuvent le faire pour qu'ils s'acquittent de leurs contributions sans se réserver d'y apporter des contributions supplémentaires.

C'est dans cette perspective que nous soutenons le budget 1984-85 du PAM ainsi que le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis.

Nous souhaitons un plein succès à la prochaine rencontre pour les contributions qui aura lieu en 1984.

G.E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): Quisiera dejar constancia de nuestro agradecimiento a las presentaciones realizadas en nombre del Director General y por la clara y sincera exposición que nos hiciera el señor Ingram en la tarde de ayer.

Asimismo deseo felicitar a todos los colaboradores del señor Ingram que hace posible que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos continúe realizando un buen trabajo.

Mi delegación ha dado siempre su apoyo irrestricto a las labores del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y nuestra confianza en el Organismo se ha reflejado en un incremento constante de nuestra participación a través de contribuciones en alimentos. Es así como en el último año hemos triplicado nuestra contribución al Programa Mundial de Alimentos, y por otra parte quiero señalar que en más del 40 por ciento del total de la ayuda alimentaria argentina se realiza a través de canales multilaterales.

Por otra parte, y esto es la primera vez que lo hacemos, la Argentina ha contribuido a la reserva alimentaria internacional de emergencia.

Mi país, señor Presidente, continuará prestando su cooperación al Programa Mundial de Alimentos en la medida de sus posibilidades y, consecuentemente, damos nuestro total apoyo a las metas sugeridas en el Proyecto de Resolución puesto a nuestra consideración.

Entendemos, sí, como lo han señalado varias otras delegaciones, que este es un esfuerzo común de la comunidad internacional y que todos los países miembros deberíamos participar en este esfuerzo común en la máxima medida que permitan las posibilidades de cada Estado.

Por último, quisiéramos sumarnos también a aquellas delegaciones que han señalado la importancia que se asigna a los proyectos para el desarrollo, aunque reconocemos el dramatismo y la importancia que a veces tienen las operaciones de emergencia.

Quisiéramos señalar, al igual que lo hizo la distinguida representación de Colombia y creo que algunas otras más, que para la Argentina, y esto es una constante de su política exterior, los alimentos no pueden ni deben ser utilizados bajo ningún concepto como un arma de presión política o económica.

O. BILBEISI (Jordan) (original language Arabic): First allow me to say that WFP has been, and still is, undoubtedly, one of the most efficient international aid channels, especially in Jordan. The assistance received in Jordan has enabled us to settle thousands of rural families in their villages at a time when other sources of income are more attractive like trade and services.

Thousands of hectares of olive trees were planted thereby increasing income levels in rural areas and attaining self-sufficiency in olive oil at the national level. Even more trees were planted increasing the green spaces with the accruing benefits at economic, touristic and aesthetic levels.

We would like to thank the Executive Director and his collaborators for the valuable and efficient assistance received from WFP. Hence we support the draft resolution contained in document C 83/LIM/18 and we support the 1.35 billion dollar pledging target for 1984-1985. We thank all donor countries for their contributions and urge them to maintain or even increase them given the development needs of the Third World countries. Food assistance cannot be a one-time assistance, it should be linked to agricultural development. Cash contributions are bound to increase the efficiency and flexibility of the programme.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the Merciful and the Compassionate: my delegation would like at the outset to express its deep appreciation for the re-election of Egypt as a member of the CFA. Moreover, after listening to the speeches of the Director-General and the Executive Director and leafing through documents C 83/LIM/5 and C 83/LIM/18 we would like to express satisfaction for achieving both a surplus in funds and 81 percent of our target. IEFER has achieved its goals and WFP has increased its operations, with particular attention being given to Africa.

Allow me to make the following comments. Firstly, cash contributions have not attained the target, whilst we agree to enable WFP to buy some foodstuffs and implement certain activities. We thereby launch an appeal to states to honour their pledges.

Secondly, food aid is a challenge to agricultural development projects to the detriment of infrastructure projects. We believe both kinds of projects contribute to development, hence a balance should be struck in the volume of assistance.

Thirdly, we countenance increasing the reserves of the IEFER in view of the vital role it plays in emergency situations.

We have always commended WFP, which has helped us implement numerous projects. We hope to obtain more food aid in the framework of our new projects in keeping with CFA's guidelines linking assistance to specific projects. Egypt has seriously implemented WFP assistance projects and achieved undeniably positive results.

Finally, we hope that the discussions on the utilisation of contributions in kind will be crowned with success. We also support the Draft Resolution before us. We hope that the pledging Conference next year will also be successful.

L. MOHAPELOA (Lesotho): My delegation wishes, like other delegates who have spoken before it today to extend its congratulations to the Director-General and to the Executive Director of the WFP and their staff on their clear presentation on the matter before us.

We have noted the increase over the years in the resources of the WFP and we see this as a positive indication of the concern of the international community over the plight of the destitute and displaced persons.

We welcome the proposal as it stands and in supporting it would like particularly to draw attention to and emphasise the role that will be played by food aid in this period, as the resources available on a multilateral basis appear to be very scarce.

We have had occasion before today to support this in Council and we take the floor here only to underline the strong support that we give to the proposal.

P. OLMOS MORALES (Uruguay): Mi delegación desea expresar su complacencia por el informe presentado a través del Sr. Régnier por parte del Director General de FAO y al detallado informe presentado por el Director Ejecutivo del PMA, Sr. Ingram. En ese sentido ha sido una cabal demostración de la efectividad de este Programa que como se ha señalado, constituye el segundo programa por su monto dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Mi delegación desea expresar su apoyo al proyecto de resolución presentado tanto en lo que concierne a las metas propuestas como a los aspectos institucionales señalados. Los fundamentos de nuestro apoyo están basados en los lineamientos por los cuales se ha seguido el funcionamiento del Programa.

En primer lugar, nuestro apoyo a la ayuda multilateral. Consideramos que ese es uno de los elementos esenciales del funcionamiento del Programa y particularmente en todo lo que tiene que ver con los Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria para el Desarrollo. Creemos que es esa una de las maneras de instrumentar los objetivos y estrategias planteadas por parte de la Organización.

Esto no significa que dejemos de lado las necesarias ayudas de emergencia sobre todo frente a situaciones de catástrofes o de emergencias provocadas en los distintos lugares del mundo.

Por otra parte, nuestro punto de vista en cuanto a que uno de los factores como se ha señalado por parte de otras delegaciones del funcionamiento tan efectivo del Programa ha sido fruto de una adecuada coordinación en el apoyo técnico y administrativo otorgado al PMA por parte de la FAO, y en ese sentido nuestro apoyo a que esa alternativa se siga desarrollando en esa forma.

Nuestro país también desea reiterar su posición tradicional de que la ayuda alimentaria no sea un instrumento de fusión política. En ese sentido a través de los distintos órganos de Naciones Unidas así lo hemos obtenido y estimamos oportuno volverlo a hacer en este momento.

Finalmente deseo expresar, Sr. Presidente, que si bien nuestro país no ha participado hasta este momento como donante dentro del Programa, estamos estudiando dentro de nuestras posibilidades nuestra futura participación como donantes tanto en alimentos como en efectivo, y, además, nuestra disposición dentro de las posibilidades y las perspectivas futuras a participar en mecanismos de operaciones triangulares dentro del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

MOHO. YASIN bin MOHD. SALLEH (Malaysia): The delegation of Malaysia wishes to join previous delegations in commending Mr Régnier and Mr Ingrani for the introduction yesterday. We would also like to express our satisfaction for the work being done by WFP since its inception.

On the draft resolution on the target for WFP pledges for the period 1985-86, as contained in document C 83/LIM/5 and document C 83/LIM/18, my delegation wishes to give our support to the target of \$1 350 million, of which not less than one third should be in cash and/or services.

R.F.J. NETO (Angola): Ma délégation a suivi avec attention l'introduction faite par le Directeur général et dont M. Régnier nous a donné lecture. Elle félicite le Directeur exécutif du PAM pour l'excellent exposé qu'il a fait hier. C'est avec intérêt que ma délégation a examiné le projet de résolution présenté sur les objectifs des contributions au PAM pour la période 1985-86. Le PAM a démontré, ces dernières années, de quoi il était capable pour contribuer au développement économique de certains pays membres et intervenir dans les cas d'urgence.

Comme chacun le sait, l'aide alimentaire dans les pays en développement est un facteur déterminant pour la réussite de certains projets. Nous sommes défenseurs de cet argument, car nous sommes nous-mêmes bénéficiaires de l'aide du PAM fournie au titre de l'assistance aux projets socio-économiques dans notre secteur du café et de l'industrie laitière.

Le PAM a affirmé sa détermination à aider les pays en développement à faible revenu pour n'avoir pas réduit ses ressources. Cela étant, nous approuvons ces objectifs pour 1985-86 estimés à un milliard 350 millions de dollars. Mais étant donné le nombre toujours croissant de besoins, nous demandons aux pays donateurs qu'ils fassent des contributions supplémentaires parce que l'assistance du PAM a réellement un impact positif tant du point de vue économique que du point de vue de l'amélioration de la diète alimentaire. Des milliers de réfugiés et de personnes déplacées existent aujourd'hui dans le monde en général et dans mon pays en particulier, et comme vous le savez, nous sommes également bénéficiaires de l'assistance d'urgence du PAM en raison de la présence sur notre territoire des réfugiés des pays voisins et des populations déplacées, qui sont pour la plupart victimes d'actes barbares perpétrés contre notre peuple et contre les peuples opprimés de la Namibie et de l'Afrique du Sud avec l'aval de Prétoria.

En terminant, au nom de la délégation de la République populaire d'Angola, je remercie très sincèrement le Directeur général d'avoir sensibilisé l'opinion sur les problèmes des pays africains, d'un certain nombre de pays africains confrontés à de graves problèmes sur le plan alimentaire et, M. Ingram, de la disposition qu'il a toujours montrée d'aller au secours de nos populations frappées soit par les guerres, soit par la misère ou par une calamité naturelle.

A.R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation a vivement apprécié le message du Directeur général de la FAO dont M. Régnier nous a donné lecture. Nous voulons aussi adresser nos félicitations au Directeur exécutif du PAM, M. Ingram, pour la très bonne présentation qu'il a faite hier.

Ma délégation joint sa voix à celles des délégués qui m'ont précédé pour souligner l'importance de l'accroissement des ressources du PAM. Nous nous félicitons qu'une importance particulière soit attachée au projet de développement et également que la contribution en espèces soit stimulée en vue de permettre une coopération triangulaire entre les pays en voie de développement en matière d'auto-suffisance alimentaire.

Nous appuyons sans réserve la résolution C 83/LIM/5 et demandons son adoption par la Conférence.

Nous exprimons également notre satisfaction quant au rôle dynamique joué par la FAO en ce qui concerne la procédure des requêtes alimentaires d'urgence en coopération étroite avec le PAM.

Pour terminer, peut-on suggérer que pour notre information soit entreprise une évaluation de l'impact des activités du PAM quant au soutien des projets et programmes de développement.

G.J. BOXÁLL (New Zealand): We would like to thank, firstly, the Executive Director and his staff for their efforts in their work of the Programme to make it as effective as it is. As Council members we have made our voice known on the Programme on many occasions, and here we would like to add our voice to the general support already expressed in this debate.

New Zealand views the Programme as an effective and responsible provider of food aid which pays due attention not only to the difficulties inherent in aid of this sort, but making sure it reaches the people who need it most.

New Zealand has also joined calls for donors to channel more of their food aid through multilateral channels. In recent years we have provided very little food aid on a bilateral basis. Our contributions to the World Food Programme and to agriculture, through bilateral aid and the multilateral agencies, have been the main ways in which we have tried to assist, in efforts to relieve hunger in the world.

Apart from our regular and occasional ad hoc contributions, New Zealand had earlier contributed to the World Food Programme non-food items account, which provides tools and other equipment for use in association with food aid projects. In 1982-83 an extra 45 thousand dollars was given to finalize cooperation in this area.

We commend the work done by the non-food unit of the Programme and we see this as a vital aspect of the overall work programme of the Organization.

Finally, New Zealand would like to add its voice to those who have supported the Programme's budget, and the Resolution before the Commission today. We also hope that the targets set are met at the Pledging Conference next year.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Deseo en primer lugar agradecer al Director General y al Director Ejecutivo el Sr. Ingram por la presentación del tema y por la ayuda que ha brindado el PMA.

Nuestra delegación se suma al resto de las Delegaciones que han expresado y elogiado la importancia y el impacto altamente positivo en los países más pobres de la ayuda del Programa Mundial de Alimentos tanto en lo que se refiere a la ayuda de emergencia como a la del desarrollo.

Por último, nuestra delegación desea expresar su apoyo al proyecto de Resolución.

L. AL-ANSI (Yemen Arab Republic) (original language Arabic): My delegation would like to avail itself of this opportunity to welcome the efforts of the Director-General of FAO, and of the Executive Director of WFP, and also the efforts made by the Secretariat, in preparing these excellent documents. We should also like to pay tribute to the effort made by the Director-General of FAO, and by the Executive Director of WFP, in order that ensured the success of the Programme's activities and we hope that the WFP will carry on on these lines.

We had some comments to make, but since most delegations who spoke before us have already fully dwelt on this matter; the priorities which WFP has to meet, that is to say to give priority to agricultural and to rural development, my comments can be very brief.

I would like to say that my delegation gives its full support to the draft resolution in document C 83/LIM/5, and also to the content of document C 83/LIM/18.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): May I, first of all, join other delegates in extending my delegation's congratulations to the Director-General on his message, and to the Executive Director for his introduction of this subject.

We feel that WFP has been, and continues to be, a very efficient and effective channel of multilateral aid to the developing countries. It is, indeed, heartening to note that WFP enjoys the enthusiastic support of both developed and developing countries, and has acquired a unique status in the UN system, both for its volume of delivery, and efficiency, and effectiveness of this delivery.

In the last CFA, Mr Chairman, the CFA examined in detail two cases of recipient countries, and reached the conclusion that food aid in the form of project food aid; programme food aid, and emergency food aid, is and can be a very useful and meaningful intervention to help developing countries in their efforts at development. In view of the efficacy of food aid and efficiency of WFP, we were happier with the target originally proposed by the Executive Director, that is of 1.5 billion dollars. However, in view of the fact that even 1.35 billion dollars target still gives some increase to the WFP resources over the previous target of 1.2 billion, we are very happy to join in supporting the resolution, and we urge the donors not only to meet this target, but to exceed it if possible.

We also wish to emphasize that one third of the contribution should be in cash or services, to enable the WFP to acquire the necessary flexibility which only cash resources can give.

F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, my delegation, after having listened to the statement by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP and after having studied documents C83/LIM/5 and C83/LIM/18, would like to give its full support to the draft resolution. We hope that the pledging target for 1985-86 will be reached because the requests for projects are tremendous and resources are therefore urgently needed.

In Kuwait, we feel that our contribution to WFP is a very modest one. We do not benefit from WFP activities but we do try to give our support to the different activities of the Programme carried out jointly with the Kuwaiti Economic Development Fund, and we hope that our participation in the activity of WFP will increase in the future. However, I cannot make any promises of a more concrete nature. Nevertheless the activities of my Government in agriculture, rural development and fisheries are increasing, and we therefore hope that our participation in WFP will also increase.

S. SIDIBE (Mali): Après bien d'autres delegations, la délégation du Mali, membre du CPA jusqu'en 1984, se doit de féliciter le PAM pour l'efficacité de l'assistance qu'il apporte à nos pays du Sahel frappés par la sécheresse depuis près de 10 ans.

L'exposé fait hier au nom du Directeur général par M. Régnier et celui de M. Ingram rencontrent l'appui de mon pays parce qu'ils reflètent son point de vue. Par conséquent, nous soutenons sans réserve les projets de résolution C83/LIM/5 et C83/LIM/18 qui nous sont proposés. Nous souhaitons profiter de cette occasion pour remercier tous les donateurs qui apportent au PAM une contribution généreuse.

J.C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): Mr Chairman, I thought yesterday afternoon when I finished my presentation and there seemed to be a hesitation on the part of some to speak, that perhaps it was a good thing because we spent so much time listening to speeches, but after hearing today's speeches I think, it is very good indeed that so many delegations did participate, because what it means, I think, is that we can be even more confident than we were when the target itself was first proposed by the CFA that it will not only be reached but hopefully also surpassed. I think it is on the basis of such arousing support for the target that one can in fact feel rather confident on this occasion.

I think also I should urge once again that the greatest number of countries should contribute. It has been pointed out by several that the smallest contributions, whether in kind or in money, are always welcome, and many of those quite small contributions from developing countries do in fact play a very useful role in this Programme. I have just written, in fact, letters to the governments of all the countries, members of the United Nations and the FAO, and urged upon them the importance of their contributions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the delegations who have expressed their strong support to WFP and for what we are doing. I want to tell you that that does not make us complacent at all. On the contrary it is a spur to new endeavours, new efforts, to make our impact even greater, especially in the poorest countries, and I think I can also say that the greater the trust placed in us the greater is our sense of responsibility for carrying out that trust.

Finally, Mr Chairman, there are just one or two small points that I think I would like to mention. One of them relates to the Resolution and the fact that it does not make any reference to the IEF target. I think it would be a useful idea for future resolutions of this kind to refer specifically to the IEF. I think it is an excellent suggestion, and the next time this issue arises in the CFA I think we should proceed on that basis.

I think I should perhaps explain, however, that the IEF target was laid down in - I think it is 1975 - by the United Nations General Assembly. That target has not of course been revised; it is a fixed target and was laid down by the General Assembly. The target for the WFP's regular resources is something which under the terms of the basic document of WFP must be fixed each two years, so that fundamentally is the reason why this particular resolution does not refer to the EFR, but as I say I agree it would be useful for consideration to be given to an appropriate reference in future years.

Mr Chairman, when I was a student we used to hear about the use and abuse of statistics, lies, damned lies and statistics, and to the extent that quite often it was said you can prove anything from statistics. Well, I do not propose to prove anything because I would not dare to prove anything from statistics, but I simply would like to say a word or two about project trends. The fact of the matter is that in an Organization such as WFP where the size of average, or the average size of projects is large - namely 10 million dollars is the average size of projects - it is inevitable that there will be variations from year to year. Variations from year to year simply are not statistically significant. What counts is overall trends, and if you look at the overall trends for the last five years - I think that is a reasonable period to take - for example for agriculture and rural development the average share of total commitments taken by that sector has been 60 percent. In this current year we expect it to be 63.5 percent, so it still exceeds the average for the past five years. That average itself was affected by a very high figure in 1982. Similarly for social and economic infrastructure the figure for 1983 is in excess of the average five-year figure.

I would also like to say that of course the balance that is struck reflects by and large the priorities that individual governments themselves assign, and many governments believe that the emphasis on human resources development should enjoy high priority, and indeed many of the countries that spoke today from the developing countries, their governments do in fact place a very high priority on human resources development. So in effect the trend is very positive in relation to agriculture and rural development, but one should not forget that the other sectors which all relate to human resources development do also enjoy a high priority among many recipient governments.

Finally about purchases, Mr Chairman, in developing countries and triangular transactions - The member delegations will be pleased to know that at the present time the Programme is making a very sustained effort to make purchases in Africa itself for helping with the current drought situation, and we are investigating very actively in some countries, a few countries of West Africa, which are relatively well placed. Unfortunately at the present time the only substantial source of white maize, which is very important in many countries in Africa, is in Kenya, and there the Programme expects to purchase any moment 100 000 tons of white maize worth 20 million dollars. In fact that is all the white maize that can be bought in Kenya. We need more than that and we are pressing in fact to get more, but the outlook is not particularly optimistic. I say all that, Mr Chairman, because I would not want delegates to leave feeling that there was some slackening in the Programme's efforts and endeavours to purchase food from the developing countries themselves.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, very briefly, I am very glad to note the unanimous support for the Director-General's statement, and in regard to that I will not enter into any arguments with delegates. I shall simply say that in view of what the Executive Director has just said we can look forward, or we will look forward, to positive moves in the next biennium on the question of diversion of resources to productive projects and on local purchases, subject of course to the availability of suitable foods.

The Director-General I am sure will be very pleased for the support given to the resolution, and in that context to the general support given by many delegates to the need to make cash contributions of at least one-third. He will also be gratified by the support for the IEFER and for adequate pledges to be made at the Pledging Conference.

In this connection I should mention that in a resolution on food security under discussion in Commission I, there is a reference to the need to reach or even exceed the target of the IEFER, so it has not been altogether forgotten on this occasion.

With that, Mr Chairman, let me say once again thank you to all the delegates and yourself on behalf of the Director-General.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, and in summary all the 43 delegations that spoke gave full support to the draft resolution and advocated its unanimous adoption as reflected in document C 83/LIM/18. Delegates saw the target of \$1 350 million as a happy compromise arrived at in the spirit of cooperation and consensus among partners. The deliberations leading to the formulation of the Resolution by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes were appreciated. The need for the World Food Programme to sustain its momentum of delivery and the development reorientation was underlined, and in that connection the appeal was made to all donors, traditional and new, to attend the Pledging Conference to be held in 1984 and to contribute to reaching its target. It was noted that in this Conference pledges will be made both for the regular resources of the World Food Programme and for the International Emergency Reserve Fund. Satisfaction was expressed that the IEFER had in the past two years reached its minimum target of 500 000 tons of cereal. However, tills was largely insufficient to meet growing needs and the strong hope was expressed that a greater percentage of total food aid could be put through multilateral channels. The Commission stressed that cash and services components of pledges should amount to at least one third of total contributions.

On this note we shall pass the draft resolution on to Conference for adoption. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 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 83/II/PV/13

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRTEENTH MEETING

TREIZIEME SEANCE

13^a SESION

(17 November 1983)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours,
S. Padmanagara, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 10 h 15, sous la présidence de
S. Padmanagara, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 13^a sesión a las 10.15 horas, bajo la presidencia de
S. Padmanagara, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

16. Relations and consultations with International Organizations:

16. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales :

16. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales:

16.1 Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO

16.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO

16.1 Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO

CHAIRMAN: This morning we have agenda item 16, and we will first take agenda item 16.1. This consists of two distinct parts. One is the Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO, and the other part is the Review of the International Development Strategy. Mr Regnier will introduce the first subject, and Mr Shah will introduce the second subject.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des Affaires interinstitutions): C'est pour moi un privilège d'introduire, au nom du Directeur général, le point 16 de l'ordre du jour: "Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO".

Le Conseil, il y a quelques jours, en a déjà brièvement traité. Je me bornerai donc maintenant à souligner les principaux événements survenus au cours des derniers mois.

Il est en effet trop tôt pour parler de la session en cours de l'Assemblée générale qui traitera évidemment d'un certain nombre de sujets d'intérêt direct pour la FAO. La question ayant été posée il y a deux semaines au Conseil, j'ajouterai toutefois qu'à ce stade il n'est pas encore clair si oui ou non l'Assemblée générale discutera du lancement possible des "négociations globales".

Plusieurs réunions d'importance pour la FAO se sont tenues dans la période sous revue. Je citerai, dans l'ordre, la CNUCED et le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation en juin; l'ECOSOC en juillet.

Il est fait état de la 6ème session de la CNUCED aux paragraphes 30 à 45 du document C 83/19 Sup.1. La Conférence a adopté une série de résolutions dans les domaines des produits, du commerce, des liquidités, des finances et du développement qui constituent un programme de mesures immédiates.

Il intéressera sans doute votre Commission de savoir que la date limite fixée par la CNUCED pour la mise en place du Fonds Commun des produits de base a expiré le 30 septembre sans que le nombre nécessaire de ratifications ait été atteint. Il incombe maintenant à la CNUCED et à ses Etats Membres, en particulier ceux qui ont déjà ratifié le Fonds, de déterminer les mesures et dispositions qu'ils comptent prendre en la matière.

Quoi qu'il en soit, l'appui de la FAO sera sans doute nécessaire pour donner suite à un certain nombre de résolutions de la CNUCED VI. La résolution sur le Fonds Commun laisse entendre que les Etats Membres de plusieurs groupes intergouvernementaux de la FAO voudront peut-être envisager des projets pouvant être financés au titre du deuxième guichet du Fonds Commun. Il est aussi probable que la FAO sera invitée à assister le Secrétariat de la CNUCED en ce qui concerne la préparation de la réunion du Groupe d'experts sur les mesures financières de compensation et pour le suivi de la résolution sur le protectionnisme, les aménagements de structure et les services. La résolution sur la coopération économique entre pays en développement prie d'ailleurs expressément la FAO d'appuyer les efforts déployés par ces pays pour mettre en oeuvre des programmes de coopération économique. entre eux.

La deuxième réunion à laquelle je souhaite me référer est celle du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. Les conclusions et recommandations de cette session figurent à l'annexe C du document. Le Conseil a réaffirmé la nécessité d'augmenter la production vivrière et, dans ce contexte, a souligné l'importance de mettre en oeuvre le Programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

Il a donné tout son appui au concept élargi de sécurité alimentaire mondiale adopté par le Conseil de la FAO et a demandé aux gouvernements et à toutes les organisations du système d'appliquer ce nouveau concept dans toute la mesure possible.

Le Conseil a également donné son appui à l'étude, entamée par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, des contraintes qui pèsent sur la production alimentaire dans les pays d'Afrique à déficit vivrier et encouragé la FAO dans ses efforts pour lancer une campagne panafricaine de lutte contre la peste bovine et à en assurer la coordination nécessaire.

J'en viens maintenant à la session juillet 1983 du Conseil économique et social dont certaines conclusions intéressent directement la FAO.

Ainsi qu'il est indiqué dans le document C 83/19 Sup. 1, paragraphes 3 à 12, le Conseil a choisi, cette année, les secteurs de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et de la population pour l'examen intersectoriel, qu'il a décidé de conduire régulièrement, des plans à moyen terme des organisations du système des Nations Unies.

Lors de cette discussion sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture, la FAO a rappelé le rôle majeur qui lui est imparti dans le secteur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et présenté brièvement ses activités, ses programmes, ses priorités. La résolution 1983/78, adoptée par l'ECOSOC à la fin de son débat, figure à l'annexe A. Elle réaffirme l'importance et la priorité qui doivent être accordées à l'alimentation et à l'agriculture et souligne l'importance d'une assistance extérieure financière et technique adéquate à ce secteur, notamment par la voie multilatérale. Par ailleurs, l'ECOSOC a, lui aussi, donné son plein appui au concept élargi de sécurité alimentaire mondiale, élaboré par la FAO.

Enfin, dans une autre résolution, concernant les examens interorganisationnels futurs, le Conseil prie le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies de formuler dans les rapports qu'il établira à l'avenir des conclusions et des recommandations spécifiques fondées sur une "évaluation analytique des activités et des programmes des organismes des Nations Unies dans les secteurs retenus". Au cours de la discussion de cette résolution, certaines organisations, dont la FAO, ont souligné que la référence à une "évaluation analytique" des activités pourrait soulever des problèmes, tant pratiques que constitutionnels, dans la mesure où de telles évaluations ne devraient et, en réalité du fait de la complexité des programmes des organisations spécialisées tant au siège que sur le terrain, ne sauraient émaner que de ces organisations elles-mêmes et de leurs organes directeurs.

Le Conseil, il y a deux semaines, a également marqué une certaine inquiétude à ce sujet; ainsi que mentionné dans son rapport, on y a fait valoir que seules les organisations intéressées et leurs organes directeurs pouvaient procéder à des évaluations fiables et faisant autorité.

En ce qui concerne les activités opérationnelles pour le développement auxquelles se réfèrent les paragraphes 17 à 29 du document en considération, il me suffira d'indiquer que le Conseil économique et social n'a pris aucune résolution, mais a transmis à la présente session de l'Assemblée générale le rapport préparé par le Directeur général au développement et à la coopération économique internationale. Le rapport mentionne, entre autres, le caractère pluraliste du système des Nations Unies et la flexibilité qui en découle. Au cours du débat, les principales questions abordées par l'ECOSOC ont tourné autour de la mobilisation et du mode d'utilisation des ressources consacrées aux activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies.

Dans la documentation qui est en votre possession, on se réfère également au renforcement de la capacité du système des Nations Unies de faire face aux situations d'urgence.

L'ECOSOC en juillet a pris acte avec satisfaction du rapport présenté par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et a reconnu qu'un système adéquat existait désormais pour promouvoir, faciliter et coordonner les activités de secours des organismes des Nations Unies en coopération, avec les gouvernements intéressés. Le Conseil a demandé au Secrétaire général de soumettre à l'Assemblée générale en 1984, des propositions précises pour donner suite aux conclusions du rapport.

Le document C 83/19-Sup.I. fait également référence à la coopération technique et économique entre pays en développement. Cette question a été examinée au cours de différentes réunions récemment et, tout d'abord, lors de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et de la coordination des Nations Unies (CPC) et du Comité administratif de coordination (CAC) les 4 et 5 juillet.

Lors de cette réunion, le Directeur général a expliqué comment la FAO s'employait, depuis plusieurs années, à promouvoir et à appuyer la coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement dans ses domaines de compétence. Cette priorité apparaissait tant dans le programme de travail en cours que pour celui de 1984-1985. Le Directeur général a, notamment, indiqué que la FAO envisageait d'organiser en 1985 une deuxième consultation technique sur la CEPD. A l'issue de cette réunion conjointe, il a été convenu que le CAC aborderait cette question à sa prochaine session et ferait rapport au CPC en 1984.

Le rapport de la réunion commune C/AC/CPC a été soumis à l'ECOSOC qui a adopté une importante résolution dont le texte se trouve en annexe au document C 83/19 Sup.I, demandant aux organisations du système des Nations Unies d'évaluer et de renforcer leurs capacités et leur potentiel de promotion de la coopération économique et technique entre pays en voie de développement. La FAO a également participé à la réunion du Comité intergouvernemental du suivi et de coordination du Groupe des 77 sur la coopération entre les pays en développement qui s'est tenue à Tunis en septembre 1983.

M. le Président, le document C 83/19 Sup.I fait également état du rôle de la FAO tant dans les préparatifs de certaines conférences mondiales organisées dans le cadre des Nations Unies – comme la Conférence sur la population qui aura lieu en 1984 - ou dans le suivi de certaines conférences qui ont déjà eu lieu - telle, par exemple, la Conférence pour combattre le racisme et la discrimination raciale.

Je ne voudrais pas détailler ces mesures : elles sont amplement décrites dans les documents devant vous. Je me permettrai seulement d'attirer votre attention sur les deux points suivants.

D'une part, les préparatifs pour la deuxième Conférence internationale sur l'assistance aux réfugiés en Afrique, ICARA II, qui aura lieu à Genève en mai 1984. Je voudrais rappeler que la FAO apporte son concours à l'équipe technique qui doit se rendre dans chacun des pays affectés pour évaluer, avec le gouvernement, l'incidence sur l'économie de la présence des réfugiés. L'Organisation assiste également les gouvernements dans la détermination de leurs besoins et la formulation de projets spécifiques à soumettre au financement d'ICARA II.

D'autre part, le document, dans ses paragraphes 79 à 88, détaille les résultats de la Cinquième session du Comité intergouvernemental de la science et de la technique au service du développement. Cette dernière session a permis d'arriver à un accord sur les procédures de prise de décisions au sein du Conseil exécutif du système de financement. Malheureusement, la question du financement elle-même a été laissée en suspens, ce qui fait peser une incertitude sur les activités du système des Nations Unies dans ce secteur.

Le dernier point que je souhaiterais aborder concerne les rapports de la FAO avec la Commission économique et sociale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique. Le document C 83/19-Sup.I, aux paragraphes 107 à 113, indique dans quelles conditions le Comité du Programme et de la coordination des Nations Unies a été conduit à examiner les activités de ladite Commission dans le secteur de l'alimentation et l'agriculture et à faire part de sa préoccupation concernant les chevauchements possibles d'activités avec la FAO, en particulier à propos de la sécurité alimentaire.

A la suite d'un entretien entre le Directeur général de la FAO et le Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission économique et sociale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, la FAO et la Commission sont convenues de renforcer leurs consultations afin d'assurer l'harmonisation de leurs activités. La déclaration commune du Directeur général de la FAO et du Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission économique régionale représente aussi une étape importante en vue de définir le rôle respectif des deux organisations. Aux termes de celle-ci la Commission concentrera ses activités sur les aspects économiques et sociaux de certaines questions dans le domaine de l'alimentation et l'agriculture. D'une manière générale, elle choisit des questions qui complètent les activités de la FAO.

A sa session de mai 1983, le Comité du Programme et de la coordination des Nations Unies s'est déclaré satisfait de cette déclaration commune. Il a en outre exprimé qu'il appartenait aux deux Secrétariats intéressés d'informer leurs organes intergouvernementaux de tout chevauchement qui pourrait naître de l'adoption par ces organes de nouveaux mandats.

Ces informations sont soumises pour tous commentaires que la Conférence souhaiterait présenter.

J'espère qu'avec ces quelques mots d'introduction, les documents pourront être ouverts à la discussion, et je me tiens bien entendu à votre disposition pour toute information additionnelle que vous souhaiteriez recevoir.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La declaración clara y completa del Sr. Régnier al presentar este tema indica claramente el lamentable declino de la cooperación multilateral, hecho que por lo demás se ha confirmado en esta Conferencia, que casi está para concluir, a través de actitudes, reservas y hechos que confirman esa tendencia que la legislación de Colombia rechaza.

Para dar algún contenido a esta afirmación inicial que estamos haciendo podríamos citar como ejemplo el diálogo Norte-Sur, las negociaciones globales, el Fondo Común, el PNUD, el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA).

Cada vez que en reuniones anteriores del Consejo y de la Conferencia la delegación de Colombia ha intervenido sobre este tema hemos expresado nuestra preocupación por el retardo en cuanto al comienzo de las negociaciones globales relacionadas con la cooperación económica internacional para el desarrollo.

En el primero de los documentos, el C 83/19, se dice que no ha habido ningún progreso sobre esas negociaciones globales, y ese documento tiene fecha de abril de 1983. En el segundo documento, el C 83/19-Sup.I que tiene fecha de septiembre de 1983, o sea seis meses después, ya ni siquiera se habla de esas negociaciones. Quisiéramos preguntar al Sr. Régnier si pudiera, cuando responda a las observaciones que planteen los miembros de esta Comisión, ahondar un poco más en sus informaciones y decirnos qué ha pasado con respecto a esas negociaciones, cuáles son los obstáculos que impiden la iniciación de esas negociaciones y si todavía existirá alguna posibilidad de que esas negociaciones comiencen por lo menos en el año 2000.

No entendemos muy bien, y el Sr. Régnier podrá aclararnos, si la actual Asamblea General en curso se va a ocupar de las negociaciones en las cuales habíamos cifrado tantas esperanzas, o si ya se ha decidido sepultar esta iniciativa.

La delegación de Colombia apoya la declaración que a ese respecto se hizo en Nueva Delhi, consta en el párrafo 3 del documento 19, declaración de Nueva Delhi hecha durante la 7ª Conferencia de Jefes de Estado del Movimiento de los Países no Alineados, al cual pertenece Colombia.

Señor Vicepresidente en ejercicio, nos causa gran placer el intervenir bajo su dirección porque nos vincula a usted una gran amistad de muchos años y antes de pasar a referirnos a unos pocos detalles de los dos documentos a nuestra consideración, la delegación de Colombia desea declarar que una rápida lectura de todo lo que está pasando en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas indica que cada vez se hace más perentorio el compromiso y más decidida la voluntad de que se consagre prioritariamente los recursos y las actividades de la Comunidad Internacional en favor de África y que a este respecto en la parte pertinente de nuestro informe debamos apoyar la acción positiva que el Director General de la FAO viene realizando en favor de la solución de los problemas agrícolas y alimentarios de África.

Estamos muy complacidos de que en la parte referente a los exámenes intersectoriales que llevó a cabo el ECOSOC se haya considerado el aspecto de la alimentación y de la agricultura, y es muy satisfactorio registrar el hecho, como se dice en el párrafo 8, que el Director General de la FAO hizo una declaración mediante la cual se presentaron las actividades de nuestra Organización, e igualmente la FAO distribuyó importantes documentos al respecto.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que corresponde a esta Conferencia apoyar el concepto fundamental de la Resolución 37/202 que aparece en el Apéndice A del documento C 83/19, resolución por medio de la cual se insta a la Comunidad Internacional a que otorgue la máxima prioridad a la agricultura y a la alimentación, especialmente por conductos multilaterales.

Creemos que es oportuno que se insista en el concepto multilateral por razones bien conocidas sobre las cuales no vamos a extendernos ahora.

El párrafo 12 del documento C 83/19 hace referencia a la evaluación analítica que se va a realizar en el contexto de las Naciones Unidas sobre algunas de las Agencias Especializadas del sistema.

Nosotros queremos repetir aquí lo que ya dijimos en el Consejo en el sentido de que es cada una de las Agencias de las Naciones Unidas la que está propiamente capacitada, a través de sus órganos rectores, para llevar a cabo esos análisis. Creemos que es conveniente que en cuanto a la FAO destaquemos esto en nuestro informe para que el ECOSOC lo tenga en cuenta y así refrendáramos la posición que al respecto asumió ya el Consejo.

Los párrafos 34 y 35 nos hablan del Fondo Común y ya el Sr. Régnier en su presentación nos indicó que aún no se ha hecho la ratificación del Fondo Común por un número de países y el porcentaje adecuado para que el Fondo Común comience a operar. Creo que esta Comisión debe hacer un llamado a aquellos importantes países desarrollados que aún no han ratificado el Fondo Común; pero igualmente, para ser justos, convendría también llamar la atención a algunos países en desarrollo que aún no lo han hecho y que podrían aprovechar las facilidades que ofrecen los generosos países de la OPEP y la Comunidad Económica Europea, organismos que han ofrecido contribuir con algunas facilidades para que los países en desarrollo puedan ratificar el Fondo Común.

Volviendo a la función de la FAO en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, la delegación de Colombia atribuye gran importancia a la atención prioritaria que en la FAO se está ofreciendo a la cooperación económica y a la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo.

Nos complace mucho que la FAO se preocupe cada vez más por apoyar el Programa de Acción de Caracas sobre la cooperación económica entre los países en desarrollo que ha estado activando el Grupo de los 77.

Estamos igualmente satisfechos con lo que dice el párrafo 49 del documento 19 en el sentido de que la FAO va a realizar en 1985 otra consulta técnica sobre esa cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo; esto lo consideramos adecuado para revisar lo que se ha hecho hasta ahora y continuar esa acción positiva.

Estamos igualmente complacidos de que la FAO haya participado en septiembre pasado en la reunión que se llevó a cabo en Túnez, reunión del Comité Intergubernamental del Seguimiento y Coordinación del Grupo de los 77. Esperamos que la FAO, como ya lo decidimos en la parte referente al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, que discutimos, la FAO, repetimos, participe también en febrero del año próximo en la reunión global del Grupo de los 77 sobre cooperación entre países en vías de desarrollo que va a celebrarse en Bucarest, Rumania, en febrero de 1984, repetimos; y que igualmente, desde luego, la FAO prepare también desde ahora el participar en otras reuniones del Comité de Seguimiento y Coordinación que tendrá lugar en Cartagena, Colombia, nuestro país, en otoño de 1984. Bienvenidos a Colombia, distinguidos colegas y amigos.

Vacilamos un poco antes de pasar a la parte final de nuestra intervención; sin embargo, decidimos usar solamente una mínima parte de nuestras notas porque creemos estar dentro del orden de esta Comisión al registrar el hecho de que estamos ahora discutiendo las novedades en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO, y por ello vamos a referirnos al Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, FIDA, que es una agencia de las Naciones Unidas y que por sus objetivos trabaja en estrecha cooperación con la FAO y que su difícil situación afecta particularmente las actividades de campo en nuestra Organización. Vamos a dedicar unos pocos minutos al FIDA también por el hecho de que en la Plenaria numerosos ministros se refirieron a este tema. Queremos citar en particular la declaración muy valerosa y muy franca que hizo el señor Eugene Whelan, Ministro de Agricultura del Canadá y Presidente del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación. El señor Whelan a quienes muchos de nosotros conocemos, es un hombre de larga y prestigiosa tradición política en su país y lleva cerca de quince años en el Ministerio y es una personalidad carismática que con su sombrero verde se ha ganado la simpatía de todos los quienes hemos participado con él en numerosas reuniones. El Ministro de Agricultura, del Canadá, hablando en su condición de Presidente del CMA, dijo que el FIDA es como un niño del mundo, sólo tiene ocho años de edad, representa nuestras esperanzas, nuestros sueños, nuestras aspiraciones para el futuro; en sus primeros años el FIDA estaba lleno de entusiasmo y energía, era creativo y flexible; ahora, dice el señor Ministro de Agricultura del Canadá, el FIDA es en otro respecto el otro niño del mundo que está muriendo por inanición ante nuestros ojos.

En realidad, señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, el FIDA está languideciendo en silencio, está consumiéndose, están eliminando al FIDA, muere por falta de recursos y la Comunidad Internacional debe saber lo que está pasando en el FIDA y quiénes son los responsables.

El Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola que fue creado por recomendación de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación celebrada en 1974 ahora está atravesando crisis profunda. Personalmente nunca podré olvidar el gesto generoso del entonces Secretario de Estado de un importante país al cual Colombia admira y respeta, gesto a través del cual ofreció 200 millones de dólares para crear el FIDA; actitud que fue secundada por los altruistas países de la OPEP en una acertada y sui generis combinación de recursos, y la idea fue aprobada inmediatamente porque los recursos del FIDA estaban dirigidos a los pequeños y medianos agricultores de los países con bajos ingresos y déficits de alimentos.

Ahora el Gobierno de ese mismo generoso país de 1974 se niega sistemáticamente a cumplir el compromiso moral y legal que adquirió al acordarse la primera reposición de los recursos del FIDA. Y ha dicho, con tono que despierta alarmante preocupación, que aún no sabe si va a participar en la segunda reposición. Es así como la primera reposición de recursos del FIDA, que debería concluir a fines de este año, deberá prolongarse uno, dos, tres o quién sabe cuántos años más con los mismos recursos, lo cual significa una debilitación increíble de los fondos del FIDA, peor aún a la luz de los términos reales de los recursos.

La Delegación de Colombia, con la franqueza que nos caracteriza, piensa que es completamente inaceptable que la decisión unilateral de un solo país elimine, anule, quebrante, destruya la voluntad de más de ciento cuarenta estados soberanos.

Sr. Presidente, unas palabras más sobre el FIDA porque, con base en el documento que suscribieron los países, el FIDA planificó sus trabajos, entró en contacto con los Gobiernos, envió misiones y a través de esas actividades se han elaborado proyectos que tienen mucha significación en el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo de Pequeños Países. Algunos de estos proyectos están ya firmados y no puede ejecutarlos el FIDA porque ese país no paga. La Delegación de Colombia piensa que así se ha consumado un atentado, un verdadero crimen contra la cooperación internacional; se ha hecho concebir ilusiones y asignar fondos en su Plan Nacional de Desarrollo a Pequeños Países que ahora se ven considerablemente afectados porque no reciben esos recursos.

Siempre la Delegación de Colombia ha condenado la actitud de aquellos países que niegan recursos para la cooperación multilateral estando en condiciones de hacerlo. Pero este caso del FIDA es el peor de los hechos conocidos, el más aberrante; es la negación a pagar después de haberse comprometido y firmado.

La Delegación de Colombia propone que en nuestro informe se incluya el párrafo del Consejo que hace un llamado a todos los países para que cumplan sus compromisos con el FIDA.

Lo que hemos dicho aquí representa apenas los lineamientos de la declaración que hará la Delegación de Colombia en el Consejo de Gobernadores del FIDA que se iniciará el próximo 6 de diciembre.

Sentimos la necesidad, la obligación imperante de hacer una declaración fuerte y energética, decidida, clara y hasta clamorosa de estos hechos porque la Comunidad Internacional debe conocerlos exactamente.

Para concluir, la Delegación de Colombia desea declarar que el FIDA debe seguir existiendo porque lo necesitan pequeños y medianos campesinos del mundo; pero el FIDA no puede seguir subsistiendo arrodillado; no puede el FIDA continuar postrado a los pies de ningún país por importante que sea. El FIDA debe seguir existiendo pero en pie, erguido, recto, con dignidad como corresponde a la soberanía de nuestros Estados y al respeto que merecen todos los gobiernos del mundo.

H. TAKASE (Japan): We would like to express our thanks to the Secretariat for having presented to us the informative documents on the Agenda. We welcome the fact that FAO is carefully following and paying due attention to interagency matters of particular relevance to the work of FAO.

We fully support the role of FAO in trying to achieve increased food and agricultural development by effective utilization of its expertise, primarily in the developing countries.

We also appreciate the continuing contribution of FAO to the implementation and review of the IDS.

Concerning the activities of FAO relating to inter-agency matters, we would like to express the view that FAO should try to avoid any duplicated work as much as possible, while paying due consideration to the mandate of other related regional or international organizations. We appreciate the fact that FAO and ICSTD had agreed to coordinate their activities at the Twenty-third session of the CCP in May this year. We wish to stress that coordination and cooperation with other related agencies are very much appreciated from the standpoint of effective use of limited resources.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): After studying this document my delegation would like to express to you its regret for not seeing any progress achieved in international economic cooperation for development.

My country has participated in UNCTAD VI and the Egyptian President has delivered a speech in which he has called for the elimination of customs barriers in the face of exports from developing countries and for the alleviation of protectionist policies led by the major countries. The Egyptian delegation, in the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the International Food Council has supported this special recommendation on assistance to developing countries and the creation of a food reserve in those countries,

Egypt always believes in the importance of continuous reviewing and assessing of development activities in order to achieve the maximum benefit from these activities. This is the reason why a national committee was created to carry out this review and to implement General Assembly Resolution 56/35. Paragraph 19 of this document refers to General Assembly Resolution 236/37 calling for the improvement of the exploitation of the capabilities of developing countries.

My delegation therefore urges FAO and its various bodies including IPF to implement seriously this resolution concerning all the operational activities in its various dimensions, and to give an absolute priority to the capabilities of the developing countries, and to their goods and services.

My delegation wants to express to you its deep concern for the big decrease in the size of grants given to UNDP, and wishes all success to the efforts of the Committee indicated in paragraph 20 of this document, especially that Egypt believes in the complementarity between multilateral and bilateral assistance.

Concerning the subject of developing the UN relief capabilities in responding to cases of disaster, my delegation expresses its gratitude for the fruitful and constructive cooperation between FAO and the sister organizations of the UN system for providing all forms of assistance to Member States in cases of disaster, we would like to see more flexibility given to FAO so that it can provide relief assistance when needed.

Having studied paragraphs 35 to 36 on the UN General Assembly Resolutions concerning relations between the UN and other regional organizations, my delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the fruitful cooperation between FAO and OAU in facing food, drought and desertification problems.

My delegation would like to congratulate FAO for the effective participation in international conferences and for its success in the follow-up of the various resolutions adopted in the UN Conference on LDC's. We would also like to thank this Organization for the technical assistance provided to the Palestinian farmers.

J.R. SAHA (India): My delegation is thankful to FAO for obtaining the document on the subject regarding the difficulties and problems that are being confronted. In the document it has been mentioned very clearly that there are three matters of current interest which are of particular relevance to the work of FAO: review and appraisal of the development strategy; operational activity for development, and strengthening the capability of the FAO system to respond. In this regard, the contents of the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions concerning relations of the United Nations system with intergovernmental and regional organizations on food and agriculture in Africa has been reviewed very carefully.

The document also reviews the work of the ACC sub-commission on nutrition. In regard to assistance to countries and territories, it gives a review of the special economic and disaster relief assistance provided by the United Nations. The discussion in preparation in relation to a second international Conference on assistance to refugees in Africa and assistance to the Palestinian people are also relevant.

With regard to international development strategy, the Thirty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly called upon the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to report to the Committee of Universal Membership on the results achieved in their respective sectors in applying the ideas on the policy framework formulation and implementation of the Programme of Work and Medium-Term Plans. However, 1984 is a non-Conference year. Therefore, there will be only the Council session in November 1984 at which the subject will be considered and discussed. On the application of the international strategy for the Third Development Decade and the formulation and implementation of the Programme of Work and Medium-Term Plans of the FAO for consideration in the forthcoming FAO Council and Conference, the views of the Council and Conference thereon could be transmitted to the Committee on Universal Membership.

The Indian delegation is of the view that, based on the views expressed by the Council or Conference, and other information which might be available, the Secretariat might prepare a report for consideration by the Council in 1984.

By implementing the agreement reached with UNDRO in 1976, FAO has demonstrated its readiness to coordinate relief rehabilitation activities and has given evidence of doing so. It has been stated that reaction to an emergency situation falls within the competence of FAO and UNDP. The fielding of specialized missions together with WFP, and other interested donors had been useful in arriving at a detailed assessment of the immediate relief needs. It is to be observed in order to determine the required international emergency support as an integral part of the efforts of the governments of the affected countries. These will be on the basis of the findings of these missions.

These are the main forecasts given. It has to be stated that it appears from the analysis of the other documents that the prospect of obtaining international assistance appears to be rather bleak. As has been rightly pointed out by my colleague of Colombia, global negotiations on the national development fund could not be started in right earnest and hardly any progress has been made in this regard. Our Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, at the non-aligned Conference in Delhi last March has categorically stated that unless the rich and the poor countries can cooperate to the fullest extent, it will be difficult for all concerned to survive in this world. It is for the interests of all concerned that developed countries should come forward and work hand in hand with the developing countries to enable them to survive and to stand on their own feet. It can be said that unless there is a change in the attitude of the developed countries and unless assistance is forthcoming from those countries, especially in replenishing the funds of the international organizations, particularly IFAD, it is apprehended that the prospects of cooperation between the developed and the developing countries will not be a reality. We can only hope and expect that good sense will prevail in respect of the developed countries which should come forward to assist us.

There is one additional point which I would like to discuss. It is about the functions of FAO vis-a-vis other government and non-governmental organizations. Recently a joint declaration by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Director-General of FAO has amply demonstrated that, given the cooperation between the two organizations, the work can be effectively harmonized. We only hope and expect that the joint declaration will be strictly adhered to and that ESCAP will confine itself within the framework of a regional mandate within the overall framework of the FAO.

M: ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): It is with a mixed feeling that we take up this Agenda item because documents presented in reality reflect a gloomy global political and economic situation, in fact, the crisis of confidence and understanding of international cooperation, particularly in the economic sector.

Let me mention only three elements of this assessment: this first delay in commencement of global negotiations in spite of expressed desire by the majority of the world community and the readiness of this majority to accept any constructive ultimate approach. The second element of this assessment is the very modest result of UNCTAD VI. Third is the crisis of multilateral development, particularly multilateral financial institutions which cause particular concern, the situation of IFAD/UNDP.

Although it is a gloomy situation, there is still room for some pragmatic approaches and remedial action. Firstly I would like to recall the decision the Council made during the debate on the report of the last CCP concerning the role and activity of FAO in the commodity field connected with the UNCTAD VI Resolutions. The Council endorsed the proposal for strengthening FAO commodity work as a technical base for commodity arrangements and for the improvement of the global commodity situation and international cooperation in the commodity field. It was agreed that FAO commodity groups should continue their work, and that FAO monitoring, reviewing and technical work should be pursued. The importance of informal commodity arrangements was underlined, and commodity guidelines were evolved and elaborated within FAO commodity groups. Particular stress was laid on the possible role of FAO and its commodity groups in support of implementation of the commodity fund, particularly the second window of the common fund.

The second point which I would like to mention is the acceptance and endorsement of the new concept of World Food Security as expressed in ECOSOC's World Food Council and the FAO. I hope the delegates in this delegation are aware of their work in Commission I. There is a Resolution proposed for adoption by this Conference on this issue. My delegation sees very positive developments in the field of food security.

The third point is the possible role of FAO in global negotiations. I think that this Conference should reiterate and reaffirm the possible role of FAO in global negotiations in providing technical support to negotiating bodies, and any other form of support if so decided.

My delegation would like to emphasize its support of the positive action of the Director-General towards solving the food problem in Africa.

As for the assessment of the work of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, we would like to reiterate our position that each organization has its governing body composed of representatives of the member governments, and if there is any responsibility that responsibility is within member governments. On the question of mutual coordination, there are two levels of coordination. The first level of coordination must be within the member governments, and the second level of coordination must be among secretariats. We think that each organization should assess its own work and, through this assessment, provide for better coordination in the field without overlapping, without interfering in the mandates of other organizations.

Finally, I should like to support FAO activities in promoting economic cooperation among developing countries, and I should like to emphasize the universal approach of FAO which is reflected in the fact that a major part of ECDC supporting activities takes place within regional offices, within regional groupings and within activities through the regular and field programmes of FAO.

We strongly support further strengthening of FAO's role in promoting economic cooperation among the developing countries as support to the member governments in exercising their political orientation, and the strengthening universal economic cooperation; and part of this universal economic cooperation is the cooperation among the developing countries themselves.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My delegation would first and foremost like to thank the Secretariat for the documents which have been submitted to us, and we would like to thank the Secretariat for the introduction that we heard.

We can certainly understand some of the concerns which have been expressed by delegates here this morning. But certain positive assessments of international cooperation have been given. However, we cannot agree on the other hand with what was said by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, or at least what I understood him to say, that is, that the documents before us, and the introduction by Mr Regnier, are proof of the fact that international cooperation is bad. Should this Conference come to such an assessment of international cooperation, this would undoubtedly have adverse repercussions on the public opinion with regard to this very important task. But that cannot be the aim of our discussions on our international cooperation. We need the support of our peoples. When my country's Minister spoke in Plenary on 8th November, he gave two reasons for that. First of all, we need to have the approval of our increasingly fruitful cooperation with the developing countries, be this multilaterally or bilaterally. This also calls for the greatest efforts on our part, particularly in times which are economically difficult, and our citizens have to make sacrifices for this.

In addition, as our Minister said on 8th November, the agreement to and willingness of our citizens for increased action in the fight against hunger and poverty are also important, because our assistance is not restricted to public aid, but also comprises broad private initiatives. As efforts were successful, the non-governmental organizations in my country, in 1982, compared with the previous year, enjoyed a volume of donations 13 percent higher, amounting to about DM 950 million. A large share of these donations comes from fellow citizens who, in view of other people's distress were prepared to donate this money rather than spend it on themselves. They were showing solidarity with their brothers and sisters in the developing countries. They did that to try to alleviate their sufferings.

In the light of the breadth of the topic before us, I should like to limit my remarks to a few short comments.

First, the results of UNCTAD VI are generally positively assessed by us. Of course, not all of the problems have been solved, but certainly progress has been made. We should not forget that many of the problems are long-term problems.

Secondly, the north-south dialogue has not been broken off and is still under way. The negotiations have been delayed and not yet started, but I think we all have to check very carefully the reasons for that and we have to weigh them up very carefully indeed.

Thirdly, with regard to the implementation of the international development strategy, I can state that we are making our contribution. In this connexion, I should like to quote what my Minister said in the Plenary of the Conference, namely that official development assistance in 1982 compared with 1981 has increased by about 7 percent to DM 7.7 billion, which is about US\$3 billion.

In spite of all the difficulties, our aid has doubled since 1977, and in 1982 it was raised to 0.48 percent of our gross national product. Within the context of our financial and technical aid, about 27 percent of our pledges were accounted for by the promotion of agriculture and rural development.

Fourthly, concerning Africa, there is no doubt that the solution of the food problems of all African countries is a concern to all of us. We have therefore strengthened our cooperation with African countries particularly during the last two years.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): Thailand has been honoured by being the site of FAO's Regional Office and also of the Office of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Royal Thai Government attaches the greatest importance to those two UN Specialized Agencies and lends its full support and cooperation to both Agencies. We would like to see sincere and effective coordination among them in the field of food and agriculture in the region.

At the outset, my delegation is pleased to note the recent developments in close cooperation between those United Nations bodies.

As previous speakers have done, we should like to refer to document C 83/19-Sup.1 in paragraphs 107 - 113 of that document there is an indication of certain recent developments in the relationship between FAO and ESCAP. In this context, we are pleased that the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP have discussed this matter and issued a joint statement defining the respective roles of the two organizations. We have noted that in this joint statement ESCAP has agreed that, in designing its programme of work, ESCAP will take note of the global mandate entrusted to FAO as the specialized agency for food and agriculture in the United Nations system. It has also been agreed that ESCAP will concentrate on economic and social aspects of selected issues in the fields of agriculture which complement FAO's activities.

Our delegation welcomes this approach adopted in the joint statement. We hope that ESCAP will duly honour this approach in the future. At the same time we would like to see the FAO regional office activities in some fields more active than in the past.

R. SALLERY (Canada): We too strongly support the comments just made by Dr Grabisch for the Federal Republic of Germany, particularly the first half of his statement which stresses the importance of the role of the general public in supporting international development activities.

My Government is a strong supporter of the UN system and of multilateral approaches to development assistance. We also support the ECOSOC resolution calling for an analytical assessment of the institutions involved in food and agriculture.

I would thank the Secretariat certainly for documents that they have given to us, and Mr Regnier for his very helpful introduction. As Mr Régnier has pointed out, because of the complexity of the problem, there may indeed be technical and jurisdictional problems; but in our view, these are not insurmountable.

Mr Régnier has also noted that only the organizations concerned and the governing bodies could make trustworthy assessments. This is true in part. I doubt that it is necessary to remind Mr Regnier or others here that the governing body of ECOSOC and the governing bodies of most of the food and agricultural agencies, are composed of representatives from the same sovereign governments.

If Canada supported the resolution ECOSOC, we would certainly not oppose it in the FAO Council or Conference. I assume that most of us would take the same consistent approach in the UN system. Certainly he is correct in saying that perhaps some organizations are more capable, technically capable and competent, to conduct this type of assesment, and we agree with that.

It is well known, and perhaps explains why currently the multilateral systems or multilateral approaches to development assistance are declining somewhat, but some governments are a little frustrated with the UN system, with large bureaucracies, with overlapping mandates, duplications and, perhaps most of all, with a seemingly unsuccessful resolution of the world's problems. They are frustrated, but this does not detract from their general support of the common ideals of the UN system. In our view, all the ECOSOC resolution is attempting to do is to strengthen our common efforts in the UN system to be more effective, to be more successful, in our attempts to solve these global problems. We trust that all the food and agricultural agencies of the UN, all those involved in food and agriculture, will indeed look forward with some enthusiasm to helping implement this ECOSOC resolution. Obviously no-one ever doubts the primary and the central role of FAO in food and agriculture. It is also obvious to us, and to many others, that in some areas FAO must indeed be strengthened, as was just mentioned by our colleague from Thailand. Similarly, with other UN organizations and agencies there are very likely areas of responsibility which should be strengthened.

If, however, other agencies over the course of years have unintentionally usurped the role which is more properly the responsiblity of FAO, then I am sure all of us would want to attempt at least to ensure that FAO assumes, or reassumes, activities which are proper to its mandate. Of course the reverse is true: if we in our enthusiasm over the years at Council and at Conference have unintentionally stepped on roles which are more properly the mandates of others, then I think we would want to look at those to make sure that at least one of us, one of those institutions, is conducting that activity with effectiveness.

We believe that once this is done, the general public, as Mr Grabisch has pointed out, and the governments will be less frustrated, with the UN and will, in turn, renew their support for the UN and agencies such as FAO, and become even more supportive of multilateral approaches to development assistance.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Une fois de plus, nous voudrions, avant de commencer, remercier M. Regnier et le Secrétariat de la FAO pour les nombreuses informations mises à notre disposition.

Nous sommes heureux des excellentes relations de coopération que notre Organisation, la FAO, entretient avec les autres organisations des Nations Unies ainsi qu'avec les organisations régionales du Tiers Monde. A ce titre, nous saisissons la présente occasion pour renouveler notre appui à la FAO et la mandats pour qu'elle use de tous les moyens possibles pour faire aboutir ses heureuses initiatives en ce qui concerne notamment le Fonds commun pour les produits de base, la résolution sur le protectionnisme, la résolution sur la coopération entre pays en développement, le concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, la Campagne africaine contre la peste et la convocation de la deuxième CPVD en 1985.

A propos du Fonds commun pour les produits de base, nous souhaitons obtenir, au stade actuel, que les gouvernements hésitants ou retardataires procèdent le plus tôt possible à sa ratification pour rendre ce Fonds opérationnel le plus tôt possible.

Concernant le protectionnisme, nous souhaitons une libéralisation des changes pour permettre aux pays producteurs de matières premières alimentaires agricoles de se procurer les ressources financières nécessaires pour l'importation des denrées de base qui leur font cruellement défaut sur place.

Enfin, pour terminer, nous sommes solidaires de la déclaration de nos amis de la Colombie en ce qui concerne le FIDA, en qui nous avons placé beaucoup d'espoir mais qui malheureusement se heurte à beaucoup de difficultés pour disposer des fonds nécessaires à son fonctionnement. A cette occasion, nous lançons un nouvel appel aux différents contributeurs pour qu'ils s'acquittent de leurs contributions d'une part et qu'ils n'hésitent pas, le cas échéant, à apporter au FIDA des ressources supplémentaires nécessaires, car c'est la seule institution financière qui, à notre avis, est apte à aider les petits paysans qui n'ont pas d'autres ressources que leurs exploitations qui, dans la plupart des cas, sont exposées à des calamités naturelles ou à d'autres graves incidents.

debate, Ambassador Bula Hoyos of Colombia. Both he, and, earlier during the Conference in Plenary, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, the French Minister of Agriculture and some other Ministers, highlighted very eloquently IFAD's dramatic lack of resources. This young Fund, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the objectives and projects of which correspond so well with our own objectives and, I dare say, with the development objectives, of most FAO members - this Fund is almost completely running out of money. During the past year it has had to slow down considerably the speed of approval and signing of new projects in spite of the fact that its efficient staff has prepared a substantial basket of good projects to the benefit of the poorest peasants, fishermen and landless workers in the Third World. It is a shame that these poor K. E. NORRMAN (Sweden) : My delegation will come back to the more general aspects of this agenda item somewhat later in this debate in accordance with the disposition suggested to us by you, Mr Chairman, for this debate.

However we would not like to miss the opportunity to express now our strong support of the statement made by the first speaker in this people should have to wait, nobody knows how long, for the adoption and the implementation of already well-prepared projects.

I, therefore, join other speakers in urging all governments, particularly the major donors, to speed up their procedures with a view to fulfilling their commitment to IFAD, and to confirm their willingness to participate constructively in the second replenishment of IFAD.

Whilst I have the floor, I also wish to raise one more specific point from our documentation, namely document 19. In paragraphs 30 to 34 of this document the capacity of the UN system to respond to emergencies is dealt with. I wish here to reiterate Sweden's support to the UN resolutions regarding effectively coordinating international relief activities. At the same time, I wish to express our appreciation of the useful work done by the FAO Office for Special Relief Operations, OSRO, which has made valuable contributions to the alleviation of emergencies and the rehabilitation of agriculture, for instance in several African countries and in Kampuchea.

We are also glad to note that the capacity of the World Food Programme's emergency unit has been somewhat strengthened during the last year, thereby facilitating the heavy task of dealing with increasing numbers of requests for emergency food aid. The joint FAO/WFP assessment commissions to disaster-struck countries constitute, in our view, very important tools in the international efforts to respond adequately to emergency situations.

As I said, Mr Chairman, with your indulgence we reserve our right to come back later on in this agenda.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): My delegation compliments the Secretariat for giving us such an illuminating overview of international developments which have a bearing on the mandate of FAO. We appreciate and support the dynamic role played by FAO in ensuring that the objectives of this great mandate will continue to be advanced. We share the concern so eloquently expressed by the distinguished Colombian delegate regarding the delays in the start of global negotiations relating to international economic cooperation and development.

We also endorse the concern expressed by the Council in paragraph 12 of the document C 83/19-Sup.I. Analytical assessment of sectoral activities should be the primary and exclusive concern of the specialized agency itself.

Referring to paragraph 49, we support FAO's proposal for holding a second technical consultation on TCDC in 1985. This is a very important area, and all constraints in promoting technical cooperation amongst the developing countries should be removed, and a further review is necessary so that these obstacles can be overcome.

Coming back to paragraph 61, we endorse the appeal of the World Food Council for replenishment of IFAD. Yesterday we were discussing in Commission I the progress of implementation of the plan of action of WCARRD. It was apparent in the discussions that the international community is resolved to see that nothing stands in the way of the implementation. But it seems a little odd that one of the most outstanding in international organizations, which is supposed to assist the countries in the implementation of that plan of action, namely IFAD, should be starved of funds, and its programme is very much at stake because the donor countries have put in some conditions. We do hope that these conditions will be waived, and the flow of funds to this important organization assured.

Finally, we are very happy at the new development in relations between FAO and ESCAP. I attended, as a member of the Pakistan delegation, the Regional Conference meeting held in Jakarta of the Asia and Pacific, and it was quite evident when we were discussing matters relating to the creation of the Regional Commission on Food Security, that some duplication was going on in this field, and that there was no recognition at that time of the specialized competence of FAO in this important matter. Therefore, we welcome the joint statement which has been issued by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Director-General of FAO, in which the roles of the two organizations have been properly defined,

and it has been conceded that it is the proper role of FAO to deal with matters relating to food and agriculture, and that ESCAP will concentrate on economic and social aspects of selected issues in this field, which would complement FAO's activities, which has a much broader mandate.

K.B. RAJBHANDARI (Nepal): I would like to confine my comments to the recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO. I would like to refer to document C 83/19-Sup. 1. Paragraphs 107 and 113 of this document indicate certain recent developments in relations between FAO and ESCAP have taken place. Attempts have been made to avoid duplication of the activities between FAO and ESCAP. In this context the Nepalese delegation is happy to note that the Director-General of FAO, and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, have discussed this matter, and issued a joint statement defining the respective roles of the two organizations. We have noted that in this joint statement ESCAP has agreed that in designing its Programme of Work ESCAP will take note of the global mandate entrusted to FAO, as the specialized agency for food and agriculture in the United Nations system. It has also been agreed that ESCAP will concentrate on economic and social aspects of selected issues in the field of agriculture, which complements FAO's activities.

It is really gratifying. The Nepalese delegation is pleased to welcome this approach adopted in the joint statement. We hope that ESCAP in future will duly honour this approach, and will take steps to divest itself of technical activities in the sector of food and agriculture. As an economic and social commission ESCAP should make sure its activities do not overlap that of FAO.

R.E. STENSHOLT (Australia): I just want to briefly make a couple of points. One is to stress, like my Minister did in his statement, the need for a continued close cooperation between United Nations bodies, and between international organizations. I see this as particularly the theme of the papers before us at this time. We know the valuable work that has been done in the last couple of years, be it in terms of disaster operations, or more particularly, for example, under ESCAP, or, indeed, under the cross-sectoral review of ECOSOC. There are many examples of this, and we find this quite gratifying, and I can only echo the comments made by others that not only has there to be cooperation, there has to be seen to be cooperation. And this is important, particularly as others have noted that there is a more critical atmosphere abroad these days, as the UN approaches, and FAO itself approaches its 40th year. No doubt many people have been reassessing the work of international organizations over the last few years, and will continue to do. So it is very important that the lie be given to any criticism that may come up regarding lack of coordination, and lack of cooperation. Because Australia has been a strong supporter of the United Nations System, and also particularly FAO and other bodies associated in the food and agriculture field, and we want to continue this support. I might note that we place importance upon consistency in approach to these bodies, and we will continue to be consistent in our approach to any and all organizations.

I might also mention, just for the sake of my colleague from Colombia, and I mentioned this the other day, we have been increasing our support of multilateral organizations. Maybe it might be against the trend, as he suspects. But also in talking about trends one should also look at a wider field than what we are just looking at here. We tend to focus on United Nations organizations. Perhaps a look at what is happening in international financial institutions would be valuable for us in the future, because so much financing in the food and agriculture sector comes through those organizations, as in many ways it almost dominates the field of international cooperation in agricultural rural development and solving the food problems. This might be looked at.

My final point is also to once again lend my support to the initiative of Ambassador Bula Hoyos of Colombia. He mentioned this the other day. Australia feels that IFAD is an important body, and that the current problems facing IFAD ought to be recognized by the FAO Conference, which has great importance to us all and should, indeed, carry weight in both national and international circles, as is appropriate, and we would endorse the call for urgent action to overcome the specific funding problems of IFAD, so that, indeed, an appropriate programme of assistance for the poor farmers can be carried on in the future.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Sean nuestras primeras palabras para manifestar a la Secretaría, tal como lo han hecho otras Delegaciones que nos han precedido, nuestra complacencia por los documentos presentados para nuestra consideración.

Deseamos asimismo agradecer al Sr. Régnier, Director de la Oficina de Asuntos entre Organismos por su magnífica introducción al tema en examen.

La Delegación de Panamá desea también en esta ocasión expresar, tal como lo ha venido haciendo de manera sistemática en casi todas sus intervenciones, su preocupación por la creciente tendencia hacia la disminución de la cooperación multilateral propiciada, como todo parece indicar, por algunos países miembros a juzgar por sus actuaciones.

Nos preocupa de manera particular y coincidiendo con la distinguida Delegación de Colombia, el retraso cada vez más evidente en las negociaciones para la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo.

Manifestamos a tal respecto nuestra completa identificación con la preocupación e interrogantes planteados por el distinguido Embajador de Colombia.

La Delegación de Panamá desea asimismo aprovechar la ocasión para identificarse plenamente y apoyar tan valerosa y franca intervención de Su Excelencia el Embajador Bula Hoyos en relación con la situación del FIDA.

Y para terminar, deseamos manifestar nuestra complacencia por el papel de la FAO y por todo el interés que pone en resolver los problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación y expresar que apoyamos estas actividades.

M.E. BONDANZA de FILIPPO (Argentina): Aunque sea muy brevemente, la Delegación de mi país desea expresar en líneas generales que comparte lo que ha expresado el Embajador Bula Hoyos y otras Delegaciones en cuanto a que los resultados de esas actividades relacionados con la cooperación internacional, son decepcionantes. Así podemos calificar los resultados de la 6ª UNCTAD en que los países en desarrollo no tuvieron las demandas mínimas que se habían establecido en la reunión ministerial del Grupo de los 77 que se efectuó en Buenos Aires antes de la 6ª UNCTAD.

Nosotros, quiero dejarlo bien claro, comprendemos y valoramos las contribuciones y donaciones que muchos países efectúan para mitigar los sufrimientos de muchos países hermanos, pero consideramos que ello evidentemente no es suficiente y que los países desarrollados deben asumir responsabilidades mucho mayores en la empresa actual, en la cual estamos todos unidos de superar este injusto orden económico internacional.

A. REGNIER (Directeur du Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Je ne voudrais certainement pas empiéter sur le résumé des débats que vous avez sans doute l'intention de faire, mais je voudrais me borner à remercier toutes les délégations pour les commentaires très pertinents qu'elles ont faits sur ce point de l'ordre du jour et pour l'intérêt qu'elles ont bien voulu manifester vis-à-vis de ces relations entre la FAO et le système des Nations Unies. Très certainement le secrétariat en a pris note avec grand soin.

D'autre part, je voudrais faire un court commentaire. Ce qui m'a peut-être le plus frappé et qui a certainement, je crois, réjoui le secrétariat, c'est que la Commission a reconnu de manière unanime l'étendue des relations interapjncines entretenues par la FAO avec l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. Ceci montre la complexité certainement de ce système qui embrasse la totalité des secteurs, et ceci montre également le sérieux avec lequel la FAO envisage cette coopération. Comme le distingué représentant de l'Australie l'a indiqué il y a quelques instants, il ne faut pas seulement coopérer mais montrer cette coopération. J'espère que les documents qui vous ont été présentés à cet effet ont montré qu'il y avait dans tous les secteurs de la FAO une coopération intensive existant dans l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies, qu'il s'agisse par exemple des questions opérationnelles pour le développement - et comme de nombreux distingués représentants l'ont indiqué, cela pose le problème des ressources -, qu'il s'agisse de l'évolution des ressources du FIDA, qu'il s'agisse des questions de ressources du PNUD.

Un autre exemple de coopération intensive réside dans les questions d'urgence, le renforcement de la capacité du système des Nations Unies à aborder et à faire face aux situations d'urgence. Ainsi que les distingués représentants de l'Inde et de la Suède l'ont mentionné, une collaboration intensive existe, des progrès ont été réalisés au cours des dernières années et je pense que tout le monde reconnaît qu'il y a maintenant une capacité réelle de promouvoir et de coopérer à ces opérations d'urgence et, dans toute la mesure du possible, pour éviter les doubles emplois, de rendre aux organismes spécialisés le rôle qui leur revient en l'occurrence et vraiment chercher à aider au mieux et au plus vite les populations sinistrées.

Un autre exemple, ce sont les commentaires faits par un grand nombre de délégations concernant le développement récent des relations entre la FAO et l'ESCAP. Nous en avons pris note avec grand plaisir.

Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait beaucoup de questions spécifiques auxquelles je doive répondre. Je voudrais seulement faire un commentaire concernant les résolutions de l'ECOSOC. Le distingué représentant du Canada a parlé, après d'autres, de la résolution de l'ECOSOC parlant d'évaluation analytique des activités et des programmes. Il s'est référé à cette résolution comme s'il s'agissait d'une résolution traitant de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Je voudrais lui dire que non, il s'agit d'une résolution qui traite de tous les secteurs, autrement dit, aussi bien les communications que l'industrie. Ce n'est pas une résolution adressée aux secteurs agricole et alimentaire, cela couvre la totalité du système des Nations Unies, avec toutes les implications techniques que cela peut avoir, et j'ai d'ailleurs été satisfait de constater que lui-même reconnaissait que les secrétariats techniques, donc des agences spécialisées, étaient sans doute les mieux à même d'évaluer les activités de leurs propres organisations.

Je crois qu'une question précise cependant a été posée par le distingué représentant de la Colombie. Il m'a demandé quels avaient été, depuis les derniers documents, les progrès dans le lancement des négociations globales. Malheureusement, je ne peux pas en dire plus que ce que j'ai indiqué dans ma déclaration introductive, à savoir que nous n'avons pas d'indications à ce stade, que l'Assemblée générale qui est en cours à New York va aborder ce sujet d'une manière concrète et je suis donc malheureusement dans l'impossibilité de donner des détails actuellement.

Après ces quelques commentaires, je voudrais encore une fois remercier les distingués représentants qui ont bien voulu prendre la parole et surtout les remercier pour les encouragements qu'ils ont donnés à cette coopération au système des Nations Unies auquel la FAO attache une grande importance.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I am a little sensitive about drafting groups which are to follow. I think Mr Régnier's comments about the ECOSOC Resolution were aware that it covers many fields. What I did say about who was competent was that some technical secretariats are perhaps best placed to conduct this assessment. Not all. I think this has yet to be determined. Just so we do not have a problem in the drafting group with what has been said in my statement.

CHAIRMAN: The Commission has before it very complete documentation on the subject supplemented by Mr Regnier's introduction regarding the latest developments in the UN system. Members touched on many of the topics covered in this documentation. I shall not attempt to summarize all the comments made by individual members in their interventions. The synthesis of these will be contained in the Commission's report.

Satisfaction was expressed with the active role FAO was playing in work with other UN organizations as exemplified by a number of cases cited in the documentation. A particular case in point was the agreement that ESCAP embodied in a joint statement by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP aimed at harmonization of the work programmes of the two organizations.

There was full support also for FAO's role in promoting economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and for the Director-General's prompt and positive action in favour of Africa.

FAO's role in emergencies in other continents was also praised. Serious concern was expressed at the resource situation affecting multilateral agencies, in particular IFAD. It was hoped that the replenishment of IFAD's resources would be speeded up as urgent action was needed to enable IFAD to continue its work.

With that we should now move to the second part which is the International Development Strategy, document C 83/26, and I would like to ask Mr Shah to give his introduction.

V.J. SHAH, (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): It is my privilege to have been instructed by the Director-General to introduce C 83/26 on The Application of the International Development Strategy for the Third UN Development Decade in the Formulation and Implementation of the Programmes of Work and Medium-Term Plans of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The International Development Strategy, it will be recalled, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its Thirty-Fifth session in December 1980 and was brought to the attention of the FAO Council at its Seventy-Ninth session and to the attention of the Conference at its last Session in November 1981.

There was a very interesting discussion of the strategy by the Conference which affirmed the crucial importance of the success of the International Development Strategy and expressed its strong support for its objectives and goals. The Conference agreed that the stress given in the strategy to the subject and to the key role of food and agriculture in improving the quality of life and raising the economic growth of developing countries.

The Conference also stressed the vital importance of action.

Indeed, the new decade of the 1980's had got off to a very slow start with gross domestic product in most developing countries rising at rates well below the overall target of 7 percent which has been established as an objective for the decade as a whole. This lag will be difficult to make up and attainment of the overall growth target of 4 percent annual growth in agricultural production will require not only a major effort on the part of developing countries to mobilize internal resources and put them efficiently to use, but also a strong commitment on the part of the international community in support of these efforts.

The developing countries accepted at the Conference that the main responsibility for achieving a faster economic growth and self-reliance fell on them but for success they needed the cooperation of all countries in meeting this responsibility;

At its last session the Conference also recognized that it wished to have the opportunity to consider how FAO would contribute to the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy.

The strategy for each decade is reviewed at about the mid-term and Member Nations of FAO then noted that since the strategy was a guide for action, it would be appropriate for the Organization to give its views to the United Nations on the successes and the failures of reaching the objectives of the strategy and the reasons for it.

The reasons for the review and appraisal and the implementation of the strategy were decided on by the General Assembly through its Resolution 37/202, the text of which is provided as Appendix A to document C 83/19 which the Commission has just considered. By this Resolution it will be noted that the General Assembly established a Committee of the Whole, that is to say of all Member Nations, a Committee of the General Assembly to carry out the review and appraisal of the implementation of the strategy in 1984. This Committee is expected to meet from the Spring of next year and will report to the General Assembly at its Thirty-ninth session next year through the Economic and Social Council.

In operative paragraph 6 of this Resolution the General Assembly: "Calls upon the relevant

organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to report on the results achieved in their respective sectors in applying the International Development Strategy as the policy framework in the formulation and implementation of their programmes of work and medium-term plans "

and to refer their comments to the Committee on Review and Appraisal.

Accordingly, the Director-General submits for the consideration of the Conference the document C 83/26 to illustrate how the International Development Strategy and, more particularly, the policy measures have served as a framework for FAO programmes in the early 1980s and for the immediate term. The main constraints encountered in programme implementation so far are also indicated in as much as they affect the realization of the goals of the strategy. The structure of the document follows closely that of the International Development Strategy itself. For example, there are the main headings which appear under the policy measures of the International Development Strategy. However, for reasons of clarity and brevity consideration is given mainly to those areas or cross-sectoral themes where FAO has a fundamental interest and where significant action and activities have been undertaken

Thus, I would invite your attention, Mr Chairman, not only to the measures dealing with food and agriculture, which of course receive greater coverage and more emphasis than, others, but also to the areas of international trade, financial resources for development, science and technology for development, energy and economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, and others which are relevant to FAO.

This is the context in which, although this item is one of matters arising from development in the UN system, programme budget and evaluation has also got involved, because what is before this Conference in this context is not any request for the Conference to approve the Programme of Work and Budget for the FAO or its medium-term plans, which the Conference has already done. It is to express its views on how FAO programmes are responding to its projects and the development pursued in the International Development Strategy.

I should clarify that the Committee on Review and Appraisal of the General Assembly will, of course, cover two main aspects of the question. Firstly it will consider the economic developments which have taken place in this decade and how they compare with the targets and the strategies given in the Strategy. Secondly, they will examine the views of organizations such as ours on the application of the Strategy for their own programmes.

What the Director-General has in mind, therefore, and proposes to the Conference is that he should convey to the Committee on Review and Appraisal the document which has been submitted to you, and the views of the Conference, as the views of the Organization. He did not wish merely to convey his own views, which are given in the document, but he wanted and he wishes the General Assembly to have the benefit of the Conference itself.

There is one final point. As the Commission realizes there are a number of items which have been considered in Commission I, such as the state of the world food and agriculture, world food security, the progress report on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. All of the subjects considered in Commission I are of relevance to the Strategy in terms of substance. Therefore, the Director-General proposes that, together with the views of the Conference on this document as may feature in the Conference Report, he would also include those sections of the Conference Report which deal with the subjects covered by the International Development Strategy, and convey all of these to the Committee on Review and Appraisal.

The thrust of the policy measures represented in the Strategy the Director-General believes are as valid as ever, as is the need for FAO's programmes. These needs have been carefully reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget which the Conference approved yesterday. The Director-General hopes that the Conference will recognise and reaffirm the role of this Organization in implementing programmes to help achieve the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy.

L.GRUNDBERG (Sweden): I am going to deliver a common statement on behalf of my own delegation and my fellow Nordic delegations. The statement was drafted before we knew that this Agenda point would be divided in the way it actually was divided. Therefore, parts of our statement perhaps would have had a more logical place under the first part of the Agenda point already concluded. But, with your permission, Mr Chairman, I will go ahead with my comments.

Under Agenda point 13 my delegation has already underlined the central role of the United Nations Development Programme, the UNDP, in the development of the whole UN, and urged new donors to contribute to the UNDP. Allow me to repeat that view and to give some broader comments on the Agenda point under consideration, namely, relations and consultations with international organizations.

As I said, I am speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and my own country, Sweden.

Let me start by underlining our strong support for and commitment to the United Nations system as a whole. As major contributors to the UN, its agencies and various programmes, the Nordic countries always have emphasized the importance of efficiency of the system in the execution of programmes and projects. Our objective has been to increase the proportion of resources available for activities in the developing countries, while at the same time keeping down administrative and other support costs.

The Nordic countries therefore find the costs of the General Assembly Committee of Universal Membership for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy extremely important. We find the Report by the Secretariat as just cited by the representative of the Director-General and included in document C 83/26 to be a current comprehensive report on the activities of FAO. We are sure that the report with the comments of the Conference will constitute a major input in the work of the Committee.

I have one more observation: we have found no reference in that document to the work initiated by the Director-General on a study of agricultural price policies; We are fully aware that this important work is still in its initial stage and that the Council and the next Conference will be informed thereof in due time.

Let me use this opportunity to say some words on coordination between the various elements of the UN system's operational activities. I am now coming to the part of my statement that might have been better placed under the first part of our Agenda item.

The importance of coordination is quite as essential as in any national programme of development assistance. Coordination makes sense also in mere economic terms to donors as well as to recipient countries. With the scarcity of funds at the present time within the UN system it is more than ever necessary to take advantage of every opportunity for meaningful coordination and integration of UN activities.

At the Conference two years ago we welcomed the posting of a senior FAO Representative in the UNDP inter-agency task force in New York. It would be interesting to be informed about the experiences of this measure.

Regarding cooperation in the field, we very much appreciate the joint letter of April 13th 1983 contained in document C 83/INF/18 from the Director-General of FAO and the UNDP Administrator sent to all UNDP Resident Representatives and FAO Representatives underlining the importance of close collaboration between them in promoting activities in the agriculture and food production sector. The ideas behind this letter coincide completely with the thinking of the Nordic countries on coordination and joint efforts at field level.

Another important element in the coordination of operational activities of the UN system is the country programming; the principle of country programming has been generally adopted and its advantages are recognized by all UN members, not least by the developing countries themselves. We would therefore expect full support in the implementation of this principle by all UN Agencies. we hold the view that all specialized agencies should closely cooperate among themselves with the UN bodies concerned, for instance, and also with the joint inspection unit in their process of evaluation, which is a further element of importance.

Finally, I would like to assure this Commission that the Nordic countries are worried about the shortfalls in UNDP resources. We would like to stress the necessity that the UNDP be assured of resources at a sufficient level and on a more continuous basis. This has proved a prerequisite for any effective coordination of operational activities in the entire UN system. It is common knowledge that the Nordic countries are the largest contributors per capita to the UNDP, and we intend to continue . our strong support of the programme. We urge all countries in a position to do so to rapidly increase their contributions to the UNDP, in order to attain what is our common goal.

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

C

C 83/II/PV/14

Twenty-second Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session

COMMISSION II

22º período de sesiones

COMISION II

FOURTEENTH MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE
14ª SESION

(17 November 1983)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

S. Padmanagara, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 15 h 15 sous la présidence de

S. Padmanagara, Vice-President de la Commission II

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 15.15 horas bajo la presidencia de

S Padmanagara, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

16. Relations and consultations with International Organizations: (continued)

16. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales: (suite)

16. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales: (continuación)

16.1 Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO (continued)

16.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO (suite)

16.1 Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We will now resume our discussion on Item 16.1, the second part, the International Development Strategy, document C 83/26.

P. POERWANTO (Indonesia): I would like to confine myself to offering a general comment on some pertinent points relating to the implementation of the International Development Strategy in the food and agricultural sector.

As has been rightly pointed out in document C 83/26, the eradication of hunger and malnutrition cannot take place without accelerated and sustained growth in food and agricultural production in developing countries.

My delegation noted with concern that despite serious efforts made by the international community and the international organizations, in which FAO has indeed made commendable contributions, we are still witnessing a world situation which is characterized by successive imbalances in which major food producing countries are cutting back their production while food deficit countries are facing catastrophic food shortages. This alarming situation poses a serious challenge to the international community which almost ten years ago at the World Food Conference solemnly pledged to eradicate hunger and malnutrition within a decade. It is true that some countries in Asia and Latin America have made encouraging progress in fostering self-reliant food production.

As far as Indonesia is concerned, we are fortunate enough that we have not only reached but surpassed the targets set in our national development plan for our food production. We noted with concern, however, that the prospects for most low-income countries, particularly in Africa, remain desperate. The deterioration of food production in Africa has caused millions of our brothers and sisters in that continent to suffer from deficiencies in food supplies. In view of this situation we lend our full support to the call for urgently stepping up joint efforts designed to overcome the food shortages in many developing countries, particularly in Africa.

The International Development Strategy indicated that the implementation of a world food security scheme should become one of the urgent tasks to be undertaken by the international community. However, as is indicated in the report before us, despite the general recognition of the importance of the problem there has been only limited progress to achieve the objectives.

Indonesia has played an active role in the promotion of world food security through such means as sub-regional decentralized stock management. This scheme is, we believe, a most realistic arrangement, considering its logistical trade, transportation and distribution aspects. My delegation therefore endorses the idea of establishing similar programmes in other parts of the world. We would strongly underline the central importance of increasing food production at the national level, which we believe constitutes the strongest security a country can provide for its crucial food supplies. While those objectives are primarily the responsibility of each individual country, the international community should play a sustained, coordinated and supportive role. In this respect continued financial and technical support should be provided for the implementation of food policies and strategies and their incorporation into the respective national development plans of the developing countries.

Taking the aforementioned into consideration, my delegation supports the conclusion referred to in document C 83/26 that policy measures recommended in the International Development Strategy are as valid and as necessary as ever. In this context necessary resources should be provided with a view to implementing the various food and agricultural programmes at the international and regional as well as the sub-regional level.

A. LUTZ (Finland): This morning before lunch Sweden made a statement on behalf of the other Nordic countries, also on this document which is under discussion. I would like to continue from that a little bit, by making a few observations. Firstly, I want to thank Mr Shah for his very complete introduction to this document. He invited our views, the views of the Conference, which could be attached to this document when it is forwarded to the Committee of universal membership for the review and appraisal of the IDS. Of course, the views which have already been expressed during this one week and a half in the Conference will be taken into consideration, as was said by Mr. Shah. I feel that there is very little to say in general, because what we are saying we have said already many times before. We have said it during this Conference, and we have said it already before. When one reads this document you get the impression that this is a very complete document. It contains everything. It analyses the situation as it is, and I think that all of us can find in this document very many things which we can support. Probably we can support this as such. There is only one thing which is not new either, which has been repeated already several times, and already was touched on this morning by the Swedish delegate, when he spoke about the relations and consultations with international organizations. He made reference to the UNDP specifically at that time. Well, there are other important organizations in the UN family who are working with the same problems. One is the World Food Council, and that Organization is going to have a very important discussion next year, and I hope that these types of documents will be the basis for their discussions. We are actually a member of the Organization, and they are talking about food strategies. This paper is talking about food strategies, agricultural policies, agricultural plans, whatever they are, and we see that they are not going completely parallel with this work. At least they are not taken into consideration in such a way as they should be taken into consideration, and I think that if we could enhance that situation by asking the other organizations to take into consideration what has been said, what we have been discussing here, and not repeat the same thing, and try to find something else, because this is everything that we need. It is very difficult to find something else. We do not need any new incentives, any new ideas. Everything is here. I think that that must be an important message that we can bring out of this Conference.

R.E. STENSHOLT (Australia): I would just like to comment fairly briefly on the general context of this report, because I feel that the Conference should welcome this report of the Director-General, and acknowledge that it will be a valuable input to the work of the United Nations General Assembly, and its appropriate subsidiary body, in reviewing the IDS next year. I believe also that it is as comprehensive a view of what FAO is doing to implement, as it is its responsibility to do so, the relevant elements of the IDS.

I do not intend to comment on individual items of the report. Nor do I think it proper that the Conference should endorse the report in all its minute detail, for as you know the International Development Strategy was a document negotiated over many months, and I myself had the fortune, or perhaps misfortune, of attending the preparatory sessions, and final special sessions, where many nights were spent negotiating exactly this document, and I am sure the review will be similarly proceeded with, with a long discussion and delicate negotiations as necessary. That said, however, we wholeheartedly agree that the Conference should give its blessing to the Director-General sending forward such a comprehensive and good report for the review.

E. SIEWE (Cameroun): C'est avec un réel intérêt que la délégation du Cameroun a pris connaissance du document C 83/26. Elle a également hautement apprécié la présentation liminaire qui en a été faite ce matin par M. Shah, Directeur du Bureau du programme, du budget et de l'évaluation; tout en soutenant la totalité des lignes directrices de l'application de la stratégie internationale de la troisième Décennie du développement dans l'élaboration et l'exécution des programmes de travail et des plans à moyen terme de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, elle apprécie à un très haut point les actions que la FAO s'efforce de promouvoir en Afrique, surtout en ce qui concerne les nouvelles technologies adaptées aux conditions de l'environnement dans la transformation des produits locaux.

Elle souhaite que, parallèlement à cette disposition, la FAO concentre son effort dans ce domaine sur la transformation des produits locaux dont l'accès est facile à la masse des populations et répond aux habitudes alimentaires de la majorité des défavorisés.

La délégation camerounaise salue avec ferveur les vœux émis au paragraphe 30 à savoir que la faim et la malnutrition pourraient être éliminées le plus tôt possible et en tout cas avant la fin du siècle. Tel est le sens de l'intervention du Ministre de l'agriculture du Cameroun qui, lundi dernier, posait la question suivante: "A quand la fin de la faim?..."

Le chapitre "Production alimentaire et agricole" est plus qu'un bréviaire pour cette délégation qui pense que la lutte contre la faim exige la participation des petits exploitants et qu'il leur revient de se nourrir et de nourrir leurs concitoyens à partir de leur travail de la terre.

En ce qui concerne la production agricole, la délégation du Cameroun constate avec plaisir que les programmes sur l'utilisation des engrais, la lutte contre la trypanosomiase, le développement des semences améliorées, la lutte contre les acridiens figurent en bonne place. Elle souhaite envisager aussi la lutte anti-aviaire qui constitue un fléau au Sahel.

Avant d'en terminer, je tiens, au nom de ma délégation, à vous dire que nous adhérons entièrement au Programme et que nous souhaitons qu'il soit présenté aux instances supérieures, surtout aux Nations Unies, afin que l'Organisation puisse débattre des problèmes posés dans ce document.

B. FURNESS (United States of America): At the recent meeting of the FAO Council the United States delegate addressed the document that we have before us at some length, and made a number of points. Particularly he pointed out that the United States has carefully reviewed this report, and that it can fully support most of the FAO activities designed to fulfil the objectives and goals of the International Development Strategy. We do believe that this is a very comprehensive and thorough report, and that it can generally serve as a basis for the discussion, as has been indicated.

Our delegate to the Council did indicate, however, that the United States did have a number of concerns that should be reflected in the report. In particular we believe that it does go beyond the existing international consensus in some of the points that it does make in some areas. It is not my intention today to go into great detail on this. I believe that our concerns in this area are generally well known, and were reflected, in fact, on the statement made by the United States at the time of the debates and adoption of the International Development Strategy. I would note that in the recent Council meetings the concerns of the United States, or perhaps I should say one delegation, were expressed in the form of a footnote in the appropriate paragraph, a footnote which stated "One delegation noted that it had expressed certain reservations on the International Development Strategy and while largely agreeing with many FAO approaches nevertheless had questions and concerns that reflected its reservations on the IDS."

In summary, as I have indicated, we can fully support most of the FAO activities designed to fulfil the International Development Strategy. However, we do feel that some of the points go beyond the existing international consensus, and we ask that a footnote similar to that recorded in the Council be placed in the record of discussion on this item as well.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I, and like several others, have perhaps been under a misunderstanding that the second part of this item would allow us to treat in some more detail the general aspects of recent developments in the UN system. Since it seems it will not, I just wanted to mention very briefly that I would be terribly remiss if Canada did not join with those delegations this morning who called for a completion of the first replenishment of IFAD in the beginning of the second replenishment cycle. I think most delegations are where Canada stands on this.

I would also join those delegations who call for a continuous and predictable funding at higher levels for the United Nations Development Programme.

That being said, I would like very briefly to treat the document before us C 83/26. It has much in it that we would in fact, in other circumstances, have commented upon. I fear however that we will not have time nor the desire to do that again to-day, but let me raise just two points. In paragraph 36 the FAO admits, and we admit that there are "no compelling technical reasons why developing countries as a whole should not be able to achieve the goals of adequate production growth and of equitable distribution of available food supplies".

That is our conclusion also, Mr Chairman. It is certainly the conclusion of our Minister of Agriculture, and it is certainly the conclusion of many delegations here to-day. We all accept the fact that issues are more complex than perhaps we originally suspected, but the list of complexities which follow in paragraph 36 will, we fear, become perhaps excuses for too many of us. Several Ministers at this Conference have stated many times that political will is the engine of growth, and without this political will there will be no movement. From our perspective this political will involves not only the donor countries or even the international organizations, specialize agencies like the FAO, but recipient LDCs as well. It is also our belief that as complex as the problems may be, they are not insurmountable given the political will.

The second example I would refer to very briefly deals with paragraph 90 onwards on food security. In the middle of that paragraph we read, "there has been only slow and limited progress in the achievement of that objective", i.e. of an effective World Food Security system. Progress may be slow but there has been some progress. Just a few moments ago we heard the distinguished delegate of Indonesia speak of his country's progress. We have heard from others during this Conference - India, Bangladesh, Thailand and so on - all of whom are making some progress. We know of other institutions: we can give some credit to the World Food Council for beginning the IMF food facility to the food sector strategies. These are all steps in the right direction for us. The Director-General's global perspective on food security is also a step in the right direction and a very important one, but the base line for our delegation and many others is still national production.

I read just last week in one of the journals that a particular developing country, now almost entirely dependent on food aid assistance, had managed - and this is a quote from that article - "to get away from the precarious reliance on national production". My delegation finds it very difficult to believe that that kind of statement is one of serious intent. We feel that having done so, this nation now relies on the precarious availability of food aid. Being able to purchase commercially the food you need is one thing. Having to rely on the generosity or the availability of food aid assistance is quite another.

We, like the United States, agree in general terms with most of the principles contained in this document, and we have no objection to the document going forward to the General Assembly as FAO's views on the Review and Appraisal of the IDS. We believe it is a useful and important document and comprehensive from FAO's perspective, and it should be considered in the context of the IDS.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): This document which is before us really gives a very nice view of how the actual programmes are oriented and directed at the objectives and goals of the International Development Strategy.

We strongly support these Programmes but there are just one or two small comments that I would like to make on behalf of my delegation. One relates to what is stated in paragraph 25, the role of agro-processing industries. This is a very important area, particularly for the small farmers. These agro-processing industries are related to perishable agricultural commodities, vegetable and fruits, and these small farmers usually own very small pieces of land.

If they go in for traditional agriculture the income is low. We should encourage them to go in for high value agriculture. This they can do if they can find easy markets for it, and therefore there is need for small-scale agro-processing industries. We are glad to note that FAO is giving due priority to this and has done a lot of useful work, as has been stated in the subsequent paragraphs, in Africa and Latin America. I do hope that the information is not continent-specific, and should be made available to other regions which are anxious to develop these agro-processing industries.

Then my second comment relates to paragraph 45 in which firstly the problem has been rightly identified that the agricultural projects, the projects aimed at increased production of food and agriculture, they need to be executed, but the main problem is of course that the project planning and formulation capacities of the countries are limited. Emphasis has been laid in these paragraphs under this heading that FAO is giving planning assistance. That means assistance for planning and policy formulation, and what is stated here is that training is being given in project analysis. I would suggest that what is much more important first is assistance in project formation. Perhaps analysis will come a little later. The formulation capacity needs to be developed. This is one of the weakest areas. We have ideas, we probably can come up with good policies, but good projects is a major constraint. Perhaps FAO's resources may not be adequate. Some extra-budgetary resources may have to be found and should be made available to FAO.

After having said that I would come to the two conclusions, the two paragraphs at the end, 169 and 170. I would only say that the thrust of the policy area recommended in the IDS is "more valid" now rather than "as valid" because of the fact that this decade was heralded by continuing economic stagnation, and therefore we think that the matter should be much more vigorously pursued.

E.P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation also wishes to congratulate the FAO on the document before us. We refer to C 83/26 which is clearly quite comprehensive and well prepared.

We also feel that as has been said by at least one of the previous speakers, there is perhaps nothing, or rather not very much, that is very new, and we would have commented on a lot of this at various points throughout the Conference. So in a general sense we also commend the document for the consideration of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the General Assembly.

Reference was made only a few minutes ago to political will, and in particular to a statement from, I think, a publication from a well-known source in which reference was made to some particular country getting away from the "precarious reliance on national production". We think that that is a very serious statement, a very serious kind of thinking, and one that is definitely not in the direction which would help us in our struggle in overcoming the problems of food production and feeding the hungry people of this world. We need to look very seriously at that.

What we must and we have been doing it and we will have to continue to do it, what we must emphasise is that in the final analysis success in our struggle and in our efforts will come in the first instance from what is accomplished with the national effort. The whole picture emphasises clearly the case for resources, more resources, as we have been saying throughout the Conference. So we also take this opportunity to support all possible efforts for funding for UNDP, IFAD, and other organizational arrangements pertaining to the struggle for food production.

What we need to stress is that our best hope will be in the will and the determination of the developing countries themselves in the first instance, which means that there is a need to harness and exploit our own internal resources, and one thing which stands out in all this is the need for research which is also referred to in the document, and we wish to emphasise research on a broad basis because if we say and we believe that the problem surely is not technical, then it means that we need to be able to understand what the world problems are, and in so doing there is need for research not only on technical matters but very definitely also on social economic aspects.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): May I firstly Sir, through you thank all the delegations which have taken an active part in this debate, and express on behalf of the Director-General our appreciation for their reaction.

I believe the Director-General will be strengthened in his decision to have submitted this document to you by the response he has received. It is a mark of the respect that he has for our governing bodies and the importance he attaches to the Conference expressing itself vis-a-vis any other external organ that led him to submit this document to you.

Every speaker has been very kind and clear in expressing support for the document which is proposed to be submitted to the Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the review and appraisal of the IDS. This general endorsement was, of course, a prerequisite for any further action by the Director-General.

While endorsing the substance and the gist of the document, a few delegations - in particular Australia and the United States of America recalled their governments' position when the International Development Strategy was adopted by the General Assembly. Let me say quite clearly that there is no intention of changing the views or interpreting in any way the views of these governments other than as they are and as they have been recorded. What the Director-General requested was the reaction of the Conference on the validity of FAO programmes in response to the Strategy and not whether member governments retained their position on the Strategy or had in any way changed these positions.

It will of course be for the Commission and the Plenary to decide how to handle this matter in the report. The Delegate of the United States referred quite correctly to the footnote which appears in the Council Report. I would only point out for now that the Council Report was, after all, an internal report from the Council to the Conference. When we are talking about an extract of the Conference Report going to a Committee of the General Assembly it might be preferable to express the reservation intended in the text of the report rather than as a footnote; but this is a point really for the Chairman of the Drafting Committee in the first instance to consider with his colleagues, and then for the Commission and the Plenary.

A number of points were made about FAO's activities in support of the Strategy. Let me say that we have taken very careful note in particular of the suggestion by the Delegate of Pakistan, that it is not only policy planning and policy formulation which should receive high priority in our programmes but also - and perhaps more - project formulation. Some other comments were made also on the importance of agro-processing industries, regarding which the document gave examples of our activities in Africa and Latin America, but not in other regions. For all these points I would like to assure you, and the Commission that the report is, of course, very concise and very selective. It should not be interpreted as - nor is it intended to be - a full account or a full reflection of all FAO programmes. We try in a concise manner to indicate what were the main areas of work and then to give illustrative examples. The importance attached by our Member Nations to our particular programmes is carefully noted.

I believe that is all I need to say in response. Finally, only to recall that the views expressed by the Conference in other parts of its Report, of relevance to international development strategy, will also then be conveyed by the Director-General together with this document. May I thank you very much, Sir, and in closing request that you kindly give the floor to Mr Regnier, my colleague, as I believe he has some other points on which he needs to reply to the debate.

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): I am pleased to answer a question raised this morning by the Representative of Sweden pertaining to inter-agency matters. He referred in particular to the UNDP Inter-Agency Task Force and asked the FAO's experience in this regard. I would say that FAO has been a strong and consistent participant in the Inter-Agency Task Force and, as the delegate of Sweden noted, FAO had a senior representative from the Development Department outposted to this Inter-Agency Task Force at UNDP for the past three years; for the period 1981-82 this officer acted as the convenor of the Task Force. And it would not be wrong to say that FAO is among the agencies which participate in the Inter-Agency Task Force most actively and most permanently.

I should also mention that the Task Force acts as the secretariat of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions for Operations, which is a subsidiary body of the ACC, and that at present the FAO Representative is also acting as the coordinator of that important secretariat body.

The Inter-Agency Task Force has certainly led to improvements in understanding between some of the elements of the system, including UNDP under whose chairmanship the Task Force is convened, but we must say frankly that we believe that the effectiveness of the Task Force could be even further enhanced. In particular, we feel that the fullest use needs to be made of the Task Force on a consistent and continuous basis. This is a matter that the Director-General is keeping under constant review.

On the other hand, we appreciate the comment which was made by the delegate of Sweden about the recent joint letter addressed by the Director-General of FAO and the UNDP Administrator to the respective representatives in the field. The full text of this joint letter is contained in document C 83/INF/18. The contents of this letter are particularly important we feel in considering the recent falls which have occurred in the share of the UNDP resources allocated to food and agriculture and consequently FAO's share of UNDP project execution, but the latter demonstrates our mutual concern with the situation at a time when agriculture and food production and food security have been recognized as the first and most urgent development priorities. We believe that the letter indicates the real and practical cooperation between the UNDP resident representatives and FAO representatives at the country level, and in this connection I am pleased to note that we are not aware of any instances where there has been a significant lack of this essential cooperation. I must add that in a recent document prepared for the ACC, the fact that this cooperation is really under way and with good results, was underlined by all the representatives in the field who had to report to Headquarters on the matter.

R.E. STENSHOLT (Australia): I appreciate the explanations given by Mr Shah and Mr Régnier. I would just like to note for the record that in our statement I made no reference to any explanatory statement or reservation of my Government on the IDS.

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): I am sorry to come in at this late stage and I would just briefly seek your indulgence, Mr Chairman. We have nothing substantive to say on this matter and we generally support the other delegations in their view of the papers that have been put forward but there is one point I would just like to make, something we have just noticed: that is the absence of our South Pacific friends and neighbours, for instance Fiji, Samoa, Tonga. We find there is no mention of these island groups, in Section J of the report, the small section that deals with Least Developed Countries and other Special Groups. I merely wanted to draw the attention of the Commission and the Secretariat to this. These Asian groups have specific problems that are probably quite unique in the Organization and we would like to see them recorded.

CHAIRMAN: This will be taken care of. The Commission has shown interest in and appreciation of document C 83/26 presenting a comprehensive view of what FAO is doing to implement IDS in its Programme of Work. The Commission supported FAO activities in these areas and considered the document indicated validity in these activities. In particular, the paper's conclusion in paragraphs 169 and 170 was given strong support. It is vital that resources for implementation of the food and agriculture component of the Strategy are made available as early as possible and that the necessary commitments be pursued at international and national levels.

Attention was also drawn to the importance of promoting increased national food production and other national efforts towards self-sufficiency.

In sum, the Conference commended the document to the Committee of Reinforced Membership for the review and appraisal of IDS.

This concludes our discussion on the International Development Strategy and we now move on to the next item.

16.2 Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations

16.2 Relations avec les organisations intergouvernementales et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales

16.2 Relaciones con organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): The document C 83/17 in front of you provides information on relations between FAO and inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations during the past biennium. This paper includes only some selected examples on new developments in FAO in relations with international organizations outside the UN system. It is in no way an attempt to include global information of our complex relations with the multitude of organizations with which we cooperate in various ways but to highlight the main recent developments. In order to develop and strengthen appropriate cooperation with international organizations in an institutionalized way, FAO cooperation is, as you know, formalized under the relevant Rules of its Basic Texts. During the biennium 1982-83 formal relations have been established with 22 additional international organizations bringing the total number to 252 of which 85 were inter-governmental and 167 international non-governmental organizations. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations in the past biennium was dynamic and expanding in quantitative and qualitative terms.

As an example in this respect a growing FAO/IGO cooperation took place in such complex and often urgent issues as food security and related matters. Collaboration in various aspects of food security materialised with important regional and sub-regional political bodies such as the Organization of African Unity, the CILSS, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Latin-American Economic System and others.

This sector was just chosen as an indication but sure enough there is an exhaustive list. It can be expected with a well-founded optimism that cooperation with various inter-governmental organizations will continue and expand further in the future.

We hope that this growing cooperation and coordination will result in a better service to member countries, in avoiding duplication of activities and a better use of available resources.

Cooperation with international non-governmental organizations is continuing successfully. In this particular sector of cooperation, however, new and more flexible ways will have to be found in order to make the best use of a more specific role of international non-governmental organizations, i.e. in their direct contact with people. During the past biennium cooperation with INGOs was centred mainly on the celebration of the World Food Day and on the follow-up to WCARRD. There is no doubt that Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and other activities which are the main follow-up of WCARRD will continue to be a field where FAO and INGO cooperation will have the most fruitful ground. In this context a global expert consultation of people's participation in rural development with an active involvement of INGOs was held in Rome at the end of 1982.

Before closing allow me to draw the Commission's attention to document C 83/INF/20 which has been distributed and contains the Report of the informal meeting of international non-governmental organizations held recently in FAO Headquarters. As you know during each Conference session an informal meeting of representatives of international non-governmental organizations is held when they have had an opportunity to refer to the FAO's Programme of Work and Budget as well as the other main subjects of FAO/ICO cooperation. At this session the meeting was held on November 8th and this Report is in document C 83/INF/20 for your consideration.

This agenda item 16.2 was, we thought, the best and most appropriate occasion to draw your attention to this INGO/FAO cooperation although many of those important points are already discussed under other items, such as the follow-up to WCARRD and, of course, food and population and so on. I understand on the other hand that Mrs Pela, who was the Chairwoman of the informal meeting, will speak later on on the main questions raised during this meeting. With these few words may I deliver for the Commission's consideration both the documents C 83/17 and C 83/INF/20.

R.E. STENSHOLT (Australia): I note the documents and also in particular C 83/INF/20. I had the fortune to be an Observer for part of the informal meeting of the non-governmental organizations and I found it a useful experience and no doubt the non-governmental organizations will be much better placed than most to talk about it, but I do feel though that there is room for far more dynamism, active pursuit of the interaction between the FAO and the NGOs and the great body of NGOs whose programmes in many ways are probably matched, or may even exceed, that of FAO worldwide in all their various shapes and forms. FAO may well be able to provide some more specific, more practical cooperation with them. It is more in terms of the FAO getting alongside the NGOs and I could not but endorse the remarks of Mr Regnier, perhaps we should inscribe them in our Report, that new and more flexible ways need to be found for cooperation with NGOs, particularly in getting down to the people.

I am not just talking necessarily about NGOs of western countries, I mean national NGOs and their peer bodies the international NGOs and some creative thinking needs to be applied here. We have had some mechanisms which have been evolved over the years. Now we need to look at these things, reformulate them and reactivate them and otherwise I feel insufficient interaction between the most dynamic forces, very often the non-government organizations, it is just being passed by and I find this particularly very unfortunate, particularly as we have just discussed the international development strategy, the worldwide ideas and challenges that encompasses and yet we are not paying enough attention to activate the very dynamic forces in world society.

M. MAHI (Cameroun) : Ma délégation a parcouru la liste des organisations intergouvernementales qui sont en relation avec la FAO. C'est une très bonne chose, mais nous ignorons qui prend l'initiative de la création de ces relations. Je veux dire par là que ma délégation souhaiterait que la FAO intervienne beaucoup plus auprès des organismes impliqués dans le cadre du développement rural. En ce sens, ma délégation souhaiterait par exemple que la FAO soit en relation directe avec certaines organisations telles que la Commission du Bassin du Tchad, qui est directement impliquée dans le développement rural, la production des végétaux et des cultures et la lutte antiacridienne et antiaviaire. C'est pour cela que nous souhaitons que la FAO soit en relation directe avec la Commission du bassin du Lac Tchad. Nous souhaiterions également que dans un futur assez proche la FAO soit en contact avec la Communauté économique des Etats africains qui vient d'être créée. Puisque cette communauté existe déjà, la FAO pourrait amorcer des relations et les intensifier dans un futur assez proche.

R. SALLERY (Canada): We, like the other two delegations who have spoken, would certainly encourage the FAO to find those new and creative ways of dealing with the NGOs, I appreciate very much the comments that Mr Regnier has given to us this afternoon and we certainly would support them. One of the ways which comes to mind in which we continue to support the role of the NGOs in international development is through the strengthening of the Programme for the World Food Day. Our own experience in Canada has been that it was through this mechanism, through the annual World Food Day celebrations, that many of the NGOs came to know about international development, indeed, came to know about the FAO and its role in development and as I tried to indicate this morning, along with other delegations, it is with the public and with these NGOs in particular that we will find growing support for multilateralism and for international development assistance efforts.

G. PELA (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers): Permit me as Chairman of the informal session of Observers of non-governmental organizations to say a few words on the report of this meeting as published in the document C 83/INF/20. I would like to thank Mr Regnier for his presentation under this item of the agenda. This meeting in fact is part of the cooperation of FAO with international non-government organizations. I would like to express on behalf of the NGOs our thanks to FAO for offering this opportunity to meet and express our views. This opportunity was in fact particularly important for those organizations which had not foreseen any other form of direct participation in the Conference.

The main theme, Food and People, was selected especially to draw the attention of the Conference to the fact that all issues concerning food to be dealt with by FAO concerns the people and their organizations. This may seem an obvious statement, but when you consider how little say people have in decisions affecting their lives in many countries, how seldom real partnership has been developed between governments and people's representative organizations, how often development plans and programmes are devised without any involvement of the people concerned, then you will realize how important it is to point out the link between food issues and people.

NGOs made a strong appeal to governments to pay more attention to the socio-economic factors involved in food-related action and to become more aware of the human dimension of development. To this end, while support was expressed to FAO participatory programmes, a series of critical areas were identified and a number of recommendations were being addressed to governments and FAO. We hope that even at this late stage these recommendations will be taken into consideration by the Conference in its deliberations and especially by FAO and the Member Governments in their future action. Let me express my wholehearted gratitude to the Australian delegate as well as to the others who have expressed the need for improvement in the relationship between FAO and the NGOs.

Now, if you will permit me I would like to say a few words as representative of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. In document C 83/17, paragraph 31, we see reported quite comprehensively the most recent developments in the long-standing collaboration between FAO and IFAP. The search for improving this cooperation is a continuous exercise with IFAP. I can mention that it will again be discussed at our next Executive Committee meeting which be held in Rome in this house early in December.

I could not find a better way to express the extent of FAO/IFAP share of the concern than quoting the Director-General's words when he addressed the IFAP General Conference last year:

"FAO and IFAP together share mission to confront governments with their responsibilities to agricultural producers and to the hungry people of the world. We must endeavour to create effective channels of communication in order to give rural people, particularly food producers, a say in national policies."

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Je voudrais remercier les délégations qui ont donné leur appui et leurs encouragements à tous les efforts de rapprochement et de coopération plus intensifs entre la FAO et les organisations non gouvernementales, et qui ont indiqué qu'effectivement des voies et moyens imaginatifs et flexibles devaient être recherchés en vue d'atteindre ce but.

Nous en avons pris note et certainement, du côté du Secrétariat nous ferons tout ce qui est possible en l'occurrence. Je voudrais à cet égard signaler que le Directeur général a demandé au Programme de la FAO pour la campagne mondiale contre la faim de préparer un catalogue des organisations non gouvernementales nationales intéressant le travail de la FAO et ce catalogue devrait être prêt en février/mars de l'année prochaine; et ce sera certainement un moyen d'identifier les organisations avec lesquelles une collaboration nouvelle et accrue devrait ou pourrait s'établir.

Cela dit, je voudrais répondre au représentant du Cameroun qui, en citant deux organisations, a demandé qui prenait l'initiative de ces relations. Selon les textes mêmes de la FAO, ce sont les organisations en question qui souhaitent établir des relations de travail avec la FAO qui en font la requête auprès du Directeur général. Par une procédure d'examen interne, cette requête est examinée et le Directeur général prend une décision quant à la nature des relations qui peuvent s'établir entre ces organisations.

CHAIRMAN: In summary, the Commission took note of the Organization's activities in cooperation both with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as reported in document C 83/17. It was suggested that new and more flexible ways needed to be found for FAO's cooperation with NGOs which offered great potential for further development. The importance of continuing cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, particularly in Africa, was also stressed. With that we conclude the discussion on Item 16.2.

The meeting rose at 16.30 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 83/II/PV/15

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTEENTH MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE
15ª SESION

(18 November 1983)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 10 h 00, sous la présidence de

C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 10.00 horas bajo la presidencia de

C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

15. Plant Genetic Resources (Follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81)

15. Ressources phytogénétiques (suivi de la résolution 6/81 de la Conférence)

15. Recursos fitogenéticos (medidas complementarias de la Resolución 6/81 de la Conferencia)

CHAIRMAN: We are now on the last item for consideration by this Commission, and I should like immediately to ask Dr Bommer to introduce the subject.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): The Director-General's report on Plant Genetic Resources, contained in document C 83/25, has been prepared as requested in Resolution 6/81 adopted by the Twenty-first FAO Conference. The Eighty-fourth session of the Council has considered this report. The Council has noted that it incorporates many suggestions of the Working Party of 13 Member Nations which the Director-General had convened during 1983 as requested by the Seventh session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG).

The Council expressed general satisfaction at the scope and content of the report and supported its general principles with regard to the importance and free availability of plant genetic resources for scientific and development purposes as a heritage of mankind. The Council recognised that the proposals contained in the Director-General's report had been formulated with a view to achieving a consensus and the widest possible participation of Member Nations and recommended its submission to this Twenty-second session of the Conference.

In the debate of the Council, a number of Member Nations indicated that certain articles in the report and the proposed Undertaking caused difficulties. I therefore wish to provide some explanations in order to assist Commission II in its deliberations.

The report contains six chapters and six annexes. Chapter II outlines the principles and objectives relevant to plant genetic resources generally, including the worldwide scientific collaboration of the many disciplines required and the forms of plant genetic resources conservation needed, in situ, in their natural habitat, and ex situ, in genebanks. It recommends concentrating international action within FAO primarily on base collections, which are those collections where the treasure of genetic variability of many crop plants should be maintained for the future ex situ, conservation is not possible. Otherwise the issue of in situ conservation is not treated in great detail in the report. But because of its utmost importance, it is recommended to pursue the establishment of nature reserves for genetic resources in collaboration with UNEP and IUCN (para 39).

Chapter III outlines the purpose, form and content of a possible International Agreement on Plant Genetic Resources. Various options for such an Agreement are considered. The form of an International Undertaking is then proposed taking into account the need for wide acceptability by all nations, of minimizing bureaucratic procedures and of rapid entry into effect of its principles.

Chapter IV reviews the historical development of international cooperation in the field of plant genetic resources and the arrangements presently existing.

In this context full account is given of the important scientific and technical role of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) under the auspices of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) co-sponsored by FAO. The detailed analysis on the legal status of the IBPGR and the CGIAR is only presented for clarification and should not in any way be interpreted as criticism of either of them.

Chapter V outlines measures that could be adopted in the light of the basic principles, objectives and requirements.

The concluding chapter summarizes the results of the review and outlines the Director-General's proposals.

His proposal for an International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources is presented in Appendix A in the form of a Conference resolution. In order to avoid confusion it should be noted that the other Appendices bear no reference to the International Undertaking and only provide explanations on the text of the report.

At the heart of the International Undertaking is the concept of the International Genebank, proposed in the form of an internationally coordinated network of national, regional and international centres which have assumed or will assume in the future responsibility for holding base collections of plant genetic resources. Governments and institutions responsible for such base collections, and which agree to participate in the network, would notify the Director-General of their wish to form

part of the International Genebank under the auspices of FAO.

Such a network of base collections was in fact initiated by IBPGR which will continue to play a pivotal role in the scientific aspects of its further development and as an instrument of research and promotion within the framework of activities foreseen in the report. Both the report and the Undertaking, therefore, call for a strengthening of the activities of the IBPGR.

As stressed by the Director-General in his statement to the Eighty-fourth session of the Council, the Undertaking does not weaken IBPGR and no changes in its independent scientific character under the auspices of the CGIAR and working in close collaboration with FAO are proposed.

The Undertaking proposes further on establishing as a policy body an Intergovernmental Committee which would be a subsidiary body of the FAO Committee on Agriculture. This Intergovernmental committee would keep under regular review the International Genebank and plant genetic resources in general. The review would cover reports issued by various bodies, including the IBPGR, the FAO Panel on Forest Genetic Resources, IUCN and others. The measures proposed in the undertaking would keep expenditures from the Regular Programme of FAO at a minimum, and could be met within the approved 1984-85 budget.

In summary, the Undertaking and the other proposals formulated by the Director-General are framed in such a way as to try to ensure on the one hand the continuation and strengthening of ongoing efforts in the field of plant genetic resources and, on the other, to provide for commitments and involvement of governments in safeguarding and reviewing the basic material of plant genetic resources as a common treasure of mankind and their free availability for scientific and plant breeding purposes.

The Director-General being aware not only of the great importance but also of the complexity of the subject, has formulated his proposals with a view to achieving a consensus and the widest possible participation of Member Nations. He trusts that the Conference will support and adopt his report.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Dr Bommer. Before we open up our discussion I should indicate that we have for this last item of the Commission, three Sessions, - this morning, this afternoon and Monday morning. The final product of these three sessions should be the adoption of the Resolution as reflected on page 32 of document C 83/25 or otherwise amended. But I should also indicate that before we come to that stage we will need to have paid detailed attention to the undertaking which is on page 33 of document C 83/25. Therefore these two aspects of the document will need our very detailed and particular attention before we come to the conclusion of the three sessions.

I would now like to invite distinguished delegations to make their comments but with the understanding that finally we will have to pay particular attention to these two aspects. The floor is now open for discussion.

K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): I thank Dr Bommer for the excellent presentation of the subject as contained in document C 83/25.

At the last Council session the Bangladesh delegation expressed its support to the proposed International Undertaking on Plant and Genetic Resources. Presently we only wish to make a couple of points. We all know that plant genetic resources are a heritage of mankind. To apply these resources to the collective benefit of mankind it is essential to promote the exploration, preservation, availability and full exploitation to the plant genetic resources and to freely exchange these on a mutual basis. To this end we all cannot but agree to an institutional and legal " framework for operational purposes on a global scale.

The Bangladesh delegation supports the establishment of an International Bank for Plant and Genetic Resources and suggests that this would work using the existing network "of base collection facilities at the national, regional and international level. Bangladesh also offers that it be designated a base collection centre for jute, banana and aloe and also to serve as a duplicate centre for rice.

Mr Chairman, with these words my delegation reiterates its supports to the proposed international Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to thank Dr Bommer for his very interesting statement which we have heard. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the considerable efforts it has made in the preparation of this document.

The circumstances prevailing in the world today make it especially necessary to protect and stock plant genetic resources and conserve them over long periods of time. Thus my country's delegation supports this approach and in the discussion at the 7th Session of COAG and at the 83rd Executive Council of FAO we took account of these facts, and in Egypt we set considerable store to plant genetic resources because this is the best way of increasing food production and agricultural output. Information and data on plant genetic resources is extremely important for the conservation of these resources, and apart from that the collection of information and the preparation of it is vital, and since we cannot act individually and singly, we welcome international and regional cooperation in this area according to specific guidelines. We think that we should consolidate national capabilities, in plant breeding, seed production, exploration and assessment efforts and we agree entirely with the Director-General with regard to his proposals about an International Genebank in the way presented in the document. We agree in principle on the draft agreement and we will ratify it once its legal aspects are completely studied.

G. ANDRE (Sweden): We would like to thank Dr Bommer for his excellent presentation of this subject. On this occasion I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Firstly, the Nordic countries would like to underline that we fully support the principle that plant genetic resources are a heritage of mankind and that they should be freely exchanged between countries and their respective institutions for the scientific purposes and use in plant breeding programmes.

We would also like to reiterate our satisfaction with the Director-General's report on the subject before us. We have participated in discussions on this report at COAG as well as the Council Sessions. Moreover Sweden was a member of the Director-General's Working Party on Plant Genetic Resources, which met in June and July.

As known, the five Nordic countries jointly operate a Nordic genebank located in South Sweden serving the whole region since 1979. The Nordic genebank also actively cooperates with the international system of IBPGR and has international responsibility for some major plant germ plasm collections. We would like to express our strong support for the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources as an autonomous independent forum for organizing an international network of plant genetic resource centres under the auspices of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. The Board is under the co-sponsorship of FAO, the World Bank and UNDP, and is working in close cooperation with FAO. IBPGR is successfully organizing a worldwide and expanding network of genebanks. The work is carried out with scientific professionalism. The decentralization has resulted in the mobilization of substantial financial support.

We appreciate very much the accomplishments of IBPGR and do not see the need for any changes in the structure and affiliation of this Board. We recognize, however, that IBPGR is not an intergovernmental body, and as such does not have the necessary legal framework to deal with some issues which can confront an international exchange of plant genetic material.

We can therefore see a reason for the desire to establish an intergovernmental Undertaking under the auspices of FAO, which would consist of a network of base collections of plant genetic resources and a global information system. Such an Undertaking would settle matters relating to international exchange of germ plasm resources and help gain access both to genetic resources in situ as well as to those already held in various genebanks and germ plasm collections throughout the world. We feel that if properly executed such an undertaking would strengthen international efforts in this field by mobilizing Member Nations of the United Nations system and as such give support to the activities of the IBPGR and therefore make it more effective. We therefore underline what is requested in the draft resolution, paragraph 2 on page 32.

Our delegations do not, however, agree that all categories of plant germ plasm resources should come within the framework of the proposed Undertaking. Because of domestic legislation we are not able to agree that a plant breeder or a plant breeding establishment should be obliged to make available its current breeding material, breeders' stocks or early generation lines unless they have been submitted by the breeder or the breeding establishment in question to the base collections as defined in the proposed draft resolution and the enclosed undertaking.

We would like to propose an amendment to the Annex on page 33, paragraph 2.1 (a) (v) by adding the wording: "if present in base collections".

When defining plant genetic resources the same addition should apply in the Director-General's report.

We understand that matters concerning forest genetic resources will be continuously reviewed by COFO.

We note from the clarification given just now by Dr Bommer that the description of the legal status of IBPGR and CGIAR contained in the report in no way constitutes a criticism of the function and effectiveness of the system.

Successful plant-breeding will increasingly depend on access to the full range of genetic variability in plants. It is therefore important for developing countries to be in a position to make full use of available plant genetic resources in their agricultural development.

The Nordic countries consider it vital that national capabilities in plant breeding in the developing countries are expanded in order to obtain full benefit from resources available within their own territories or elsewhere. FAO in collaboration with the institutions supported by CGIAR has a great role to play in this context, specially concerning increased emphasis on the use of gene plasm resources for plant improvement in the developing countries.

The Nordic countries are of the opinion that our proposed amendments are important in order to ensure that the objectives set up in the draft resolution concerning an International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources can be achieved to the benefit of all.

Furthermore they will enable the participation of governments, relevant institutions and financing agencies in a significant number later on when monitoring of activities and related actions are carried out, in order to build up a global network of genebanks.

Finally, the Nordic delegations are in principle in agreement with the Director-General's proposals contained in document C 83/25 and we would like to assure the Conference and the Director-General of our full cooperation in the further deliberations on this important item.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): In my first intervention I will be very brief indeed - unusually brief - but I may ask again for the floor in the light of our debate.

First, we are grateful to Dr Bommer as usual.

Second, I just want to echo the position that we have already stated in Plenary, that plant genetic resources represent the most important item at this Conference. Indeed, my Government attaches very great importance to the issue, which is intended, as is well known, first of all to preserve something that is indeed a heritage of mankind; and then, no less important, to provide free access to such material.

Third, we fully support what the Director-General has proposed, without any reservations. We conceive the proposal of the Director-General as a modest first step towards a very essential intervention objective and we would certainly regret, we would indeed deeply deplore it if this Conference were not able to mobilize adequately overriding support to the proposal of the Director-General.

A. SALGADO SANTOS (Brazil): First, I would like to thank Dr Bommer for his excellent introduction of the Director-General's report on plant genetic resources. I would like to express the agreement of the Brazilian delegation with the principles stated in document C 83/25 which provides that plant genetic resources are a heritage of mankind and should be freely exchanged between countries and their respective institutions for scientific purposes and use in crop breeding programmes. We believe that the success of plant breeding will increasingly depend on access to the full range of viability in plant genetic resources existing in all countries of the world. The full availability and exchange of plant genetic resources should therefore be ensured and increased. Emphasis should be given to exploring and evaluating them, to safeguarding them against indiscriminate losses and to placing all nations, particularly developing countries, in a position to make full use of them through plant breeding for their agricultural development.

Taking this point into consideration, the Brazilian Government supports the idea, particularly as seen in the light of the discussion of the Committee on Agriculture, that plant genetic resources should be freely available. In our view such an availability should be the object of a firm commitment by the international community and by individual governments.

In this connection I would like to inform the Council that Brazil has made considerable investment in the conservation of animal and plant resources. For this purpose a National Centre of Genetic Resources was created; it coordinates 64 genebanks in the whole country.

As far as the creation of an international bank for plant genetic resources is concerned, my delegation agrees with the suggestion of the Committee on Agriculture that the bank should be considered as an international concept and not as a single physical entity; and that it should be formed of a network of storage facilities.

We also agree with the Committee on Agriculture's special emphasis on the predominant need to strengthen national capabilities of developing countries in plant genetic resources, plant breeding and seed multiplication. Considering the establishment of an international network of base collections, we believe it should function as central component of a global system for the collection, preservation and exchange of plant genetic resources. Such an international system, based on the principle of the full availability of plant genetic resources, will certainly require the interacting cooperation of the scientific community and the community of nations. In addition, the stress on international cooperation should ensure that all nations are in a position to exploit the benefits of plant genetic resources. Intergovernmental cooperation and support from intergovernmental and financial agencies should ensure increased assistance to developing countries in strengthening or establishing their plant breeding and seed production capabilities, in their expertise and exploration and evaluation work with the related training and establishment of genebanks for their plant breeding programmes in the first instance, and for their participation in the network of base collections.

The Brazilian Government also favours the adoption of an instrument on the lines of an international undertaking. Such an instrument would have a strong formal commitment without having the legally binding character of a convention which could be an obstacle to its acceptance and could certainly entail delay in its entry into effect for a significant number of governments.

Finally, the Brazilian delegation would like to commend the document before us and also to give its support to the draft resolution annexed which adopts the international undertaking on plant genetic resources.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): En primer lugar deseamos felicitar y agradecer al señor Bommer la clara y amplia presentación del tema. Igualmente agradecemos al Director General por el documento tan completo que nos ha presentado, el cual merece nuestro apoyo.

Nuestra delegación, al examinar detalladamente el documento C 83/25, desea, antes de referirnos a su contenido y aspecto sustantivo, reconocer el esfuerzo que realiza la FAO en el sentido de preservar los recursos fitogenéticos como patrimonio de la humanidad para la generación actual y las futuras. Entendemos que estos esfuerzos deben recibir adecuadamente el apoyo de todos los países en su concepción general, al margen de los detalles prácticos para su implementación, lo que será analizado con toda objetividad en esta Conferencia.

El documento C 83/25 es amplio y objetivo en su exposición al abordar las dificultades actuales y las alternativas de solución. Sin embargo, quisiéramos llamar la atención sobre algún aspecto de suma importancia, especialmente para los países en vías de desarrollo.

La creación de un sistema internacional que asegure la protección, recolección, conservación, mantenimiento, evaluación de los recursos fitogenéticos e intercambio, y sobre todo que estén libremente disponibles para la utilización de todos aquellos que lo necesiten, requerirá el apoyo de todos por igual, tanto de los países pobres como de los países ricos.

Hay que destacar además que el uso de los recursos fitogenéticos para el mejoramiento de las plantas cultivadas deberá estar encaminado prioritariamente a la solución de los problemas del hambre que hoy aqueja a la mayoría de los países del Tercer Mundo. Algunos problemas deberán ser resueltos para que se realice el libre intercambio de estos recursos, y en tal sentido debemos prestar atención a la capacitación de los científicos y técnicos dedicados a la fitogenética, en particular de los países subdesarrollados.

La creación de condiciones en los países para que pueda asegurarse el adecuado funcionamiento del sistema requerirá un soporte financiero, que todos los contribuyentes deben considerar como de primera importancia.

Será necesario, además, mejorar las informaciones existentes y garantizar un sistema viable y eficiente para la rápida transferencia de las informaciones necesarias en la utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos, con lo que se evitaría pérdidas de tiempo y duplicación de trabajos y esfuerzos.

Saludamos con beneplácito la propuesta de España para poner al servicio internacional su banco genético como caja de seguridad para colecciones básicas, bases de recursos fitogenéticos.

Nuestra delegación considera una necesidad impostergable la formulación y puesta en práctica de un compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos, en el cual participen además de los gobiernos, instituciones internacionales de prestigio como el CIRF, apoyado en el marco jurídico que otorga la FAO.

En tal sentido, para poner en práctica este compromiso, nuestra delegación entiende conveniente la creación de un órgano auxiliar de carácter intergubernamental bajo los auspicios del Consejo de la FAO.

Nuestro país comparte y apoya la alternativa de la creación de un banco internacional de recursos fitogenéticos siempre que esto se lleve a cabo dentro de un estricto concepto internacional y para el bien de la generación presente y de las futuras.

E. EMMANOUILIDIS (Grèce) : Sur ce problème des ressources phytogénétiques, la Communauté économique européenne et ses dix Etats membres ont arrêté une position communautaire. C'est pourquoi, et puisque la Grèce exerce actuellement la présidence de la Communauté, je vous demande de bien vouloir donner la parole au représentant de la Commission qui exprimera le point de vue de la Communauté économique européenne.

D. OBST (EEC) : The European Economic Community and its Member States wish to congratulate the Director-General of the FAO on the excellent report in document C 83/25. They note that the Undertaking proposed in Appendix A for this report represents a substantial improvement on earlier proposals. They consider that it is essential to collect and to conserve plant genetic resources in order to guard against losses of such material and to safeguard genetic diversity. They support measures designed to develop and, should any shortcomings become apparent, improve the ready exchange of knowledge and material under the control of adherent governments and institutions between plant breeders and scientists so that all parts of the world may enjoy the benefits of expert maintenance of available varieties and the breeding of new ones. To this end they also recognize the need to promote training for proper conservation and use of plant genetic resources.

They welcome the proposals set out in Appendix A as a suitable basis for discussion and they approve the objectives and the form thereof. However, due account should be taken of existing structures in the Community in respect of plant breeding and plant protection and of the conditions necessary to maintain the proper function of established institutions active in the field of plant genetic resources, in particular of IBPGR and of existing international cooperation arrangements. Nevertheless they are convinced that in the spirit of mutual understanding of the problems of the various countries solutions will be found. The Community and its Member States are resolved to cooperate to the best of their ability.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): We would commend Dr Bommer for his introduction. We also would commend the Director General and his staff for the effort put forth in preparing document C 83/25. The presentation of basic considerations is especially well done and is, we believe, quite objective. We are puzzled and concerned though by the apparent attitude that the current CGIAR sponsored network is insufficiently institutionalized to support a successful international germplasm system. The IBPGR and CGIAR both have respected positions as international institutions with long and proud records of programs and activities which command respect and cooperation from the world scientific community, whether governmental or private and, recently,... The International Board on Plant Genetics Resources (IBPGR) has in fact obtained the opinion of the respected international law firm, Surry and Morse, which reached the firm conclusion that both the IBPGR and CGIAR are unquestionable legal entities. To allow this body to get sidetracked from the germplasm concerns because of a debate about the legal status of these institutions we feel would be an unfortunate disservice that would delay any possible, improvements or expansions to the International Plant Genetic Resources System.

My Government has had a long-standing and continuing commitment to our National Plant Germplasm System, to the International Plant Genetic Resources System, and to FAO. Our direct and indirect monetary contributions in support of both systems and of FAO are very sizeable. More importantly, though, we have consistently encouraged, supported and contributed to the free exchange of germplasm. It would be strange indeed if such were not the case - - for as much if not more than any other country in the world, the agricultural sector of the United States economy has benefitted from ready access to the free exchange of germplasm. That sector of our economy has now evolved to the point where the United States is often the source of germplasm which is of interest to others. In fact, at the present time the United States distributes more than 50 germplasm samples for every single sample we receive from other Nations. We recognize the intense interest which other Nations have in improving access to and utilization of germplasm. While we are proud of our part in what has been and is being done to meet that intense interest, we are equally anxious to do whatever we can to improve the existing system - - within limitations on resources so that there will be even better access to and utilization of germplasm in the future.

The current system works. In fact, it is widely acclaimed for its records of success. It is very important to recognize that the current system works because it is trusted by the scientific community. In fact, major decisions have been made in consultation with or under the leadership of the scientific community. Thus, operation of the system, improvements and participation are based upon desire and not unnecessary legal requirements.

The system is being improved dramatically in terms of numbers of new accessions, cataloguing, storage, preservation and distribution. We in the United States are just now completing a germplasm resources information program, which we call GRIP, which is a computerized system of tracking and accounting for all germplasm in the USDA system. All information on germplasm held in storage by USDA and cooperators that is the states primarily should be in this system and easily accessible within two years, possibly sooner.

We recognize the concern of some Member Nations regarding the effects of breeders' rights legislation on germplasm exchange. We are convinced, however, that such legislation causes little or no hindrance to free germplasm exchange among plant scientists around the world. We also recognize the right of sovereign nations to impose legislation relating to breeders' rights.

Our attitude toward and evaluation of any proposal for a new undertaking stems basically from the great respect in which we hold the present system - - a system which is working well and offers the means for some improvement. Any undertaking which would supersede, however gradually, overlap or fail to build on the existing system will not command our support - - indeed it will encounter our resistance and opposition. Allow me now to explain the reasons:

- First and foremost, we believe that any such action would place the highly successful international germplasm system in serious jeopardy. As an example, those components of the international system which reside in the United States are, in some cases, administered by Federal agencies; in other cases administered by State agencies; and in many cases include property from private sources. There is simply no way that control of those collections will be granted to any outside organization- including FAO. Collections controlled by private sources can sometimes be obtained by exchange. Most of those available from US stores are freely exchanged depending on specific agreements with cooperating countries.

- - Second, adoption of any undertaking that would commit FAO to large increases in expenditures would be unacceptable. There would have to be an indication as to which of its other worthwhile activities would have to be proportionately curtailed in light of the limited FAO budget. This would not seem to be a constraint during the present upcoming biennium, according to Dr Bommer's introduction.

- - Third, we are still concerned that adoption of any new undertaking might conflict with some provisions of our plant variety protection and patent laws.

- - Finally, we are firmly convinced that improved effectiveness of the total system can be made within the existing mechanism if we seek improved processes from a scientific rather than a legalistic stance. It is the fervent hope of the United States that this body of nations will recognize the value and success of our current system and will seek means of improvement within that system rather than attempt to invoke any additional management or legalistic control which will very likely damage rather than improve the system.

In our view, FAO could be very helpful in improving the present system. For example, it is printed out in paragraph 160 of the Director-General's report (C 83/25) that the international action should first concentrate on the strengthening of national plant breeding capabilities. Such strengthening of national capabilities could be an important contribution which FAO could make through TCP-funded research training projects, for example. Likewise, FAO could assist the IBPGR in improving its global information system by utilizing information available from information systems of many countries as for example the GRIP in the United States. But let us build on and seek to improve the system that is working - - not speculate on or plan for new systems or .new institutions which will not command the confidence and support of the very parties whose cooperation and participation are essential to a functioning world system of germplasm exchange.

The issue we are discussing has occupied a vast amount of time and stirred many emotions in this and related FAO discussions. Although Member Nations have expressed some divergent views, the level of interest is indicative of our common concern for and appreciation of those precious resources. I hope we will not lose sight of our common objective of preserving and utilizing plant germplasm for the benefit of all humankind, now and in the future.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Ma délégation félicite le Directeur général pour la clarté du document : C 83/25 relatif aux ressources phytogénétiques. Elle félicite aussi M. Boramer pour son introduction à la fois concise et exhaustive.

Tout d'abord, ma délégation tient à rappeler que c'est depuis 1946 que la FAO s'occupe de problèmes de conservation de ressources phytogénétiques, et qu'elle a créé plus tard, en 1950, son unité d'écologie des plantes et des ressources phytogénétiques. Elle collaborait alors avec le Programme international de biologie. Aujourd'hui encore, la FAO est la principale agence ayant des responsabilités sur les ressources génétiques forestières.

Au début des années 60, il y a donc 20 ans, la FAO a attiré l'attention du système des Nations Unies sur les dangers croissants de l'érosion génétique. L'unité d'écologie des plantes et des ressources phytogénétiques constituait en fait le premier organisme du système des Nations Unies engagé dans le problème de la conservation des ressources phytogénétiques. A travers ses rapports techniques, ses congrès scientifiques et une revue longuement diffusée, elle a su mettre en évidence l'importance des ressources génétiques pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Parallèlement, la FAO était le premier organisme des Nations Unies à lancer un programme de conservation des ressources génétiques forestières. Elle continue ses efforts dans ce sens, et ses compétences en la matière sont universellement reconnues et appréciées.

Au cours des années 70, une large prise de conscience des problèmes liés à l'environnement, suscitée en partie par la Conférence de Stockholm, conduisait à renforcer le camp des partisans de la conservation des ressources génétiques.

Parallèlement, le Conseil international des ressources phytogénétiques (CIRPG) se substituait à l'unité d'écologie des plantes et des ressources génétiques de la FAO. Cette usurpation a créé depuis lors ce qu'on peut appeler une anomalie organisationnelle. De fait, le CIRPG est devenu une structure indépendante n'ayant de comptes à rendre à personne bien qu'elle soit domiciliée dans les bâtiments de la FAO. Cette confusion des attributions a entraîné la séparation de la conservation des ressources génétiques forestières de celle des espèces utilisées dans la production agricole. Cette séparation artificielle nous semble contraire aux exigences d'efficacité pour une bonne conservation des ressources phytogénétiques.

Récemment, les débats de la vingt et unième Conférence, ainsi que les réunions du Conseil et du Comité de l'agriculture de la FAO ont montré clairement que l'enjeu n'est pas seulement technique et financier, mais surtout une arme politique et commerciale néfaste aux intérêts des pays en développement qui, ne l'oublions pas, ont été à l'origine de la plupart des plantes à haut rendement actuellement cultivées.

La délégation du Bénin estime qu'il est indispensable que la FAO retrouve son mandat originel et qu'elle mobilise ses moyens humains, techniques et financiers dans un effort harmonieux de conservation des ressources génétiques au sens large du terme.

Pour ce faire, ma délégation voudrait suggérer que la Conférence invite le Directeur général à étudier les mesures adéquates afin que la collaboration avec le CIRPG soit plus conséquente au profit de tous les pays, y compris ceux en développement.

Par ailleurs, la délégation de mon pays propose que le Directeur général soit invité à créer un nouveau comité intergouvernemental pour la sécurité phytogénétique, avec pour mission de donner des orientations à l'ensemble des efforts de conservation génétique engagés par notre Organisation.

Ma délégation souhaiterait également être unanimement soutenue par les Etats Membres pour cette seconde demande. A notre avis, cette nouvelle orientation doit être considérée comme une évolution logique des efforts engagés depuis 40 ans environ par la FAO sur ce sujet de discordance artificiellement créé.

Pour terminer, ma délégation appuie sans réserve les propositions du Directeur général pour la création d'une banque de gènes.

E. MARTENS (Belgique): La délégation belge tient d'abord à féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellent rapport concernant les ressources phytogénétiques.

Conscient de l'importance de la protection et conservation des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'amélioration des plantes cultivées, le Gouvernement belge apporte sa contribution au Conseil international des ressources phytogénétiques depuis sa création en 1974. Nous appuyons pleinement et sans réserve les activités de ce conseil international qui travaille comme une entité autonome dans le cadre du Groupe consultatif sur la recherche agricole internationale. La force du groupe consultatif est étroitement liée à son informalité d'association. De même pour le CIRPG. Lors de la réunion du groupe consultatif, au début de novembre de cette année, à Washington, le groupe

a exprimé sa satisfaction sur le travail exécuté par le CIRPG dans le cadre des ressources phyto-génétiques. Le groupe a même renforcé le mandat du CIRPG et s'est prononcé sur le fait que le Conseil international devrait continuer comme institution internationale autonome et indépendante sous l'autorité du GCRAI en travaillant étroitement avec la FAO. La représentation belge à cette réunion tout comme les représentations des autres pays présents, souscrit à cette appréciation. Nous ne voyons pas la nécessité de changements ni dans la structure, ni dans le fonctionnement du CIRPG.

La proposition qui figure à l'appendice de l'annexe A du document C 83/25 représente une amélioration substantielle comparée aux propositions antérieures. Le document même donne une analyse exemplaire de la situation en matière de ressources phytogénétiques, et les objectifs y formulés reçoivent toute notre attention et notre appui.

Le système actuel du réseau organisé et coordonné par le CIRPG aura probablement des faiblesses, mais nous sommes de l'opinion que des améliorations pourraient être apportées plus efficacement par le renforcement du CIRPG lui-même et cela à un moindre coût.

Nous sommes disposés à appuyer tout effort qui pourrait améliorer davantage le libre-échange et l'accès aux ressources phytogénétiques et le renforcement du sujet. Nous sommes convaincus que des solutions valables pourront être trouvées dans le cadre du système international existant.

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya): My delegation welcomes the opportunity to discuss the report of the Director-General on this important subject. We wish to thank him, his staff, COAG, the Council and members of the working party who contributed to this work. It is our hope that the Conference will make further positive contributions to the suggestions made and approve them.

It is indeed gratifying to see that the subject of plant genetic resources, conservation, utilization, ownership, and so on, which very often is normally discussed by individual scientists or groups of scientists, is now receiving high level consideration by member countries of FAO. This is a positive development in that it in part helps create or increase awareness within government machinery of the importance, or maybe even the existence, of this important subject, particularly in some countries where the subject has not developed or is in rudimentary stages of development. Such countries may not be few. So at this stage of my intervention we could say that an international undertaking in this area must also seek to bring to the attention of governments of countries that may fall in this category the importance of genetic resource conservation.

We have also been told, and in fact we know, that plant genetic resources are a common heritage of mankind. No one doubts this. Genetic resources can be non-renewable in that once lost they cannot be synthesized. This non-renewability may not be visible to those of us who are unfamiliar with the fine detail of natural variability but it is important that they do because the replacement of these resources needs to be urgently checked to avoid serious consequences.

Paragraph 21 of the document we are discussing goes into detail on this point and I need not repeat what is said there. It stands to reason, therefore, that the international community must collaborate to the maximum extent possible in measures to prevent genetic erosion.

Specific principles and projects must be worked out covering the commitments and role of governments and relevant institutions in efforts to preserve genetic material and in the necessary utilization, especially in breeding programmes, and even ownership.

It is in this context that my delegation generally supports the proposals that the Director-General has made on an international undertaking which we think has put together views that have been expressed in the past two years and which we consider to be balanced and practical.

We shall now make specific comments in a few areas.

Paragraph 34 considers international genebank that is not a single physical entity. Of course it would hardly work or it would probably never work if it was a single physical entity. It considers an international genebank that is a network of storage facilities all over the world. It considers the strengthening of national capabilities of developing countries in plant genetic resources, plant breeding, seed multiplication, and so on. My delegation considers this approach most reasonable, and without labouring our need so much we support the Director-General's suggestions in this regard.

Paragraphs 164 to 168 on the proposed legal framework of FAO, under which activities of the IBPGR would be conducted, is also in line with our thinking since this does not seem to us to deny IBPGR from going on with its present activities, which are very important to us.

Governments' participation, as contained in paragraphs 172 and 173, are also very important. It is also very important that constraints developing countries are faced with, in developing their national capabilities, are contained in paragraph 108. As usual, Africa carries the largest burden as far as these constraints are concerned. In this part of the world I do not know how many countries have an organized genetic resource conservation programme. Probably none. In many cases there are pockets of storage-holding activities scattered in the major and a few research stations in these countries. I do not know how many such stations have even live germplasm stored in situ. Our priority, therefore, is to develop at the national level an organized genetic resource conservation programme, and clear objectives in our breeding programmes. We must establish a manageable national genebank so that we can benefit more from international collaboration.

In order to succeed in this the question of personnel must receive urgent consideration, and other facilities, otherwise the benefits of genetic integrity will be at stake, and documentation can be such that any attempts of information retrieval can be difficult, or uncertain.

The need for a regional or sub-regional genebank must also be emphasized. Such an arrangement is good in that our breeders would be expected to have access to more genetic resources if we operated at the national level. I am happy the Director-General is considering these issues. We shall not go further than this since we have had in the past meetings of COAG and Council that have discussed this subject in greater depth, and as we can see the Director-General has come up with compromise proposals which, as I have said, have received our general support.

A. CAUDERON (France): La délégation française remercie le Directeur général de la FAO ainsi que M. Bommer de la qualité du rapport qui a été fourni ainsi que de la présentation qui en a été faite. Ce rapport marque un progrès important.

Le représentant de la Communauté européenne a déjà indiqué l'essentiel des observations de principe auxquelles nous nous rallions absolument. Il est effectivement essentiel de traiter les ressources génétiques comme un patrimoine commun, et il est capital qu'il y ait un engagement de chaque pays à ne pas faire obstacle à l'échange des ressources génétiques; cela afin de faciliter les travaux de génétique et les travaux de sélection végétale. Cet engagement est important, mais il ne suffit pas. Il faut également encourager l'étude des ressources génétiques et les travaux de sélection végétale en particulier dans les pays en voie de développement; encourager et appuyer la formation des chercheurs, l'organisation de laboratoires, la prospection de ressources génétiques locales et également la fourniture de matériel végétal extérieur à des fins de sélection. Je ne pense pas qu'on puisse arriver à faire tout cela sans avoir des moyens nouveaux ou sans redéployer les moyens actuels.

Dans cet esprit, il nous semble qu'on devrait approfondir l'idée de création d'un fonds des ressources génétiques administré par la FAO. Cette idée est exposée dans l'article 177 du rapport du Directeur général.

On devrait également approfondir l'idée d'un organe du comité de l'agriculture qui suivrait les travaux sur les ressources génétiques, idée qui est exposée à l'article 195 du rapport du Directeur général.

Tout cela permettrait de mieux associer le comité de l'agriculture aux travaux poursuivis sur les ressources génétiques. Et ici, il faut dire qu'il importe de ne pas perturber les organisations déjà engagées dans ce travail. Ces organisations, et en particulier le CIRPG, ont prouvé leur efficacité. Rappelons qu'elles ont travaillé en liaison très étroite avec la FAO. On peut bien entendu développer l'action du CIRPG ou d'autres organisations internationales de ressources génétiques, on peut modifier leur façon de faire, mais il serait dangereux de les perturber et la procédure prévue présente, me semble-t-il, des dangers, dangers de désaccord, désaccord qui aboutirait à diminuer l'efficacité du système actuel qui est contraire à ce que nous souhaitons tous.

Le CIRPG aurait certainement l'imagination nécessaire pour se doter des instruments juridiques qui pourraient lui manquer pour conclure des accords et des contrats avec des gouvernements, avec le fonds des ressources génétiques de la FAO déjà cité, tout cela pour remplir un certain nombre de tâches précises.

On devrait enfin, nous semble-t-il, réfléchir à la possibilité de développer la fourniture aux pays en voie de développement, de matériel de sélection, je veux dire de matériel intermédiaire de sélection qui pourrait être préparé par des organismes, comme les centres internationaux de recherche agricole. L'ensemble de ces mesures nous paraît de nature à diminuer la principale difficulté que nous rencontrons dans le domaine des ressources génétiques, à savoir la méfiance.

I. GARCIA CUERVA (Argentina): Señor Presidente: Como ya hemos manifestado en la reciente reunión del Consejo, mi delegación quiere expresar su satisfacción por la velocidad, por la objetividad y la eficacia con que el Director General, con el apoyo de un grupo de expertos, nos ofrece propuestas concretas. Sin duda, las mismas constituyen un avance muy significativo en la búsqueda de puntos de encuentro en un tema de la importancia del que estamos tratando, pero al que asimismo debemos reconocer complejo y con grandes implicaciones.

La delegación Argentina desea ratificar y apoyar los principios fundamentales que han dado lugar a la Resolución 6/81 de la Conferencia; o sea, que los recursos fitogenéticos son un patrimonio de la humanidad y que debe haber en todo momento y lugar disponibilidad de fitogermoplasma para fines de investigación.

Es por ello que mi delegación apoya las principales conclusiones y propuestas del Director General, que están adecuadamente expresadas en forma resumida en los párrafos 193 y 194. No obstante, quisiéramos extender nuestros comentarios a algunos aspectos de la experiencia de nuestro país en el campo de la fitogenética, así como exponerlos en algunos párrafos del documento presentado, por considerarlo de particular interés.

Como ya hemos reiterado en las sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, somos conscientes de que la genética es el instrumento tecnológico más contundente, más formidable y de más alto retorno económico de que el hombre hoy dispone para el logro de crecimientos en la producción agrícola.

Nuestro país ha logrado aumentar los rendimientos agrícolas en un 57 por ciento en la última década, y, sin lugar a dudas, ha sido la genética, a través de nuevos materiales híbridos, quien ha tenido un papel preponderante en este resultado. En ese sentido, la legislación existente en la Argentina en el campo de las semillas y creaciones fitogenéticas cuenta ya con varios años de aplicación y vigencia, y ha sido un medio eficaz para promover una eficiente actividad de producción y comercialización de semillas, asegurando a los usuarios, o sea a los productores agropecuarios, la identidad y calidad de las semillas que adquieren, protegiendo al mismo tiempo la propiedad de la creación fitogenética.

El Ministerio de Agricultura, con el asesoramiento de una Comisión Nacional, Cuerpo Colegiado en el que intervienen el sector oficial y el privado en partes iguales, vigila el cumplimiento de la Ley, así como el establecimiento de los requisitos, las normas y tolerancias para cada una de las categorías de simiente.

En lo que hace a recursos fitogenéticos básicos, mi país cuenta con varios puntos de conservación de germoplasmas que incluyen materiales de gran valor como son el trigo, el maíz, los cultivos forrajeros, oleaginosos, caña de azúcar, forestales y otros.

De todos modos existe en mi país gran preocupación por la grave erosión genética existente en la región durante los últimos años originada en la sustitución de variedades naturales, expansión de las fronteras agropecuarias y sobrepastoreo de los forrajes nativos. Esta situación es especialmente seria en especies silvestres y cultivares primitivos y dado que los mismos son irrecuperables consideramos que deben implementarse acciones urgentes para su preservación.

Este tema fue uno de los más debatidos en la reciente reunión sobre recursos fitogenéticos de interés agrícola en el Cono Sur que se realizó en Brasilia, organizada por el Instituto Internacional Americano de Comercio Agrícola, el Centro Nacional de Recursos Genéticos del Brasil y el CIRF. En la misma participaron representaciones de Brasil, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay y la República Argentina, así como delegados de organizaciones regionales. Se consideró como muy importante la necesidad de explorar el establecimiento de un acuerdo regional sobre recursos fitogenéticos que facilite y garantice el intercambio de germoplasma, compatibilice normas, promueva la cooperación técnica y las actividades cooperativas en la recolección, conservación y manejo ante los Centros especializados de los Estados Miembros, considerando que organizaciones regionales como el Comité de Acción sobre Seguridad Alimentaria Regional, CASAR, con el apoyo del Programa CIRF/FAO, pueden promover estas acciones.

Un tema de gran prioridad es el del mantenimiento y conservación de germoplasma, pues los métodos de enfriamiento convencionales son muy costosos. En ese sentido nuestro país está trabajando en el uso de energía no convencional en zonas del Altiplano Andino, cuyos costos son prácticamente nulos. Consideramos que la falta de infraestructuras adecuadas en los países en desarrollo es uno de los obstáculos importantes. Esto está explicado con todo detalle en el párrafo 192 del documento, pero deseamos remarcar que estos factores no pueden ser utilizados para marginar a los países en vías de desarrollo en lo que hace al manejo y utilización de estos recursos. Por el contrario, lo fundamental es trabajar para mejorar esta situación.

En ese sentido, consideramos que la capacitación profesional debe ser una de las acciones fundamentales. Vemos con satisfacción las acciones que despliega el CIRF en la formación de fitogenetistas, pero consideramos que éstas deben y pueden incrementarse y alcanzar también a personas de nivel intermedio, pues en nuestra región es casi nula la existencia del personal de este nivel.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, mi delegación espera que la Conferencia apruebe las propuestas y proyectos de Resolución elaborados por la Dirección General, que significan un paso adelante en la búsqueda de la efectivización del principio de la universalidad de los recursos fitogenéticos.

J. M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom would like to take this opportunity to express its support for the principles behind this initiative and to thank the Director-General for his work in preparing this clear and detailed report. We are in full agreement with the sentiments expressed in the preamble to the draft resolution at Appendix A of this paper. Plant genetic resources are indeed a heritage of mankind and their preservation and use, particularly in developing countries, is essential for our future.

We welcome several of the conclusions drawn by the Director-General in his report. There is clearly a lack of trained breeders and other personnel in developing countries with the result that such countries are not receiving the full benefit of their own genetic resources. The United Kingdom is ready to lend its full support to activities in this particularly important field and to assist nations to utilize all available genetic resources for the benefit of their people. We must work to remedy these and other deficiencies as IBPGR is indeed already doing. However, problems such as these cannot be solved overnight. We also welcome the Director-General's conclusion that the conservation of plant genetic resources should take place in a network of gene banks based on the present expanding IBPGR network.

There are, however, some areas where we disagree with the conclusions in the report. Our main difficulty is that we do not see the need for the present network of gene banks to operate within an FAO legal framework. The Director-General's report itself demonstrates that the IBPGR system is working well, making good and steady progress in its objective of conserving plant genetic resources. FAO should monitor work in this field through their existing links with IBPGR but we see no reason to change the existing system unless and until real difficulties arise. Indeed we see the lack of a legal framework as an asset; it gives IBPGR the flexibility to act rapidly once a need is identified. A legal framework as suggested would simply increase bureaucracy and costs.

A further area of difficulty is the inclusion of 'special genetic stocks' in the undertaking. This is defined to include current breeders' lines. It is simply unrealistic to assume that this material could be made freely available in the same way as cultivated varieties and primitive cultivars. This material is constantly changing and commercially sensitive. Vast numbers of lines are produced and simply cannot be subject to long-term storage. There is no magic in these lines: the genes they contain will appear in final varieties and already appear in the parent material. The intermediate lines are not of value to agriculture in themselves or they would be marketed as new varieties. Their free availability in the short term might benefit a breeder's rivals in his own or geographically similar countries but would be of dubious benefit to breeders in countries with a different climate, terrain or soil. In the long-term, assuming free availability could be practically organized which seems unlikely, if not impossible, breeders would lose the incentive to develop new varieties.

I should like to turn now to certain areas where there are deficiencies in the report. We may have set the Director-General an impossible task by asking him to produce a comprehensive report in such a limited time, and the United Kingdom believes more information is needed to complete the report. One area that has not been studied is the financial implications, surely a central point. Dr Bommer has commented briefly on this point in his introduction. However, we need to know in full both what the measures proposed will cost and where the money will be found. Firstly the global information system. The details of what is intended are far from clear - indeed this in itself is a deficiency of the report. We need a full explanation of the intentions behind Article 7.1 (e) of the draft undertaking, an estimate of its costs and details of where the resources are to come from.

Secondly, we need to cost the proposed legal FAO framework for the existing IBPGR network. FAO does not have the same expertise as IBPGR and will therefore need to increase its staff and costs to take on this extra and quite unnecessary task. The costs of this FAO framework have not been made clear, nor has the exact role of IBPGR within this framework. Paragraph 158 of the report states that these proposals can only be achieved if the present financing of the various base collections continues or is increased. We need to know how existing-financing systems will relate to the FAO legal framework. Will contributions still continue through CGIAR as before and will national governments fund their own institutions as before? Any changes in existing arrangements could be very difficult for many states to accept.

In conclusion I should like to summarize the United Kingdom's view and discuss what action Conference should now take. While fully supporting the principles of the conservation and full and free availability of plant genetic resources the United Kingdom, in common with many other countries, is opposed to the introduction of a formal FAO legal framework to direct activities in this field and to the inclusion of breeders' lines in the arrangements for exchange of material. The legal framework would impose an extra layer of bureaucracy and as yet unquantified costs, and would restrict IBPGR's present ability to act rapidly and flexibly in cases of need. IBPGR is functioning well at the moment, and should be supported and encouraged in its present form. The FAO and its members can monitor IBPGR's progress, and only if and when problems become apparent should we consider expanding FAO's role. For this reason we suggest that the undertaking is adopted without Section II on international cooperation. Irrespective of our views on the desirability of a legal framework we do not see how Member Nations can accept proposals without a clear analysis of the financial implications. However-, if we await this there will be a considerable delay before any undertaking can be adopted.

The United Kingdom also takes the view that the reference to special genetic stocks in Article 2, sub-paragraph (v), of the undertaking should be deleted: the inclusion of such material as breeder's lines is completely impracticable and is, we believe, based on a misconception as to the nature of the material. The United Kingdom feels confident that Conference will be able to take into account the views of all member nations to adopt an agreement that all, both within and outside FAO, can accede to. In this way the future of the world's genetic resources can be placed on a firmer basis.

B. PALESTINI (Italy): The Italian delegation has taken good note of document C 83/25 and would like to congratulate the Director-General for preparing such an extensive and comprehensive report.

We think that such a document can provide a good starting point.

The essential, in my opinion, is to make clear to ourselves, first of all, what we really have in mind to achieve. Genetic banks are widely spread throughout the world; but generally they are under national supervision and have to comply with rules and regulations thereof. Many plant breeders have experienced the difficulties related to obtaining certain lines or varieties which are essential for their work. The private sector also tends to hold back part of its phytogenetic material, especially where plant variety protection is missing. So progress in research can be slower, not having the full availability of some of its essential tools. Under this point of view, we can look with favour to the establishing of an International Undertaking on Plant Genetic resources, as appears in Appendix A to this report. Another aspect - second quoted but not for that less important - is the preservation of plant genetic resources for the benefit of all mankind. We have noticed that some of the ancestors of today's common varieties are not anymore available in the areas which once were their natural habitat, but still can be found in other countries where probably plant breeding has not yet attained the highly specialized level of industrial countries. Furthermore, it is essential that plant breeding research centres are established in developing countries, so that varieties of plants which are suitable for the climatic and soil conditions of those countries can be successfully bred and made available to the rural population. Financial aspects related to this problem will require detailed consideration, as stated in paragraph 176 and following of the present document; but we think that even this difficulty can be overcome, if the good will of the countries involved is higher than particular interests and there is a true belief in the rightness of the proposal. Naturally attention must be given that the proposed agreement does not come to conflict with existing structures, such as those belonging to the European Community or related to International conventions in the field of plant breeding and plant protection. But the fact that the responsible Organization for monitoring international cooperation relating to plant genetic resources represented by FAO, is in itself a security and we can rely confidently on its full commitment and on that of its governing bodies.

M. LADOR (Israel): Permit me at the outset to express my delegation's appreciation for the excellent report contained in document C 83/25. We are happy to subscribe to the principles and objectives relevant to plant genetic resources. The description of activities undertaken by the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources throughout this report is indeed impressive and agricultural development history will surely relate to the efforts of IBPGR to promote and to support at the global level the collection, conservation, documentations, evaluation, the utilization and exchange of plant genetic resources.

Our experience in cooperating with the IBPGR in the field of exchange of plant genetic resources know-how and technical training has been, to the best of our judgement, rather effective. While fully subscribing to the desire to further strengthen intergovernmental cooperation within a stream-lined legal framework, we would nevertheless suggest judicious caution in order to avoid impediments of an institutional nature to the excellent work presently undertaken by the existing de facto IBPGR/FAO arrangement under practice.

A genebank has been established in Israel in response to meet a need to collect and maintain its rich germ plasm heritage in some ten specific areas where a unique contribution to germ plasm conservation and use can be applied. The activities of the genebank are conducted by the ten cooperatives, each composed of prominent breeders, researchers and agronomists. Within this context we offer our full cooperation with FAO and IBPGR in the collection and preservation of plant genetic resources.

My delegation is particularly guided by paragraphs 108 and 160 of the Director-General's report and suggests that this forum decide on a gradual approach to improve the system and expand the network of base collections as a priority.

D.F. SMITH (Australia): We too appreciate the review and we are moved by the same spirit of need to conserve plant genetic resources. Australia therefore has a commitment to the free movement of genetic resources through the interchange of germ plasm. We recognize that we ourselves have moved in the last century from being an underdeveloped country to a developed country, largely because of plant breeding; and we have used the genetic resources of other countries almost exclusively. We have also, of course, bred animals and adapted animals to use this plant material. It has been said that in the first century of our existence we discovered gold and in the second we discovered genes.

Australia therefore gives a strong support to the notion of undertakings by all nations to maximize the unfettered movement of genetic material and believes that FAO is the appropriate body to register these undertakings and watch over the process. Australia, though, like most developed countries, has a substantial seed industry covering food crops, forage plants, vegetables, etc., and it has in place a number of mechanisms to regulate commerce in seeds such as seed certification to ensure truth in labelling. Some countries also have systems of plant breeders' rights to encourage investment in plant breeding. We would see such mechanisms as clearly relating to trade in seeds and, in the long run, having little bearing on the matter of free interchange of germ plasm to be incorporated in breeding programmes. Thus we would expect to see a continuance of such commercial mechanisms and accept that the developing countries themselves will gradually generate these forms of regulation.

We believe the undertaking on genetic resources exchange which we are discussing here would clearly recognize the distinction between seed trading and plant breeding, and gradually ensure that mechanisms to regulate seed trading do not in any way impede the latter. Australia would also affirm the responsibility of national governments to husband the genetic resources of their country. Indeed, we see this as part of being a government. This should not preclude a government making arrangements with others to include its genetic resource storage or repository in a collective source as the Nordic countries have done, but we do not see this national responsibility as one that can be passed on to any of the international agencies such as FAO. It is a national government responsibility to conserve its resources but this does not preclude international agencies assisting - one hopes temporarily - with finance and other resources to help establish and operate these repositories and train staff.

We ourselves collaborate with IBPGR and believe it has made good progress in encouraging the establishment of genetic resource storages by nations, groups of nations and collaborating agencies. We believe this progress should continue with the resources and responsibility remaining the property of the nations.

Within this context we see the establishment and endorsement of a conventional undertaking as very real progress. We see value in FAO sponsoring the undertaking but we oppose any move which would give FAO any responsibility whatsoever for physical facilities or the exchange of materials.

We therefore strongly support the principles enshrined in the proposal of the Director-General on page 29 but we would amend it to alter its operational clauses (b), (c) and (d). With regard to the draft resolution on page 32, we would wish to add to the background to include recognition that mechanisms exist to regulate commerce in seeds. I will not go into the details of our proposed amendments; I would rather submit them to the Drafting Committee. But we do intend proposing amendments of Articles 2, 5, 7 and 8 to accommodate our position, and we propose the deletion of Article 9.

In essence we are very close to the United Kingdom position, we have the same reservations about material being used by breeders, but I do not believe it would be appropriate to cover our amendments in detail here. Instead, we shall give notice of them to the Drafting Committee and I am confident that a position can be developed which will make for real progress toward ensuring the free interchange of genetic material among all nations.

J.R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Agradecemos la concisa y clara exposición del Doctor Bommer. Agradecemos también y felicitamos con entusiasmo al Director General por su excelente informe que sobre recursos fitogenéticos presenta a esta Conferencia. Lo consideramos un documento completo y que no requiere mayor información para que nosotros podamos tomar nuestras primeras decisiones en torno a las propuestas que contiene. Consideramos también que es un documento que contiene un adecuado diagnóstico de la situación actual y una visión estratégica de corto y largo plazo de las alternativas para establecer un sistema que a todos convenga y beneficie, lo repito, que a todos convenga y beneficie. Es indudablemente el informe del Director General el que recoge una serie de preocupaciones y propuestas alternativas de solución que nos acercan a un manejo más adecuado y más justo de los recursos fitogenéticos y al espíritu mismo de la Resolución 6/81.

Los países en desarrollo vemos con gusto que ha sido recogida la preocupación de fortalecer nuestra propia capacidad de fitomejoramiento con el objetivo de responder a nuestras apremiantes necesidades de alimentación. Por otro lado, los países desarrollados pueden encontrar igualmente en el documento alternativas que les permitan asegurarse de insumos estratégicos para su importante industria semillera.

Por sus trascendentales implicaciones, el informe del Director General nos invita a analizar detalladamente y a precisar al máximo posible nuestras posiciones y propuestas en la materia.

Señor Presidente, nuestra Delegación apoya plenamente el documento, haciendo sólo los siguientes comentarios:

Los recursos fitogenéticos deben efectivamente considerarse a todos los efectos como un patrimonio de la humanidad y en consecuencia, deberá haber en todo momento y lugar libre disponibilidad de fitogermoplasma.

El trabajo secular de generaciones de campesinos de todo el mundo, así como las bondades de la naturaleza nos han permitido disponer a lo largo de la historia de una riqueza tan indispensable para nuestra supervivencia como el aire que respiramos. Por su enorme importancia para la vida, tanto vegetal como animal, este patrimonio debe ser cuidado y usado con sentido de justicia y utilidad, es decir, en función de los intereses y necesidades de toda la humanidad.

Es por esto que los recursos fitogenéticos deben ser considerados en toda su amplitud y con toda su potencialidad. Destaca ante todo su gran importancia en la fitomejora para producir más y mejores alimentos, pero también en otros sectores clave de la actividad económica, como la industria farmacéutica para producir más y mejores medicamentos, la industria química, la de construcción, la textil, la nuclear, etc.

Su disponibilidad y pleno aprovechamiento debe, por tanto, respetarse y materializarse en beneficio de todos.

Reconocemos pues la trascendencia de esos dos principios que inspiran y se concretizan en el informe presentado.

El informe del Director General contiene una gran virtud, rescata la visión integral de la conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos, es decir, tanto en el terreno, "in situ", como en bancos o cajas de almacenamiento fuera de sus ámbitos naturales, "ex situ". Esta formulación integral de la conservación permite reforzar y complementar lo que la FAO, otros Organismos Internacionales y diversos Gobiernos han hecho en la materia.

México, por su parte, está poniendo en práctica este doble propósito de conservación a través de su sistema nacional de reservas naturales protegidas.

La necesidad de apoyar el fortalecimiento de las capacidades nacionales de mejoramiento fitogenético de los países en desarrollo es uno más de los aspectos relevantes del informe del Director General.

Subrayamos que la investigación y el desarrollo en materia de recursos fitogenéticos tienen un valor estratégico debido a que determinan, en gran medida, las características y modalidades presentes y futuras de los sistemas de producción agrícola. Por ejemplo, la investigación y el desarrollo en fitogenética que dieron lugar a la revolución verde en condiciones de abundancia de agua, fertilizantes y pesticidas, tienen su contraparte en la investigación y desarrollo para la revolución verde en el temporal, en condiciones de escasez de agua, pobreza de suelos, falta de fertilizantes y pesticidas, y de capital.

La investigación y el desarrollo bajo estas últimas condiciones deberán enfrentarse con imaginación y audacia, este es el desafío que involucra a grandes masas campesinas empobrecidas del mundo. Su productividad puede y debe incrementarse de manera importante en el futuro.

El informe destaca la necesidad de apoyar estos esfuerzos, aunque en esta importante materia es necesario avanzar con la proposición de medidas concretas que permitan a los países en desarrollo diseñar y generar variedades de alto rendimiento, que esta vez sí, se adecúen a sus condiciones ecológicas, económicas y culturales.

Reiteramos en esta ocasión que la razón de ser de un convenio internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos es la de reglamentar el usufructo de las diferentes categorías de estos recursos, aprovechando la gran cantidad de conocimientos científicos y técnicos acumulados en beneficio del desarrollo de la agricultura de todos los países y de la alimentación de todos los pueblos. En consecuencia, nuestra Delegación reitera la necesidad de un compromiso internacional que nos permita avanzar hacia un marco jurídico que señale eventualmente los derechos y las responsabilidades de los firmantes, las correspondientes instancias jurídicas reconocidas para apelar en eventuales, no deseables, casos de desaveniencia, así como el papel que deb desempeñar la FAO, etc.

No obstante, debemos tender hacia sistemas que nos permitan pues, apelar contra prácticas restrictivas en materia de libre disponibilidad de recursos fitogenéticos para fines de investigación.

No obstante, creemos que un compromiso internacional no se agota en sí mismo, este es ante todo un importante catalizador de normas, actitudes e instrumentos que favorecerían, sobre todo en los países en desarrollo, la formación de personal, la ampliación de diversos tipos de infraestructura técnica y física, la canalización de recursos financieros y otras ventajas más que redundarían en beneficio de todos.

Si bien es necesario, el compromiso internacional no es suficiente para garantizar la plena y libre disponibilidad del fitogermoplasma y de la información científica como acertadamente lo reconoce el documento; justificándose así, bajo el reconocimiento unánime de estos principios, el establecimiento de una red internacional de colecciones, base de recursos fitogenéticos bajo la jurisdicción y la administración de la FAO.

La propuesta de red internacional del informe del Director General, página 137, 138 y 139, lo enfatizamos, no viene a sustituir, duplicar, aniquilar, lastimar o poner en la picota, de manera alguna, el sistema vigente. Nadie lo ha dicho o planteado, ni tampoco sería viable hacerlo, somos conscientes de ello. Por el contrario, el sistema propuesto lo complementa, lo fortalece, colma vacíos por todos reconocidos. No debemos permitir que se les satanice o condene por principios o malos entendidos.

El Banco como red internacional sería el primer mecanismo establecido para la coordinación mundial de las actividades en materia de recursos fitogenéticos. Sería la base de la cooperación internacional para fortalecer la capacidad de conservación y mejora fitogenética de todos los países.

En este sentido, apoyamos lo dicho por Argentina al destacar la necesidad de acuerdos regionales para la conservación de recursos fitogenéticos.

El Grupo Consultivo de Investigaciones Agrícolas Internacionales va a seguir operando, nosotros no podemos cambiarlo, ni eso se pretende, los Estados Miembros aquí representados no tenemos más datos sobre dicho Grupo, sólo podemos nosotros responsabilizarnos por lo que nos concierne, si el Grupo Consultivo se adapta o no a otras circunstancias deseables es su problema, pero no forma parte del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, se trata de una Organización heterodoxa en el sentido de que está integrada por compañías privadas, Estados Miembros y algunas Organizaciones Internacionales. Se basa en ciertas legislaciones nacionales para desarrollar sus trabajos y responde a intereses particulares. Lo que se propone, pues, no lo acepta, no puede aceptarlo, ojalá se asemeje a ese sistema, pero ello no está en nuestras manos, lo quiero reiterar, lo que aquí se discute es la salvaguarda y promoción de todos los recursos fitogenéticos para beneficio de todos los países y pueblos del mundo, principalmente de los países en desarrollo.

Con respecto al establecimiento del Banco Internacional (y disculpe, señor Presidente, que nos estemos tomando tanto tiempo, pero usted sabe que nuestra delegación ha mantenido un interés especial en este tema y que lo consideramos como un aspecto fundamental de los trabajos de esta Conferencia); como decía, con respecto al establecimiento del Banco Internacional, reconocemos de nuevo la ejemplar actitud del Gobierno de España, que ha dicho que podría poner su Banco Nacional a la disposición de la Comunidad Internacional, dando con su adhesión el primer paso para la institucionalización de una eventual red internacional de Bancos.

México, por su parte, desea aprovechar la ocasión para poner a la plena disposición de la FAO sus muestras de materiales colectados o introducidos que tiene en sus Bancos de germoplasma.

El documento es visionario en la consideración y en el tratamiento de las diferentes categorías de recursos fitogenéticos que existen. Presenta, sin embargo, algunas imprecisiones que pueden dejar lugar a dudas, por lo que sugerimos que sean precisadas las categorías de las variedades cultiveras y las reservas genéticas especiales del párrafo 19. Lo más importante, en resumen, es destacar que el compromiso internacional deberá contemplar todas las variedades, todas las diversas categorías, perdón, de recursos fitogenéticos, reconociendo y respetando su tratamiento específico y diferente para cada una de esas categorías, aunque buscando, ante todo, asegurar su uso con sentido de equidad y utilidad para todos los seres humanos.

El sistema de información propuesto resulta un complemento indispensable del sistema global planteado por el Director General y nos permitirá, sin duda, establecer prioridades y dar los primeros pasos en estrategia que debamos seguir. Hay que destacar que, al igual que el compromiso, la información científico-técnica deberá incluir todas las categorías de recursos fitogenéticos de interés agrícola, pues únicamente así la totalidad de los participantes del sistema se beneficiarían por igual. La superación y libre manejo del sistema de información por parte de la FAO, además de garantizar su consistencia técnica, permitiría garantizar la libre disponibilidad de la misma. Por lo antes dicho, esta propuesta merece también todo nuestro apoyo.

Hemos dejado para última parte de nuestra intervención lo que consideramos una gran novedad del informe del Director General. Me refiero a la formación de un grupo intergubernamental sobre recursos fitogenéticos, como órgano rector en la materia, y también del Consejo. La propuesta del Director de incorporar plena y efectivamente a los países, incluyendo aquellos que no forman parte de la FAO, en el tema de decisiones, en el establecimiento de prioridades, y en el diseño de políticas en materia de conservación, mejoramiento e información sobre recursos fitogenéticos, debe ser apoyada incondicionalmente por todos, ya que actualmente la FAO no cuenta con el mandato jurídico que le permita participar u orientar sus actividades y programas del CIRF, impidiendo a todos los países una participación activa en la materia. Creemos que es esta la única forma de garantizar que los criterios técnico-científicos correspondan a los legítimos intereses de nuestros pueblos. Es evidente que este es un tema que debe tener todo el apoyo científico-técnico para que los responsables de la conducción de las políticas en materia agrícola y alimentaria puedan tomar las decisiones que más convengan a sus pueblos. Este es un aspecto fundamental para el logro de la soberanía alimentaria en nuestros Estados y que requiere, por lo tanto, toda nuestra atención y todo nuestro apoyo.

Respecto a la Resolución propuesta por el señor Presidente, que apoyamos, México se reserva el derecho de intervenir nuevamente para comentar con todo detalle y precisión su contenido.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, deseamos que esta Conferencia recoja la intervención que a nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe hicimos en el último Consejo de la FAO y que consta en los verbatim correspondientes. Se lo retornaremos a la Secretaría para que tenga a bien incluirla. Lo que dice dicha intervención es básicamente que el grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe da un apoyo de tipo general al informe del Director General. Muchas gracias señor Presidente.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mexico. We have taken note of your suggestion to include your statement to the Eighty-fourth Council session. If the Commission agrees this can be included in the verbatim record of this Commission.

(Extract from Document CL 84/PV/4)

(Extrait du document CL 84/PV/4)

(Extracto del documento CL 84/PV/4)

J. R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): A nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe y de la propia delegación de México agradecemos al Sr. Bommer su presentación y felicitamos al Sr. Director General por el Informe sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos que presenta a este Consejo. Indudablemente es un informe que nos acerca a una situación más justa y equilibrada en esta materia, por lo que lo apoyamos en lo general y sin duda será considerado con mayor detenimiento en la Conferencia.

Es necesario, Sr. Presidente, ratificar en este Consejo nuestro apego a los principios fundamentales que dieron origen a la Resolución 6/81; a saber: que los recursos fitogenéticos son un patrimonio de la humanidad y que en consecuencia deberá haber en todo momento y lugar libre disponibilidad del fitogermoplasma para fines de investigación. El reconocimiento de estos principios lleva al Director General en su Informe al establecimiento de un sistema internacional que permita asegurar la operación de estos principios. Es éste hoy un importante aspecto que debe recibir el apoyo de todo nuestro Consejo.

Coincidimos con el Informe cuando señala claramente la indudable ventaja que reportaría al sistema en su conjunto la adopción de las medidas propuestas. Destacamos: primero, la aceptación de un compromiso internacional que establezca la actividad y tratamiento de las diversas categorías de recursos fitogenéticos existentes para asegurar su uso con sentido de justicia y utilidad para toda la humanidad. Segundo, el establecimiento de una red de colección base de recursos fitogenéticos bajo la administración de la FAO complementado por un sistema de información. Tercero, el fortalecimiento de la capacidad nacional del mejoramiento fitogenético de los países en desarrollo. Cuarto, la propuesta de incorporar plena y efectivamente a los países en la total decisión y establecimiento de prioridades en materia de recursos fitogenéticos y podría pensarse seriamente en incluir a países que no siendo miembros de la FAO podrían hacer importantes aportaciones.

El Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe considera que el Director General debe recibir apoyo a estas propuestas.

ABDUL WAHID JALIL (Malaysia): My delegation has listened with great interest to the discussion on this subject. We would like to make some very general comments.

The Director-General and his staff must be commended for the preparation of this excellent report. It has no doubt been a difficult task trying to bring together the varied international activities relating to the various aspects of plant genetic resources, their present network and their major weaknesses. Issued relating to the activities of international, national, private organizations and national governments, how these activities are coordinated and the extent of their commitments are no doubt issues of great significance if a suitable and practical system for the collection, preservation and exchange of plant genetic materials is to be achieved.

While we note the analysis of the present situation and the proposals for its improvement with satisfaction, we do realize that the report is not a complete reflection of the state of affairs of the plant genetic resources. Being the first attempt, and a very concrete attempt indeed, the analysis can but be very broad and general. However, I do not think every one of us, including the Director-General, would want to consider this report as the final attempt on the subject which has attracted a great deal of attention now and that everything contained therein should be the ultimate. Notwithstanding the deficiencies and omissions, this report nevertheless contains many valuable observations, suggestions and proposals. Some of these merit our immediate consideration, others may need further modifications and strengthening, while many others may not be thought of now but may prove to be useful and necessary in the future.

For example, as mentioned in paragraph 147, the suggestion that an international genebank should be considered as an international concept, rather than a physical entity and that account should be taken of relevant ongoing activities, should merit our utmost consideration. This, to me, should be the basic premise of our deliberation and should get the consideration of all.

Similarly, there is the need to consider the formation of an inter-governmental forum in which governments could collectively exercise their responsibilities in respect of issues relating to plant genetic resources as enumerated in paragraphs 71 and 173. Measures for the establishment of and strengthening of a global information system and funding arrangements are also important issues which must be considered.

In spite of the already existing institutions and arrangements for the various activities of plant genetic materials, the analysis of the report confirms that the present system still lacks institutionalization in its arrangements and commitments. This report discussed the merits and demerits of a number of arrangements and considered a universal undertaking to be the most appropriate solution for improvement under the present situation.

It is the feeling of my delegation that whatever form of international convention or undertaking is considered we must always strive to develop an arrangement that is realistic, effective and productive and one in which there will be a guarantee that the contracting parties are able to assume their responsibilities willingly.

Any arrangement made should not further impose financial burden on the developing member countries and every effort should be made to improve the capacity and capability of developing countries to enable them actively to participate in the work of plant genetic resources.

Finally, based on these considerations my delegation lends its support to the conclusions and proposals of the Director-General, with the understanding that these matters would be further discussed and reviewed to ensure improved effectiveness of the total system within the existing mechanism.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): The issue that we have before us is a difficult one. There are honest differences of view as to whether a problem really exists and if there is a problem what should be done about it. However, all delegations recognize the importance of plant genetic resources and the potential dangers of erosion and loss, and all support the principle of unrestricted exchange and access.

The Canadian Government has studied carefully the report of the Director-General which, as he notes, is submitted on his own responsibility. The Director-General has made a valiant attempt to come to grips with the situation, recognizing the differences of view which have characterized previous discussions on this issue.

I regret to say that the Canadian Government does not draw the same conclusions as the Director-General. The international community has long recognized the importance of plant genetic resources. In fact the FAO's interest in the field dates back at least twenty years. As has been noted, the FAO played a major role in establishing the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, the IBPGR, under the aegis of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

Since the establishment of the IBPGR in 1974 the FAO has worked closely with the board serving as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee and providing secretariat support. In fact, the close collaboration between the FAO and the IBPGR has been a model of institutional cooperation. The Canadian Government is thus satisfied that the international community is seized of the importance of protecting and preserving plant genetic resources, and appropriate mechanisms are in place to ensure continued international cooperation in this important field.

We do not find compelling the arguments that the IBPGR is not 'institutionalized', allegedly lacks a legal basis, is not permanent and does not have a secure funding. These alleged shortcomings have never hindered the board from carrying out its functions over the past decade. Moreover, arguments of this kind if carried to their logical conclusion would suggest that the entire CGIAR system should be institutionalized because it also would be at risk.

Canada, together with many other countries, developed and developing, is extremely satisfied with the CGIAR system of autonomous independent international institutes. The system's many accomplishments and its professional integrity need no elaboration. Indeed I would venture to suggest that a major reason for the success of the IBPGR and its sister institutes is the fact that they do not operate under intergovernmental control. They are thus essentially scientific and free of the politicization that sometimes unfortunately characterizes many intergovernmental institutions.

It is unfortunate that the question of the adequacy of the existing international system for plant genetic resources has become such a contentious issue. To date there has been no evidence to support the fear that the exchange of genetic resources is threatened by governmental restrictions. Rather it would appear that concerns regarding plant breeder rights legislation have become internationalized into a concern regarding genetic resources. While any private individual or sovereign government are obviously entitled to their own views as to whether plant breeders' rights is on balance good or bad, this debate is completely different from the question of whether the existing international plant genetic resource system is adequate. Unfortunately these two separate and distinct issues have become increasingly intertwined and are regarded by some people as one and the same. They are not. The decision as to whether or not to introduce plant breeders' rights legislation is the prerogative of sovereign governments. If individuals or groups disagree with the position of their national administration on this issue, they should work within the domestic political process to change this. The only issue which should be considered by this Conference is whether governments are satisfied with the existing international plant genetic resource system.

The Canadian position is clear. It is suggested in the following statement adopted by the CGIAR at its meeting on Friday, 4 November 1983, and I quote: "The group expressed its satisfaction with the accomplishments of the IBPGR in the field of plant genetic resources. The group reinforced the terms of reference of the IBPGR. It stated that the Board should continue as an autonomous independent international institution under the authority of the CGIAR working in close collaboration with the FAO". That is not to say we believe that the IBPGR is perfect, and could not be further improved. However, our belief is that these improvements should be incremental, and should be designed to strengthen the present system, and not to replace or duplicate it with another organism. To summarize, Canada does not believe that there is a need for this Conference to adopt an international undertaking on plant genetic resources. The case for such an undertaking, we believe, has not been made. However, we recognize that this is an important issue, and we are certainly prepared to keep the situation under review. One way in which this might be done would be to ask the IBPGR to report periodically to the Committee on Agriculture, so that governments would have an opportunity to determine whether any additional international action is required. However, at this juncture proposals for international undertakings, conventions, or international gene banks, would appear to be solutions in search of a problem.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to reiterate that we fully recognize the importance of the issue, and are committed to the free access and exchange and conservation of plant genetic resources. However, we firmly believe the solutions to the perceived problems, and any improvements that could be made, should be sought within the existing IBPGR system, and not by striking out in new and uncertain directions that might not attract the required support.

J.M. BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): Nuestra delegación agradece al doctor Bommer su excelente presentación. Nuestro país considera fundamental que en esta Conferencia se alcance un consenso en la línea de las propuestas que nos presenta el Director General en su informe; propuestas que son flexibles y permiten la negociación.

Dentro de la flexibilidad que muestra el documento C 83/25 creemos que es plenamente posible llegar a un acuerdo que, respetando los intereses individuales de los distintos países, establezca el marco jurídico legal para la salvaguardia de los muchos intereses comunes que contiene el término "recursos fitogenéticos".

Como ha dicho bien el distinguido delegado de México, este acuerdo a todos conviene y beneficia. Las ventajas de llegar a este acuerdo internacional son obvias. Un patrimonio de toda la humanidad cuyo manejo y utilización tiene una inevitable proyección económica y política no debe estar bajo el único control de un grupo internacional que engloba un número muy limitado de países.

Mi país es donante del CIRF y estamos convencidos de que está desarrollando una excelente labor técnica. Creemos también que, en líneas generales, el sistema bona fide en el que se basa ha funcionado satisfactoriamente, pero creemos que no es suficiente el sistema actual ya que existen deficiencias, al menos políticas, de las que dan buena prueba estos debates y los que les han precedido.

Los miembros del CIRF son elegidos por su capacidad personal y profesional y actúan a este título, lo cual como cuerpo técnico y científico es plenamente válido; pero unas actividades que son básicas para el futuro de la seguridad alimentaria de todos los pueblos es imprescindible que se desarrollen en el seno de un organismo representativo de la Comunidad Internacional.

Hemos hablado del Acuerdo Internacional que es un elemento en que debe asentarse un sistema que englobe los recursos fitogenéticos, y también nos hemos referido al CIRF, cuya permanencia y continuidad defendemos y al que no se ataca ni se disminuye en la propuesta contenida en el documento C 83/25; y precisamente, a nuestro entender es otro elemento fundamental para este sistema global de recursos fitogenéticos, pero hacen falta otros elementos; es una red de duplicados de colecciones básicas bajo jurisdicción de la FAO, como expresó el Director General, y también un sistema internacional de información pues cualquier tipo de acuerdo o compromiso está sometido a los vaivenes legislativos nacionales derivados de los cambios políticos y administrativos de los países firmantes.

Es necesario, pues, para asegurar el libre acceso a este bien precioso que son los recursos fitogenéticos que exista una garantía de que efectivamente van a estar siempre disponibles, independientemente de los cambios políticos de los países, y esta garantía solo puede ofrecerla la red citada internacional de colecciones básicas, red bajo jurisdicción internacional que no supone una duplicación de las actividades actuales, sino un complemento de las mismas.

Este es precisamente el sentido y la voluntad política de la oferta hecha por nuestro Gobierno: poner las colecciones básicas de nuestro Banco de Genes bajo la jurisdicción y control del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas; en otras palabras, nuestro país está dispuesto a renunciar expresamente a ejercer la propiedad y a legislar sobre estas colecciones básicas a fin de que puedan estar siempre a disposición de la Comunidad Internacional. Y además se compromete a financiar la conservación de estas colecciones básicas y a administrarlas bajo el control y la jurisdicción del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, a fin de que la existencia de estas colecciones no genere nuevos gastos a este Organismo Internacional. Esto quiere decir que estamos dispuestos a admitir con hecho, no con palabras, que efectivamente los recursos fitogenéticos son un patrimonio de la humanidad y pensamos que este es el tipo de garantía que hay que reconocer a los donantes en especie del CIRF, que el material que procede de sus países está conservado y a su disposición bajo la égida de la FAO, sin tener que depender en un momento dado de la buena voluntad de un gobierno o de un parlamento determinados.

La oferta española sólo trata de abrir camino a esta red básica de duplicados bajo jurisdicción internacional. Naturalmente, esta red es totalmente compatible con la existente de Bancos Nacionales y con el Sistema actual. La red internacional sólo debería cumplir una función de caja de seguridad en la que estén depositados los duplicados de las colecciones existentes en Bancos Nacionales, si es que efectivamente el sistema actual funciona y da satisfacción.

Comprendemos perfectamente que no se puede pretender que todos los Bancos hoy integrados en la red del CIRF secunden el ejemplo español, pero seguiremos insistiendo cuantas veces sea preciso hasta que los recursos fitogenéticos esenciales se encuentren salvaguardados con esta garantía, que no puede ofrecer la actual red de Bancos bajo soberanías nacionales.

Finalmente, el cuarto elemento de este sistema global de recursos fitogenéticos debe estar constituido por un sistema internacional de información. Estamos totalmente de acuerdo en ello.

Mi delegación apoya plenamente la Resolución propuesta por el Director General como un primer paso para llegar a un convenio internacional en sentido estricto. Creemos positiva la propuesta de crear un órgano rector intergubernamental para seguridad genética en el seno del Consejo que pueda incorporar incluso a países que no pertenecen a la FAO.

Para terminar, quisiéramos reservarnos la posibilidad de volver a hacer uso de la palabra.

J. SONNEVELD (Netherlands): We would like to congratulate FAO on the excellent base document C 83/25. We appreciate the need to focus world attention on the most important subject of genetic conservation, and to recognize the fact that FAO already for many years has stressed this issue. It was FAO who very much stimulated the establishment of IBPGR and ever since has given support and cooperation to that organization.

We can be brief, Mr Chairman. We fully endorse the view expressed by the Nordic countries. Genetic resources are indeed a heritage of mankind and we will support what action is necessary to promote free exchange.

We accept the undertaking in principle where it deals with this issue. We support the amendment proposed by the Nordic countries at paragraph 2.1(a)v to cover material in base collections. We have difficulties where new organizational structures are suggested under the umbrella of FAO. We are of the opinion that with the CGIAR and the IBPGR we have a uniquely effective organization which satisfies all requirements coming out of the proposed undertaking, including a close link with FAO. It is establishing an international network; it has high standing with the agricultural community; it is successful in attracting international support and funds. We would not want to duplicate such an organization, let alone reduce its scope. We would like to have a clear picture of how the relations will be between IBPGR and FAO.

We take it that what is stated in paragraph 7.2 of the draft resolution, the last sentence, is of a purely legal nature and does not suggest FAO's operational aspirations in bringing about the free exchange of gene material.

However, having said this, we do see merit in an international undertaking stimulating governments to accept responsibilities in genetic conservation and safeguarding these as a resource of mankind. We do feel that an international agreement on the free exchange of genetic resources is important for the future. The Netherlands has recently concentrated its own genetic base collections in a new established gene bank. We stand ready to continue cooperation along the lines proposed in the draft undertaking.

A. NAGA (Japan): First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate Dr Bommer on his excellent introduction of this important agenda item. We also would like to commend the secretariat for the preparation of this comprehensive and analytical document C 83/25 which is before us.

My country, fully recognizing the importance of plant genetic resources and the necessity of further strengthening such activities as collection, conservation and exchange of plant genetic resources, has been actively cooperating with IBPGR in many ways including that of financing, of provision of conservation facilities, of holding of training courses etc.

The idea of the proposal of the Director-General, as far as I understand, is to strengthen cooperation between each country in the hope of preventing erosion and loss of genetic resources and ensuring the free exchange of these resources.

We can support the idea itself and share in the hope with him that international cooperation in this field will be further strengthened. However, at the same time, we are not totally convinced of whether the approach of the formulation of the undertaking is actually an improvement over the current system. Therefore we feel compelled to express our concern about the possible adverse effects of adopting the proposed undertaking as already expressed by some delegates.

The draft undertaking, based on the understanding that the current system does not fully ensure a long term commitment of the participating countries and organizations and does not allow for active participation of each country, presents a proposal of establishing a legal framework over the current IBPGR network.

However, we are of the viewpoint that what is needed for expanding international activities in this field of plant genetic resources, is the will of all countries and organizations to participate in the present network.

Establishing a legal framework over the current network might discourage the will of these countries and organizations to participate in the network.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, our opinion is that first we are not convinced of the necessity of establishing a new legal framework. Secondly, we are concerned about the possible adverse effects of the proposed undertaking. Thirdly, we feel that in order to promote international cooperation for the conservation of plant genetic resources, it is much more realistic to seek a way that steadily improves and expands the current IBPGR activities.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): A l'occasion des récentes réunions de notre Commission, j'ai souligné que notre monde, en tout cas dans sa situation actuelle, connaît des problèmes qui sont une résultante évidente de certains paradoxes. Aujourd'hui dans le document qui nous a été présenté avec beaucoup de brio par M. Bommer, que je tiens à féliciter au nom de la délégation sénégalaise, nous avons un rapport particulièrement important, clair, et très suggestif notamment pour les pays en développement. Je lui reprocherai simplement d'être intervenu un peu tard parce qu'il pose un problème qui, à l'origine, intéressait davantage un certain nombre de pays qui (après avoir résolu leurs difficultés en utilisant certains croisements de plantes sauvages provenant de pays en développement) aujourd'hui hésitent à améliorer le système parce qu'ils le trouvent excellent. Il est excellent du reste, je le reconnais. Mais il est étonnant que l'on trouve dans notre monde un système parfait. Il est parfait par certains côtés, cela est vrai, mais il faut que l'on réfléchisse sur certaines difficultés. A cet égard, le Rapport du Directeur général mérite beaucoup d'éloges parce qu'il est loin d'être paradoxal comme peut l'être la situation mondiale. Il est très logique et s'inscrit dans le processus général tendant à réaliser un bien-être pour l'ensemble de la communauté et notamment les pays en développement. Comment peut-on reconnaître que les ressources phytogénétiques constituent un bien de la communauté internationale et s'inquiéter que ces ressources soient gérées de manière transparente, selon des normes, qui contrairement à ce que l'on dit, n'auraient aucun caractère politique. Qui peut dire d'ailleurs que dans le système actuel il n'y a pas de caractère politique ? Je ne m'aventurerai pas dans ce sens. Mais je pense qu'un cadre juridique est un aspect important pour permettre un renforcement des moyens (dans le système actuel, il s'agit de bonnes volontés, qui sont très importantes, que nous apprécions très fort) mais nous souhaitons, dans le renforcement des projets qui sont de plus en plus importants, relativement aux besoins rencontrés par les pays en développement, qu'il y ait un cadre juridique, qui en fait ne serait juridique que de nom, parce que tout le monde sait que le droit international n'a pas un caractère impératif, mais donne simplement des lignes directrices qui décrivent une bonne volonté et l'engagement d'une volonté internationale de collaborer sur des bases de solidarité humaine et d'entraide.

Dans la résolution, le dernier point parle de la mise à disposition de la communauté de certaines ressources et je serai d'accord pour qu'on enlève les perfectionnements qui ont été obtenus sur la base de recherche d'un coût important pour ces pays. Mais pour les autres points, il est souhaitable qu'il y ait un appui général et total de la résolution présentée par la FAO, parce qu'elle s'inscrit dans un cadre logique de coopération et de solidarité.

Je soulignerai enfin qu'il y a une bonne dizaine d'années, la situation était la même pour les ressources halieutiques. On avait des difficultés à obtenir un consensus. Mais des efforts persistants ont fait qu'aujourd'hui, après plusieurs années de négociations, les pays sont parvenus à se mettre d'accord sur la nécessité de créer une véritable base.

Nous, pays en développement, qui attachons une importance particulière aux ressources phytogénétiques, nous comprenons l'attitude des autres pays et nous la respectons. Mais ce n'est pas pour autant que nous devons nous décourager et nous continuerons à oeuvrer dans le sens de l'internationalisation de ce problème, pour qu'il obtienne un cadre juridique qui permette de trouver les fonds nécessaires pour engendrer la survie des ressources phytogénétiques et éviter leur érosion.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I have ten more speakers on the list for this subject. We have gone a long way toward establishing the general trend of opinion. However, in preparation for the final consideration of the proposed or the draft resolution, it is necessary that we move rapidly towards a detailed examination of the undertaking. We will be endeavouring over the lunch hour to consider the mechanics that we will use for the rapid examination of the proposed undertaking. Therefore it is necessary that we come back and try as hard as we can to establish a quorum by 14.30 hours.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/II/PV/16

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SIXTEENTH MEETING

SEIZIEME SEANCE

16ª SESION

(18 November 1983)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La seizième seance est. ouverte à 15 h 00, sous la présidence de

C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 16ª sesión a las 15.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de

C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

15. Plant Genetic Resources (Follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81) (continued)

15. Ressources phytogénétiques (suivi de l'a resolution 6/81 de la Conférence) (suite)

15. Recursos fitonegéticos (medidas complementarias de la Resolución 6/81 de la Conferencia) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: As we indicated before we broke for lunch, we have reached a situation where a general trend of opinion has developed. I believe it is no use pretending that continuing with this general discussion will bring us any closer to a better formulation of the basis of the resolution which we are undertaking. Therefore, it seems to me that we need to finish our general statements quickly and take such action as will bring us closer to getting results on the undertaking itself.

I would request those speakers who have not yet registered their desire to speak not to request the floor in the interest of progress, since this is a complex subject. Before continuing with the debate I would like to ask Dr Bommer to reply to a few questions in order to clarify some of the misunderstandings and aspects of what is involved.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Thank you Mr Chairman. I just wanted to reply to some statements made by a number of delegations, which apparently are caused by some misunderstandings still, on what is proposed by the Director-General in the Undertaking. I can only repeat here, as I did in my introductory statement, you will not find any clause in the Undertaking which would justify the fear that the Undertaking would diminish, hinder or even destroy the very useful work done by the IBPGR in collaboration with FAO, on the contrary. As you will see, there are various references that the future development of the system is heavily reliant on the scientific and technical advice rendered and developed by the scientific community through the IBPGR. So the IBGPR has a tremendously important place within this Undertaking.

In addition, it is mentioned in the document that there are certainly other scientific bodies dealing with other aspects of genetic resources, which have to provide technical and scientific advice as well. It is mentioned here, the FAO Panel on Forest Genetic Resources which reports to the COFO and from there certainly to any general view we have on genetic resources.

There are bodies dealing with micro-organisms genetic resources centred in Australia from which we would certainly be happy to receive views on this important area. The same is true for the IUCN dealing with NC2 conservation for tropical forests for instance, and in other important nature reserves in which genetic resources have to be found. In order to clarify this I repeat, there is nowhere in the report nor an understanding from which it could be interpreted that this Undertaking would try to diminish or change the work done by the IBPGR which would continue, and hopefully, would be strengthened as has been said in various paragraphs.

There was another point which is probably not clear enough to understand. The Undertaking does not say that FAO, through its members collectively or the Secretariat, would try through the Undertaking to get access to seed as its property. The property of this seed is with each programme, with the international institution, with the institution and the national gene bank where it is, but where areas of these collections have been contributed and built up, through international efforts, in other words with public funds coming from tax payers of other countries for the benefit of the whole world, they have been identified by the IBPGR and other bodies as base collections for important crops. These base collections, on the wish of the respective holder of these collections would be recognized within the Undertaking, and the wording says "would through the recognition, being at the disposal of FAO" which means of the Member Nations of FAO then requested, and where they would find difficulty in getting this material elsewhere, to turn to the base collection and then to get it from there, which at the same time places emphasis on the question when there are such important base collections (as for instance in Australia when the medic collection was in danger for some time), is in danger of being no longer supported by the respective body, countries, what else, that then action can be taken to change, to get support for it. To repeat, there is nothing in the Undertaking which would say that the FAO would try to get this material as its property. It remains the property of those having it, but at the same time it would be at the disposal of the free exchange, through offering this to FAO. These were two important points.

The other one I think, was mentioned by several delegations too. This was the famous budgetary allocation. I tried to make it clear in the introduction that there will be no additional budgetary allocation beyond the agreed Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85, because the recognition of these base collections which are being financed by their respective home bodies, the government, the institution, whatever it might be, we are not providing them with any financial support. The agreement is an exchange of letters, which is an offering and agreement, a legal act done by our Legal Office with the respective institution in the respective country.

This is certainly something which does not cost very much. It costs the staff time, but I think that with re-assignment of activities within the Legal Office we can manage to meet it under the allocations made for the Legal Office. The other service which is provided is when such base collections are being recognized they should be visited if they fulfill the standard of quality which the IBPGR has developed for various food crops for instance, and others for other crops. This would be usually joint missions of IBPGR with FAO and needs some consultancy money, which is available in the budget of AGP.

The resources required are for the meeting of the intergovernmental bodies and these resources again is an amount which will be available to re-shift on the decision of the Director-General within the Programme, to facilitate this meeting and the necessary documentation for this meeting. When you have decided on this, certainly, he will consider in which way it will be made within the budgetary allocation. If you take a very exorbitant estimate, it might come in total for the two biennia together roughly between US\$ 200-250 000 what is needed and what can be met. There will be no additional expense from the Regular Programme when the Conference in two years' time, or any other body would decide that FAO should then, after feasibility studies of the information system, take on additional activities in this field, but even then the decision should be that such an information system should be funded voluntarily and through extra-budgetary funds. So there is no commitment from the beginning on the Regular Programme for such an information system, because the Director-General proposes to have a feasibility study which certainly has to be presented to the intergovernmental bodies for their assessment and agreement.

Those, I think, were the main points which I wanted to make for clarification because I felt some of this was misunderstood when I read the report and its meaning.

CHAIRMAN: In the light of these clarifications and in the spirit in which this Commission has been operating up to now, I look forward to forthright, positive and constructive contributions. I now give the floor to Libya.

B. SAED (Libya) (original language Arabic): I would like to thank Dr Bommer for the excellent and clear presentation of this document. The subject of plant genetic resources is probably one of the most important items discussed during recent years. We hope that the discussion this time will lead to an agreement on the main elements of the subject. We will try in our statement to be positive in the opinions and proposals we present. I will be brief, as far as possible, and I will make some general comments without going into details at this stage. But you will understand that in the light of the discussion we might feel that we need to intervene once more, and therefore we would like to reserve for ourselves the right to do so.

We have participated in the discussion of this subject when it was discussed in the Committee on Agriculture and we have followed with great interest the discussions of the Council, and we have the opportunity to participate in the Working Group that met the Director-General twice last summer.

Allow me first of all, to present the following general observations. First, the Director-General has succeeded, even when he was outside Rome, to contribute positively and efficiently. Indeed his realistic understanding of the real dimensions of plant genetic resources, and his evaluation of the inter-linked interests and preoccupations, have contributed to a great extent to reach a consensus especially on the main issues. The report and the proposals of the Director-General which are presented in document C 83/25, according to my delegation, could be considered as a progress in the study of this issue. The proposal of the Director-General can be considered an appropriate basis to reach a consensus. We would like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation for the Director-General and his leading role in this respect. Secondly, we consider Resolution 6/81 the basic starting point. The major principles contained in that Resolution and its affirmation of the rights and aspirations of the developing countries are still valid. We would like here to confirm our adherence to these principles. Therefore, any measure or step taken today or in the future should, according to us, be a step that will enable us to come closer to the objective, and to realise the aspirations of the Third World countries. We cannot go backwards.

Thirdly, our efforts to achieve progress in the plant genetic resources sector are based on our understanding of our interests and the interests of the international community as a whole. Therefore it is not directed against anyone. Our delegation has reiterated, on several occasions, its appreciation for all the efforts made whether at the IBPGR, the International Consultative Group on Agricultural Research or other organizations. We have also said that considering the numerous historical, technical and economic conditions, these efforts alone cannot enable us to meet our aspirations as developing countries. Therefore, a lot has to be done in order to improve the existing structures in a way that allows for better participation of the Third World countries, in a manner that would reaffirm the commitment of all in this vital sector.

Fourthly, we affirm once more our belief in the importance of genetic resources, and the risk of loss or erosion they are exposed to. These resources are a heritage for the whole of mankind and their exchange should be free among the countries and institutions concerned for scientific purposes. We would also like to add that the scientific and economic benefits to be drawn from these genetic resources have to be shared equally among all. These resources, in addition to being heritage for all mankind, are also a national heritage and wealth, and it would be illogical not to have a right to benefit from them, from their economic and scientific benefits. We would not dwell long on this last point but we might come back with more details later on if we feel the need to do so during the discussion.

After that, I would like to concentrate briefly on some of the main items of document C 83/25. We consider part II of the document, that is to say, Principles and Objectives Relative to Plant Genetic Resources, as an important part of the document. It has reviewed thoroughly the principles and objectives, particularly in paragraphs 9 to 35. We are very pleased that the document in paragraph 15 has focused on the importance of micro-organisms which are related to crops. This issue may seem to some to be beyond their reach, yet it is worthwhile to appeal for concerted efforts in order to explore these micro-organisms which are of great importance to crops and plants, and to collect, document and preserve them. We think that the Organization can play an important role in this field.

We would like to point to paragraph 19 which deals with the categories of genetic resources. We agree with the classification, and consider it an indivisible whole, especially concerning the freedom to exchange information and genetic resources. We also point, here, to paragraph 31, which points to the difficulty of accepting the principle of providing improved germplasms without restrictions. We consider these germplasms very important, and their free exchange is necessary for plant breeding. We know that this is linked to the legislations on the right of the plant breeders in certain countries. We may come back to this point later if we deem it necessary.

In the part concerning the activities related to genetic resources in paragraphs 36 to 73, there is an excellent review. We have a few remarks that we should have to mention here and which we might present directly to the Secretariat. However we would like to refer to paragraph 43, which states that international attention should be focused on the basic collection. Although this is valid for many practical reasons we think that active collections are very important, and therefore we should focus on both collections.

Part IV, paragraphs 88 to 143, review with realism and objectivity the existing measures and arrangements.

I would like to focus, in this last part of my statement, directly on the proposals made by the Director-General. I would like to take them up as a whole and as basic concepts. When we consider the details of the proposals, we might have the chance to intervene again. There are several basic elements in the proposal of the Director-General which are included in Part V. These are the following:

First of all, we totally agree with paragraph 147 and the proposal of the Committee on Agriculture in this respect because we consider the gene bank an international concept and not a physical structure. Other related activities should also be taken into account. We also agree in general with the description of the international network for the basic collection, and we welcome the new concept of the banks of genetic resources that belong directly to the Organization, as was mentioned by Spain. We agree here with this direction that appears in the proposal of the Director-General that we should resort to the international network for genetic resources as well as to genetic resources in the field.

Secondly, we raise a question. Should we have an international agreement or an undertaking as mentioned in paragraphs 77 to 83. We do not contradict or reject the result reached in paragraph 83 of this Report if there is a general agreement on this subject. However, we do prefer to have an international legally binding agreement, which we consider the legal, way out. What we mainly fear is that our effort to improve the present system and the arrangements in force, might lead in the same direction in one way or another. The basic point concerning the existing arrangements is that they need a legal nature or a legal character, and they lack the specific legal commitment. Our delegation does not think that any international undertaking as suggested, although some would like it to have less efficient form, will be a good alternative for international legally binding commitment. As I said, we are not against this direction if we understand from the debate that there is the desire and the will to put this undertaking into force. Of course, when we consider this undertaking, we will certainly make certain remarks on some of its paragraphs, especially concerning the categories of genetic resources which we consider, including breeding germplasms part of this convention. The specific genetic collections are not clear to us up to now, and their exclusion of any international arrangements will not receive the agreement of my delegation.

Thirdly, setting up a committee to belong to the Committee on Agriculture in order to follow up the genetic resources issues and the activities in this field, according to us, so an acceptable proposal, and when discussed in detail, we would like to make certain comments, especially concerning the proceedings of this Committee and the timing of its work.

Fourthly, the security and the financial support of this activity are very Important and necessary. We support the proposals of the Director-General in this respect in order to provide the aid and assistance to developing countries and in order to strengthen their national capacities.

Fifthly, it is natural to join my colleagues who have supported the International Information System concerning genetic resources, and we think that the normal place of this mechanism is the FAO.

Finally, I would like to end my statement as I began it, that is to say by expressing my appreciation for the Director-General's serious efforts in order to help this Conference to reach an agreement. As our colleague from Yugoslavia said at the beginning of this debate we think that the Director-General's proposals are a modest step towards affirming the rights and the interests of developing countries and towards affirming the role of the Organization as an international organization that belongs to the UN system in this field. The proposals of the Director-General form a good base for beginning a new era of international understanding based on an appreciation of the interests of developing countries and could also be the best place in order to put these plant genetic resources in their right place as a heritage for mankind and as a national heritage that should be exploited on an equal basis without constraints or restrictions.

H. REDL (Austria) (original language German): Mr. Chairman, I shall try and follow your advice and recommendations and be as brief as possible. I should first of all like to thank Dr Bommer for the very clear introduction to this point on the agenda and for his supplementary comments that we heard at the beginning of the afternoon session.

Austria has studied document C 83/25 very carefully indeed. As long ago as 1890 Austria, at the Agricultural Congress in Vienna, supported the idea of an inventory being drawn up of available country varieties of cereals. These were collected and tested. Now three Austrian institutions have gene banks. In principle, Austria welcomes the initiative of the Director-General of the FAO. I must say that in general terms we are satisfied with the technical activities of IBPGR. However, we realise that IBPGR is not an inter-governmental body and therefore it does not satisfy the necessary legal requirements that would allow it to get to grips with the problems which are inherent in the exchange of seeds internationally and of genetic material.

On behalf of the Austrian delegation, allow me to give our full support to the Nordic proposal which was made by the Swedish delegation this morning.

If we bring in the various categories of genetic resources, that is all right, but we cannot accept the idea of a breeder being forced to make his material available, particularly of his breeder lines which are nearly ready, unless these lines have already been made available to the gene bank by other breeders.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, let me first of all compliment the Director-General of FAO for his comprehensive report and his proposal for an international legalized framework for the collection, preservation and evaluation of plant genetic resources.

Conscious of the fact that plant genetic resources comprising natural variability, as well as one created by human endeavour, are in danger of being lost, Pakistan is convinced that a suitable arrangement for conservation of plant germ plasm for posterity, both of cultivated as well as wild species of potential use, should be established. The success of plant breeding programmes, present and future, is by and large dependent on the availability of genetic variability.

Although existing efforts, both by national as well as international organizations, particularly IBPGR, to conserve plant germ plasm are commendable, nevertheless these are either individual efforts or such collective processes as have been able to take care of only part of the needs. There is lack of adequate infrastructure and trained manpower within the national institutes to do the job, besides which the sharing of collected and preserved germ plasm is more or less voluntary. The shortcomings of the existing system have been very nicely brought out in this report in Section IV and summarised in paragraph 192 of the report.

There is urgency to ensure on a global basis that:

1. The threatened habitats of natural diversity are identified and expeditious steps taken for their conservation.
2. Necessary infrastructure is developed, both at the national as well as international level, for appropriate short and long-term storage of the germ plasm.
3. A suitable evaluation and documentation process is implemented for the collected germ plasm.
4. A provision is made for unrestricted free exchange of the germ plasm among members of the international community.

Pakistan therefore fully supports the establishment of a network of gene banks within a legalized arrangement to fulfill these needs, as proposed by the Director-General. We hope that the establishment of such a network would be helpful in mobilizing the needed resources to establish adequate infrastructure at the national and international level for germ plasm exploration, collection, preservation, evaluation, and free dissemination.

We are very grateful to Dr Bommer not only for his lucid presentation but also for his subsequent clarification. In fact, we had already noted with satisfaction that IBPGR was to continue to play a scientific and exploratory role within the mechanism now proposed by the Director-General. There was no doubt about it, right from the very beginning. Of course, the transition to this final network has been very nicely dealt with in paragraphs 166 and 167 of the report. We also note that the intention is not to harm the commercial interests of any individual or institute, because, as is clear from Article 3.1 of the proposed undertaking at page 33, the qualification is that these resources are in danger of becoming extinct in the country concerned, or those whose existence or essential characteristics are at present unknown, so the question of any conflict with any commercial interest does not seem to be intended by this undertaking.

We have set up a very small plant genetic resources unit. We have 10,000 accessions to that unit of 25 crops. Quite a few of them have already been evaluated according to IBPGR standards and we should be most happy to make it a part of the international network.

B.O.M. CHIYABWE (Zambia): Mr. Chairman, I shall paraphrase my presentation. I should like to report here that my Government attaches great importance to the programme of plant genetic resources. We are directly and actively involved both with in situ and ex situ plant genetic conservation. In our case emphasis is directly placed on the potential of natural forest to act as a base for genetic material which can be adapted to present and future human requirements. This is certainly a viable justification for conservation of germ plasm in the natural setting, given a sample of undisturbed natural forest area.

We therefore support the proposal of the Director-General to set up a plant genetic resource bank which, in our view, will complement and strengthen existing local and national efforts in the conservation, collection and exchange of plant germ plasm for the interest and benefit of member nations of FAO and particularly those of us who are in the developing world.

In conclusion, we are satisfied with the way that forest species are being handled by the FAO Forestry Department, and it is our wish that the present arrangements should continue.

J. SCHWARZ (Czechoslovakia): Mr. Chairman, I should like to make some general comments and suggestions.

My delegation welcomes this initiative to enlarge the field of cooperation regarding the conservation and exchange of plant genetic resources. We consider genetic resources as the most important element for the future development of genetic engineering and, consequently, for more intensive agricultural production, especially in developing countries.

Nevertheless, the problem is very complex. We believe that the example of Europe during the first phase of the FAO/UNDP Regional Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources is encouraging. Until now, my country cooperated through the EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee, but this year we have officially entered the FAO/UNDP programme. We think that strengthening and improving this regional cooperation and giving it a good geographical balance might represent a positive input for future extension to a global programme.

I would like to give you some information on the present status of the study on plant genetic resources in Czechoslovakia which may be useful to our discussion.

Czechoslovakia pays great attention to the study of genetic resources of cultivated plants, their improvement, and selection of the best donors for combination crossing. These efforts have a long-established tradition in Czechoslovakia. They have been pursued on a large scale for more than 50 years by all specialized research institutes active in the field of crop production. For the majority of species, Czechoslovak local and improved varieties have been maintained since the beginning of this century. Our collection of domestic and foreign varieties now includes 54 000 varieties of field and garden crops. Efforts are focused mainly on cereals, particularly wheat and barley and on vegetables. Centralized exchange of varieties is maintained with other countries. A computerized information system on resources is being developed.

Czechoslovakia has been involved in efficient international cooperation in this field for many years, particularly with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. The sum of collections coming from these countries is now almost 700 000 varieties. However, there is also a long-continued cooperation between our specialized institutions and the leading research institutes throughout the world.

Czechoslovakia is beginning to build her own national gene bank for long-term storage in air-conditioned facilities, with a planned capacity of 100 000 varieties. In this way, Czechoslovakia will join the network of European gene banks and contribute to the efforts of FAO aimed at saving world genetic resources. The Czechoslovak contribution includes a large team - about 50 highly qualified specialists - involved in collecting expeditions, storage in Czechoslovakia for developing countries, training, provision of stocks and assistance on methodology.

I consider it necessary, Mr. Chairman, to express our point of view concerning the world gene bank. The idea of establishing such a world center is interesting and useful, and the formation of the Czechoslovak gene bank is, after all, inspired by this idea.

However, the actual formation of a world gene bank requires advanced and perfect contacts with all the cooperating countries in which genetic resources are collected. We have reason to fear that restrictions in individual countries may cause the effort for such perfect contacts to fail.

Therefore we propose restructuring a suitable national gene bank into a regional bank which would ensure cooperation within a given continent and act together with other regional banks, under central management as part of the worldwide programme.

We know that some of the national banks already have the character of a regional bank. Further development of the work of these regional banks would cost less than the operation of a central world gene bank.

In any case it is necessary to build a unified and central information system on all collections, their storage and distribution. This centralized system would have to be located in a single place, as a "roof" over the activities of the regional banks. In our view such a perfect information system could, to some extent, fulfill the task of the proposed centralized world gene bank.

E.P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): May I compliment the Director-General on the document before us this afternoon and Dr Bommer for his introductory remarks to us. May I say that we also endorse in principle the remarks made by the delegate of Mexico, who was speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. This Conference, and indeed this Commission, is now dealing with an agenda item which is crucial, and we all note the level of attendance. As we said yesterday, the basic issue of achieving success with the world's food problem is also crucial. The matter of an international gene bank is not strictly technical; it is quite obviously also political, and it is perhaps one of the, if not THE, clearest examples of an almost evenly yoked technical/political issue before this Conference.'

There are two simple questions; do we regard the matter of an international gene bank as being crucial to the issues of quantity, quality and reliability of global food supplies? And secondly, do we agree that in dealing with these specific issues that it is necessary - in fact, there is no alternative - to constantly search and harness the variation in germ plasm from all corners of the globe? If the answer to both questions is "yes", how can any country come to this Conference and even suggest that it is not necessary to obtain some kind of global understanding, undertaking, even in principle in the first instance? - Indeed, any kind of commitment for organized and synchronized action on the matter of germ plasm identification, preservation and distribution.

We all know and understand some of the special concerns of various countries. But let us be quite clear - both the developed and the developing countries have an interest in what happens to germ plasm material. In some respects, the developing countries more so, because that is where the basic material is largely located. And no one is going to challenge this. But we have entered into a new era of technology, with gene splicing and bioengineering, and so on, and, it would seem, we are on the threshold of a new kind of power play. At the expense of what? - the millions of hungry and starving people of the world.

If we mean what we have been saying during the last few weeks with regard to the world food problem, we cannot fail to agree on the need for a kind of global commitment on sharing, access and exchange of germ plasm where food for mankind is concerned. Some delegations seemed to suggest that the exchange of germ plasm is an easy matter today, and there is no need for any unusual kind of action at this time. It is not true. There are even suggestions that the statements in paragraph 117 to 119 are not altogether correct.

Mr. Chairman, problems are likely to arise with some crops which are not even basic food, but they are nevertheless critical to the well being of many countries; for example, coffee. Our country, Trinidad and Tobago, has one of the best collections of cocoa germ plasm in the world, and we have shared it with the world. Some of the earliest work on cotton breeding was also done in Trinidad and Tobago, and we have shared it with the world. But I cannot see that our own experience in recent times is the same, and we would like to get some germ plasm of a particular crop - coffee - and it is such an important issue that if, before I leave this room, someone can come to me and promise delivery of such germ plasm at a reasonable price, I would be very happy.

The need for dealing with an international gene bank is an urgent issue. There are indications that the CGIAR system does not have at this time the overall level of funding required. We have no proof that we can simply leave the matter to be dealt with by the CGIAR. The Director-General of FAO proposes in paragraph 162, that as far as possible we build on the existing network. We see no difficulty in this proposal. There is nothing in it as far as we can see to suggest that professional ethics will go by the wayside and breeders will be forced to release material, which is not necessary. On the other hand, private trade within a privileged group will be a matter for concern. Our delegation recommends approval of the basic recommendations or proposals for an international agreement, as put forward by the Director-General.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I am sorry I could not make an intervention before for certain inevitable reasons, but I will try to be as brief as possible. My delegation thanks Dr Bommer and the Secretariat of the FAO for the excellent document they have prepared. I have benefited greatly by it and have been educated by the information given in the document. In very simple language the document has given a lucid exposition of a difficult, intricate and technical subject on genetic resources, basic to the future of agriculture on this planet. The draft Undertaking given as Appendix A is the quintessence of the various issues involved, and one would do well to go through this Appendix, which is brief, but which gives in a few pages the various issues involved.

Future generations will remember FAO for many constructive things, but one of the most important for which posterity will thank FAO will be the action they have taken on the protection and development of genetic resources. The statement that genetic resource is a common heritage of mankind should resound throughout the world as one of the seminal statements of this Organization. India has a great stake in the subject for no other reason than the fact that it will help all countries in increasing their food production through conservation and development of genetic resource. India is one of the richest reservoirs of natural, cultivated, wild and primitive plant species and cultivars. Agro-climatic regions are all there in India, varying from polar to temperate, from sub-tropical to tropical climate, with perennial sunshine in most parts of the country. Since we are also one of the oldest civilisations of the world, the interaction between man and plant has been taking place in the sub-continent from the very earliest days and this has accelerated the evolution of the various plant species.

India is also the third largest reservoir in the world insofar as scientific and technical personnel are concerned. We have more than 100 agricultural universities of international repute where various varieties of plants are being bred continuously. India has been participating in the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources and we have accepted the philosophy of international cooperation in genetic resources as one of the measures for collective self-reliance amongst developing countries in particular, and all countries in general. We would like to expand this international cooperation on a global scale in universally acceptable terms through FAO.

FAO has been concerned with plant genetic resources ever since 1946, when the first session of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture took place. After more than 35 years, it is a very good thing that matters relating to this important item are being brought to a head under the dynamic leadership of the Director-General of FAO in the various fora of FAO, namely the Conference, the Council, the Working Party, and the Committee on Agriculture. All this has aroused, if nothing else, a universal consciousness amongst the various countries about the need to protect their genetic resources.

However, I shall fail in my duty if I do not congratulate the CGIAR and the IBPGR for doing pioneering work within their limited sphere in establishing gene banks and centres, and bringing together communities of scientists, administrators, institutions and governments in order to save the priceless germ plasms. Their work will act as a guiding light in extending international cooperation on a global scale in this sphere through FAO.

My delegation congratulates FAO for designating the genetic resources in nature as a common heritage of mankind. However, FAO has to reassure the developing and developed countries both that arrangements will be made to set at rest their fears on internationalism in plant genetics. They have to assure the developing countries that their germ plasms will not be exploited by others. They have to assure the developed countries also that their newly evolved varieties, evolved by their scientists, will not be exploited by others for undue commercial gain. Any plant gene internationalism on a global scale is much needed for pressing reasons. The first reason why there should be global cooperation is that a survey and identification of the various endangered germ plasms are very, very urgent. The second reason for global cooperation is the need for standardization of codes, standardization of maintenance norms, standardization of equipment, and standardization of training on a uniform basis. Still another reason for international cooperation on a global scale -and I emphasize "global scale" - is the need to have a central data bank and information service; still another reason is to have a worldwide exchange of research reserves on plant genetics and last but not least, there is a need to avoid exploitation of the developing countries, through the protection of FAO.

I have a few suggestions to offer, and I will put them briefly. My first suggestion is that we should recognize in clear terms that FAO should be a model agency for all international activities on genetic resources. That means that all requests for exchanges of information on germ plasm, flow of funds, and flow of information should be through the medium of FAO. This is not a very revolutionary idea, because FAO is already involved with the CGIAR and IBPGR, as indicated in paragraph 119 of this document, through various means. FAO has an agreement with the CGIAR; FAO provides secretariat services to the IBPGR; the Executive Secretary of IBPGR is an official of FAO; FAO is represented on the IBPGR and its Executive Committee; the Chairman of IBPGR is appointed in consultation with the Director-General of FAO; IBPGR reports to the FAO and other member countries through FAO, but unfortunately FAO has little effective say in the work and programme of the IBPGR. Agreements of the FAO with the IBPGR have not been ratified by the FAO Conference. It is time this Conference reviewed, or had another look at, the relationship between FAO and IBPGR so that this relationship is made more attractive, more clear, and more attuned to the needs of developing countries.

My delegation feels that the existing arrangements should continue at the national, regional, sub-regional and institutional level under the overall umbrella of the FAO. The national efforts in developing countries should be fully supported, strengthened and funded by the FAO. All developing countries should be assisted in plant breeding, plant gene survey, identification of endangered germplasms and in the establishment of a national gene bank.

The national, regional, international gene banks should, in the opinion of my delegation, be in the world grid of gene banks which have to be supervised through the FAO.

We support the ideas given in paragraph 186 of document C 83/25 that there should be an international data bank and information service. We feel that the IBPGR should help FAO in establishing it. We feel that it should be more than a concept, there should be a time bound programme and the suggestion in paragraphs 144 to 146 that there should be a pioneer gene bank should be welcomed and the pioneer gene bank should be with FAO and should retain and protect the most endangered germ plasms in the world.

We would request that the FAO Secretariat should examine the factors which have led to the alleged exploitation of developing countries and try to correct them in the existing and proposed systems.

My delegation fully supports the draft international undertaking, but there may be certain clauses which may not be acceptable to some countries. We suggest that a contact group should be appointed for reconciling the different views of various countries in so far as the international undertaking is concerned.

We also feel that considering the importance of plant genetic resources and the various intricate issues involved, there should be a separate committee on plant genetic resources of the FAO Council which would devote itself and dedicate itself completely to the various issues involved in this sphere.

My delegation supports the concept of a world gene fund, as there is a World Wildlife Fund, both of these are endangered. The World Gene Fund should be specially created for the protection of the endangered genes of the world.

Finally, we support the various proposals made and summarized in paragraph 195 of the document, with the following few additional suggestions which I have already made. The suggestions which we want to add to paragraph 195 are as follows. First, FAO should help the developing countries in the management of their germ plasms and their protection *in situ* and *ex situ*, and subject to the sovereign rights and interests of the developing countries, should fully protect them. Secondly, FAO should be the modal agency and deal with the governments and international bodies and all activities should be through FAO.

Thirdly, a pioneering gene bank should be established under FAO for severely endangered species as a measure of world gene security. Fourthly, there should be a separate committee on plant genetic resources. Fifthly, there should be a feasibility study on establishing a "World Gene Fund".

We congratulate FAO on taking up a noble task and we wish it and the Director-General success in establishing a universally acceptable system of gene security and gene development.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): When during the Twenty-first session of the FAO Conference in 1981 we requested the Director-General, through Resolution 6/81, first to prepare the elements of a draft international convention on plant genetic resources; and secondly to prepare a study on the establishment of an international gene bank no one could claim that this would be an easy task.

We were all aware of the international complexities of the issue and of the potential controversies that might arise. But I believe we were all fully convinced that the issue of plant genetic resources is at the heart of world food security and constitutes the basis upon which an effective struggle against world hunger can be launched.

I believe that until relatively recently the international community, for one reason or another did not look into the international institutional structure through which plant genetic resources are developed, stored, conserved and circulated. It is to the credit of the international community that as from the beginning of this decade - and the Twenty-first Session of the FAO Conference has in this respect been an important landmark - the international community has started to care so much about the narrowing of the base of plant genetic resources, the real risks of genetic erosion, the conservation and storage of our planet's plant genetic resources and the free and unconditional availability of such resources as the most basic single factor for maintaining life on earth as in the words "a common heritage of mankind".

It is within this context that the Twenty-first session of the FAO Conference took up the subject and concluded with Resolution 6/81. It is in fulfilment of that resolution that the FAO's Director-General presented the report C 83/25 now before us at this Conference. Given the complexities and difficulties of the issue, this is a good report and the Director-General and his staff who undertook the job deserve our appreciation.

Perhaps it may not be to the full satisfaction of all Member Nations, but how otherwise could such a complex issue be handled? Its intentions, nevertheless, and the principles upon which the whole issue stands cannot and have not been questioned by anybody.

It is therefore a matter of the technicalities, of training, improving and establishing these appropriate international institutions and the appropriate international infrastructure that will safeguard the conservation and free availability of this heritage of mankind to all people at all times and in all places.

My delegation looks upon the proposals contained in the report before us as a good channel of action in that direction which will enhance mankind's efforts to conserve, store and make available these things for all those who need the earth's plant genetic resources. We look upon the proposals submitted in the report before us, that is on the establishment of an international bank of plant genetic resources and on the international undertaking on plant genetic resources, as the initiation of a new era in international cooperation in the field of plant genetic resources, and as such they have our approval, because ultimately such arrangements as are proposed will be to the benefit of all member countries, developing and developed.

E. SCHRÖDER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I would like to congratulate the Secretariat and Dr Bommer in particular on the excellent document C 83/25 and the informative introduction. I would also like to thank the Working Group whose members have dealt so intensively with the existing problems and have worked out a markedly improved proposal which increases the possibilities for an agreed solution.

My delegation supports the principles mentioned in the preamble of the undertaking. We are convinced that an improved network of plant genetic collections and an improved worldwide information system, serves the common aim of preserving and making adequate use of the wide variety of plant genetic resources. This is the aim of the valuable work being done by the IBPGR.

The Federal Republic of Germany would like to express here its satisfaction with the work and results of that institution. In the IBPGR we see a body, which does useful scientific work, on account of its decentralized form of organization it has mobilized significant financial support and brought together successfully a worldwide, growing network of gene banks.

In our assessment the cooperation with the has been fruitful so it is not our intention to reduce this work and our contribution to it.

The proposal for an international undertaking raises some important questions for us and contains in particular one area which is not acceptable to us. The questions refer, on the one hand, to the financial implications for the FAO and on the other hand they refer to the question as to how the undertaking can be complementary to the work of the IBPGR without extending bureaucracy and without diminishing the efficiency and independence of the IBPGR.

Not acceptable is - as for many other speakers before me -line (v) of paragraph 2.1 (a) on page 33 of document C 83/25. We cannot agree to the inclusion of breeding material into the Undertaking because of our legal regulations. In addition, this would be a danger for private initiative which is urgently needed in this area.

H. POPP (Switzerland): We would first like to thank FAO for this very fine report and its efforts to work out the proposal before us and we would especially thank Dr Bommer for his excellent presentation.

I would like to sum up the position of the Swiss delegation as follows.

We support the concept of free exchange of germ plasm. We do see the need for international cooperation. We note, however, that there is enough collection of genes at regional and at country level. We see no need for an international gene bank. We note further that gene banks cooperate already; that the possibilities of exchange between scientists exists, and that such cooperation goes on. We note further that the IBPGR works satisfactorily. We have here no major criticism. It is trusted by the scientific community in my country.

The aim of our endeavour is to reach the largest participation possible. This presupposes, as has been said before, a climate of confidence. We should be careful, therefore, in introducing new structures, new political supervision or new bureaucratic devices which would endanger this climate of confidence.

We have some doubts as to the usefulness of the proposal before us, especially, we feel that the additional resources required for the implementation of this proposal could be used more rapidly, more efficiently and effectively by strengthening and/or improving the present system by still wider cooperation, by pragmatic improvement of the various activities going on, and especially by helping those countries who so far, are not able to make the necessary efforts. The Government of my country is ready to increase its Development Aid in this direction.

To sum up, it is our firm conviction that we reach the common goal expressed in this Assembly, namely the collection of genes through the exchange of germ plasm and more international cooperation, much better by working within existing institutions along the lines which have proved successful and trustworthy rather than by creating new institutions; that we try to assure greater cooperation and that we put additional funds into the pragmatic improvement of what has to be done in the intermediate future. My country is ready to make its contribution in this direction, in the future, as it did in the past.

M. ABDULAZIZ MOHAMED (United Arab Emirates) (original language Arabic): We would like to express our thanks to Dr Bommer for the presentation of document C 83/25. We would also like to thank the Director-General of FAO for the efforts made in order to prepare this document. Since we consider the plant genetic resources a heritage of mankind that should be preserved and should be exploited so that the benefits could be equally shared without constraints, through the exploration, collection and conservation, storage and evaluation of these resources under the umbrella of an International Institution that could implement these principles. Because we fear that we might lose these priceless resources, especially the loss by the developing countries of these resources before the end of this century and because we feel that the subject of plant genetic resources is a political issue as well as an environmental problem and an economic chance in the international effort in this field.

To be brief, Mr. Chairman, we support the proposal made by the Director-General in the document concerning the International Undertaking on the plant genetic resources and the role of FAO in this field and thus we avoid further debate concerning a subject on which a resolution has been taken, especially concerning scientific progress, the technological level and the responsibility of all countries to facilitate the access of developing countries to the achievements of modern science and technology. This was stated in the United Nations Resolution at its Twenty-ninth session, Resolution 3281, we also avoid a debate on the right of each country to exercise its sovereignty of its natural resources as stated in Resolution 1803/18 of the Eighteenth United Nations General Assembly and on the necessity to exercise this right for the well-being and development of the country concerned. We hope that this proposal by the Director-General will have the agreement of all the participants.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese): My intervention will be very brief.

With regard to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Gene Bank, the Chinese delegation already made clear its position at the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture held last March. I, therefore, deem it unnecessary to repeat it here.

We would like to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for the draft resolution on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and the annexed draft Undertaking. This draft resolution and the draft Undertaking, therefore, are positive in their spirit, and the Chinese delegation is in a position to support, in principle, the aforementioned documents.

J.B. JACKMAN (New Zealand): New Zealand supports the basic principle that plant genetic resources are the common heritage of mankind. Following this we seek the free exchange of germ plasm for use in research and plant breeding. We are alarmed at the erosion of the gene pool, which is continuing to occur, and give our full support to the IBPGR in its efforts to collect and conserve this material in an integrated network of gene banks.

The next level of our concern is to improve the information aspect on the genetic characters of material held in gene banks. The effectiveness of plant breeders can be enhanced by sharing this information and we would include training as a component of information flows.

At a higher level still, all countries need to make full use of the potential of plant breeding in their efforts to improve free production. The collaborative effort of IARC's has been spectacularly effective, we feel it might be possible to encourage the considerable expertise of breeders in the developed countries, to be directly applied to breeding for developing country climatic environment. To achieve this some mechanism of directly rewarding the breeder would be needed.

Against this hierarchy of issues can I now put the New Zealand position. In balancing the need for urgent action to conserve endangered germ plasm, we view with concern any constraints which would hinder operations of IBPGR. Operational flexibility is a very important consideration, but I must say we are encouraged by the flexibility which has been shown by FAO and all the participants in this debate. We see merit in the concept of an International Undertaking which enshrines the principle of free exchange, provided there is no hindrance to IBPGR's operational flexibility. Furthermore, we believe that any compulsion on commercial breeders to deposit advance breeders lines would be counter-productive. Breeders do exchange material, and in the case of my country I can say that we have many cooperative arrangements in which farm breeders send selections to our country for evaluation in our environment. We fear that this source of valuable material could be closed off if those breeders saw any risk that material could be made available to their competitors.

New Zealand therefore supports the underlying principle embodied in this proposal, with qualifications on the scope of the Undertaking, and in the hope that we will address our minds in the future to finding universal mechanisms which reward the plant breeder. We believe, at the present time, that the conservation of endangered wild species, the free exchange of wild genetic material, and the development of an information service and training, are the proper focus of this Undertaking.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Comme l'ont fait les autres delegations qui se sont exprimées avant nous, nous voudrions nous aussi une fois de plus adresser nos félicitations à M. Bommer ainsi qu'au Directeur général de la FAO pour la clarté de leurs exposés. Nous estimons nous aussi que les ressources phytogénétiques sont le patrimoine commun de l'humanité et qu'elles doivent être préservées et librement accessibles pour être utilisées dans l'intérêt des générations présentes et futures. En vertu de quoi nous renouvelons notre accord total aux principes de création d'une banque de ressources phytogénétiques en raison des nombreux avantages que pourra présenter cette institution. En matière de coopération intergouvernementale relative à cette banque que nous voulons créer, nous insistons particulièrement pour que l'accent soit mis sur le contenu des paragraphes 71, 72 et 73 du rapport qui nous est présenté et à ce titre nous souscrivons à l'idée de la mise en place d'une instance intergouvernementale qui serait chargée de la coordination et du suivi de l'exécution des activités de cette banque, des ressources phytogénétiques.

Dans le même ordre, nous exigeons qu'un rôle important soit accordé aux pays en développement dans le réseau intergouvernemental envisagé et nous tenons particulièrement à ce qu'une aide substantielle soit envisagée pour les pays en développement qui ont cruellement besoin de sélectionneurs expérimentés, des ressources financières et d'équipement pour exploiter le large éventail de diversités génétiques existant sur leur territoire et concernant le type de textes juridiques à retenir pour consacrer l'existence de la Banque des ressources phytogénétiques; nous pensons à première vue qu'un instrument du type d'un engagement international qui impliquerait la participation à la fois des gouvernements ainsi que celle des institutions internationales pourrait convenir. Mais compte tenu de l'importance du sujet, si la Conférence, comme l'a recommandé le Comité pour l'agriculture au paragraphe 227 de

son rapport, document C 83/9, pense que l'étude sur le type d'accord doit encore suivre son cours pour que tous les aspects soient tenus en considération, nous pouvons encore faire preuve de patience. Mais dans tous les cas, quel que sera le type de cadre juridique qui pourra être définitivement retenu, il devra être fait une marge préalable nette entre les fins commerciales et celles purement scientifiques dont nous voulons confier la paternité à la banque que nous voulons créer.

Par ailleurs, nous pensons qu'étant le principal institut des Nations Unies qui s'occupe de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, la FAO doit reprendre en main la coordination des activités de tous les organismes qui traitent des sujets relevant de son champ d'action et à plus forte raison des banques des ressources phytogénétiques, fussent-elles sous-régionales ou régionales, existantes ou à créer. Un comité spécial diligent et efficace de la FAO pourrait être créé à cette fin.

S. PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): The Indonesian delegation would like to compliment the Director-General for the able discharge of his task in the follow-up of Resolution 6/81, as was adopted by the Twenty-first session of the FAO Conference, the result of which we have before us as document C 83/25.

We would also like to thank the Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture Department for his enlightening introduction this morning. We are grateful for the clear picture given of the report C 83/25 which has enabled us to better understand the current state of affairs concerning the world community in its efforts of launching the plant genetic resources for the welfare of mankind. No efforts should be spared if the welfare of mankind is at stake. Therefore, any attempt leading to the culmination of those efforts will have our support.

The Indonesian delegation concurs with the conclusions of the report of the Director-General as contained in document C 83/25, pages 28 and 29. The Indonesian delegation would therefore like to join those delegations who lent their full support for the draft Resolution on the International Undertaking of Plant Genetic Resources as proposed by the Director-General.

A. DAALOUL (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de présenter mes compliments au Directeur général pour le projet de résolution qui est inclus dans ce document sur la conservation des ressources phytogénétiques. Nous attachons une très grande importance en Tunisie à ce sujet. C'est pour cela que nous avons eu le souci de créer un centre national de conservation des ressources phytogénétiques il y a trois ans. Nous avons pu faire des collections concernant certaines espèces végétales comme le blé, l'orge et les fèves entre autres. Nous avons également eu le souci de maintenir des relations officielles et officieuses avec le CICRG et certains instituts de la Méditerranée. Nous avons également des accords bilatéraux avec des centres internationaux de recherche comme le CIMIT et l'ICARDA, et en plus de tout cela nous constatons que toutes ces institutions et ces centres n'ont pas un véritable statut juridique international comme c'est le cas pour la FAO. C'est pour cela que la constitution d'une banque internationale des ressources phytogénétiques sous l'égide de la FAO constitue une évolution normale et naturelle de la dynamique de ce sujet et nous considérons que le contrôle par la FAO représente une garantie juridique du libre échange de ces ressources phytogènes.

C'est pour cela que nous insistons dans ce domaine sur la nécessité de créer ce centre international des ressources phytogénétiques sous le contrôle de la FAO.

L. AL-ANSI (Yemen Arab Republic) (original language Arabic): On behalf of my country, I would like to give our warmest thanks to the Director-General. I wish to thank him for the report which has been submitted to us in document C 83/25. I would also like to thank Dr Bommer for all his elucidations on plant genetic resources. We believe that this document is exhaustive, and convincing. It faithfully records the importance of the main objectives and principles which pertain to plant genetic resources and their use.

We also give our full support to the Draft Resolution as regards the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and all the measures that can be taken on the basis of needs and objectives. We believe that everything included in the document mentioned above is a very serious step which will be fruitful and which will benefit all countries, particularly if there is effective cooperation.

J.GAZZO F.D. (Perú): Quiero iniciar esta intervención felicitando, muy de veras, al doctor Bommer por la magnífica exposición que ha hecho, y al Director General por el enfoque secuencial del problema de los Recursos Fitogénéticos que llega a una conclusión lógica.

Tengo la impresión que no obstante la doble intervención del doctor Bommer explicando claramente los alcances de este acuerdo, de esta propuesta, no ha sido entendido por muchos delegados. Esta reunión se ha esforzado en defender al CIRF, yo también lo defiende, en lo técnico. Por consiguiente, lo que se quiere es crear un Sistema de Recursos Fitogenéticos, y si alguna institución o país se ha irrogado la representación total del Sistema, está muy equivocado. El Sistema de Recursos Fitogenéticos que nosotros, que el Director General propicia con el grupo de estudio, es un sistema poli-factorial, en el cual el componente técnico es una de las partes del Sistema, pero no es todo el Sistema.

El Sistema Integral de Recursos Fitogenéticos, en realidad debería contener, o según mi modesto entender, el componente técnico, el componente político, el componente económico, y por qué no en este mundo de interrelaciones, el componente social, y finalmente el componente informático, el componente de información.

Muchos países aunque están de acuerdo en la mayoría de los puntos, han hecho algunas objeciones. Uno de ellos dice en la parte económica. Entonces, mi pregunta sería a aquellos países que solamente han puesto como factor limitante a la ejecución de todo este magnífico paquete, el aspecto económico, yo les pondría la pregunta ¿y qué tal si conseguimos el dinero, apoyarían ustedes este proyecto? Quedo en espera de la respuesta.

En segundo punto, algunos otros países se han esmerado en decir que sería este Convenio Internacional, que tendría muchos inconvenientes y algunos peligros; pero se han olvidado de mencionar cuáles son las ventajas que podría tener. O sea que han visto la moneda sólo por un lado, pero no por el otro.

Yo creo que, en realidad, tenemos que entendernos claramente. Lo que perseguimos no es duplicar ni que nadie trabaje en lugar de otros, sino que va a trabajar además de otro, sin quitar ninguna de las funciones de otro, pero sin permitir que se irroguen atribuciones que, siendo organismo de carácter técnico, tiene implicancias políticas; porque esas atribuciones, nosotros los países soberanos, no se las vamos a dar ni se las damos.

Esas atribuciones son propias de cada país soberano, y lo que el Director General ha querido con este magnífico documento, es juntar esfuerzos. Hay centenares de bancos de germoplasma por todo el mundo, pululando, dando vueltas sin que haya un coordinador. Yo puedo mencionar el caso de mi país en el que tenemos infinidad de bancos y teníamos alrededor de 1.500 especies preincaicas en cajas que se han erosionado, y que sólo quedan 50. Todo esto es sencillamente mastodóntico, para hacer despertar conciencias.

Si la mayoría de los usuarios decimos que el Sistema no trabaja, no es porque estemos locos; es porque no trabaja. Si trabajara, no estaríamos aquí y este tema no se hubiera presentado. No se trabaja desde el punto de vista integral del sistema. En este momento, lo que se quiere es una secuencia lógica; se quiere pasar del Banco Nacional al Banco Regional, del Banco Regional quizás al Banco Continental, y finalmente al Banco Mundial. Y quisiéramos que el Centro Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos (CIRF) fuera el Centro Mundial de Recursos Fitogenéticos (CMRF), y como desgraciadamente, en el CIRF no tenemos representatividad la mayoría de los países, y principalmente, aquéllos que somos centros de origen normalmente.

Me permito hablar en esta forma porque yo soy parte de todo esto, puesto que yo he sido miembro del Consejo Directivo del CHA, por dos años representando a América Latina, he sido miembro y Director del Centro Internacional de la Papa. Y sin embargo, he criticado duramente, a veces, algunos proyectos; como por ejemplo, recuerdo un proyecto que quisieron hacer, siquiera intentar con una audacia increíble, llevar la papa a la zona de la Amazonia, donde llueve tres metros y la temperatura no baja de 30 grados. Sencillamente, yo les dije que es como traer un oso polar y ponerlo en África; se va a morir ese pobre animal. Y así sucedió; esos centros de alto nivel tuvieron - y el Dick Sawyer no me deja mentir- tuvieron, digamos, el presagio de este pájaro de mal agüero que fui yo, que les dije que eso iba a ser un fracaso; pero es cuestión sólo de sentido común, es cuestión de hábitats.

Yo lo que quiero invocar a todos los países, porque dentro de los que han tomado la palabra, he oído mucha sensatez en la Gran Bretaña, mucha sensatez en Canadá, y en algunos países, son tantos, que veo que se están acercando, y que quizás cuando se llegue a un F-8, a un F-5, donde la habilidad del genetista tiene su valor propio porque es un inventor, un descubridor, bueno, se le otorgue un premio, así como una especie de Premio Nóbel de genética que sea sustantivo pero que no esté a merced del mercantilismo, que no esté a merced de sacar variedades de alto requerimiento energético, que están asociadas y consociadas con las empresas que venden fertilizantes y que venden insecticidas, y que venden bombas para riego. Y entonces, ¿qué pasa con los problemas de nosotros, los países en vías de desarrollo? ¿Cuánto tiempo hace que invocamos por una variedad de trigo tropical, que nunca lo encuentran? ¿Cuánto tiempo que pedimos que refuercen en proteínas los tubérculos como la yuca y el camote para poder usarlos como harina, en sustituto en parte de la harina de trigo que es mucho más rica en proteínas? Pues no hay respuesta. Eso duerme el sueño de los justos.

Entonces, lo que quisiéramos sencillamente es que haya un acercamiento, porque yo creo en la buena fe de todos los países del mundo; somos los mismos seres humanos con el mismo sistema sanguíneo, corazón; y si uno está en el lado de los desarrollados y otro está en el lado de los de en vías de desarrollo, todos tenemos la misma inquietud y a todos nos inquieta el problema del hambre.

Por consiguiente, estoy seguro que aquí nadie ha atacado el CIRF. Parece que todo se centre en una defensa del CIRF; el CIRF sigue y además tendrá más dinero todavía. Pero lo que queremos sencillamente es que cumpla cada organismo, y este sistema, que en realidad sería un centro de coordinación mundial de recursos fitogenéticos, coordinación del aprovechamiento mundial. Y por supuesto, las implicancias políticas son innegables; son innegables, y habría que declarar con toda hidalguía y con toda firmeza que han habido algunos de estos centros que han tenido pruebas fehacientes, escritas, que se han negado recursos fitogenéticos a algunos países por razones políticas, y no han tenido la honestidad de manifestarle a los miembros que tal o cual país no quiere dar la semilla. Entonces, han actuado con falta de fuerza o con mucho temor o no se con qué.

Por consiguiente, yo creo que la creación de un organismo a nivel mundial, en nada le quita autoridad, en nada le quita ninguna atribución ni al CIRF, ni al Banco del IRRI, ni al Banco del CIHA, ni a ninguno de ellos. Vamos a reforzarlos; queremos complementarlos; pero queremos que cuando un ciudadano se identifique y exhiba un pasaporte, ese pasaporte sea real y diga todas las características. Y cada semilla debe tener un pasaporte en el cual diga origen, etc.... con todas las características. Eso es lo único que pedimos, y creo interpreto el sentir unánime de la Sala. Lo siento como un mensaje maravilloso. Todos estamos de acuerdo con este estudio que es perfectible; es perfectible, no es perfecto así como es perfectible el CIRF y como es perfectible el Programa Mundial de Alimentos y todos queremos perfeccionarnos.

Entonces, yo creo que este documento, por lo menos en cuanto concierne a un país tan afectado, centro de origen de la papa, país -que ha perdido más de 1 400 especies preincaicas que ya se fueron, yo apoyo decididamente y con todo calor, y con todo sentir humano, y con todo sentido de país soberano este documento.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, we have not quite finished our work. As you will realise, we have not even touched in any great detail on the improvement of the undertaking with a view to its adoption as part of the Resolution before us.

I realise that there are some observers that have requested to take the floor. Unfortunately, in the light of the fact that member countries still have to finish the substantive work, we shall defer giving them the floor until such time as we have made significant progress on what should go into our final report.

At this stage, we can briefly say that all delegations recognize the progress made in the development of the concept of internationalization of conservation and exchange of genetic resources as a common heritage of mankind. The valuable work done so far by IBPGR was fully recognized by all. However, the limitations of the existing systems were stressed and the need to effect improvement was common opinion. Whether or not such improvements should be tailored within the framework, and under the aegis, of FAO, was discussed at length.- The necessity to reconcile positions still remained.

This necessity still remains, and I therefore wish to propose to the Commission that we establish a contact group to do more detailed work on this. If you agree, I should like to offer the following suggestions. I suggest that we do it in a manner that may be representative of the interests of member nations of FAO, and therefore original representation is normally the broadly accepted one. Or course, we shall try also to accommodate different shades of opinion on the subject. For Africa, we would propose Kenya and Benin; for the Near East , Libya; for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago; for the Nordic countries, Sweden; for the South West Pacific, Australia; for Europe, United Kingdom, France and Spain; for Asia, Bangladesh; for North America, the United States of America.

We wish and recommend that the Contact Group should be kept as small as possible in order to allow the group to do more meaningful work. If you agree, we should try to limit it to a maximum of 13. That would include part of the Secretariat, which would provide some clarification and some guidance.

We have made arrangements that the Contact Group should meet as soon as we adjourn. We must also remember that the Drafting Committee will have to have its meeting, because there is work to be done. Of course, we will not be in a position to consider what we have done today. This is why we have tried, as much as possible, to avoid pulling into the Contact Group those countries that are already represented in the Drafting Committee.

At this stage, I believe we all have the desire to adjourn and let these people, to whom we have given so much work, start their meeting while we go and enjoy our weekend.

The Contact Group will meet immediately in the Sudan Room. The Drafting Committee will meet in the Philippines Room at six o'clock.

B.O.M. CHİYABWE (Zambia): Mr. Chairman I am sorry to come in at this late hour. I should like to ask whether people who are interested in attending the deliberations of the Contact Group would be allowed to do so, without taking part in the discussions.

CHAIRMAN: If the Commission agrees, I think it might: only confuse the issue if we make a large group. This subject is difficult. These people will have to sit until midnight or 2 o'clock in the morning. Maybe we should go and enjoy our weekend and they will report to us on Monday.

The meeting rose at 16.55 hours

La seance est levée à 16 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.55 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 83/II/PV/17

Twenty-second Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session
COMMISSION II

22º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTEENTH MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE
17ª SESION

(21 November 1983)

The Seventeenth Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dix-septième seance est ouverte à 10 h 15 sous la présidence de
C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 17ª sesión a las 10.15 horas, bajo la presidencia de
C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 15. Plant Genetic Resources (Follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81) (continued)
- 15. Ressources phytogénétiques (suivi de la résolution 6/81 de la Conférence) (suite)
- 15. Recursos fitogenéticos (medidas complementarias de la Resolución 6/81 de la Conferencia) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I apologise for this late start. We were waiting for document C 83/LIM/32 that is the amended draft Undertaking which was worked upon by the Contact Group. It will not be ready for another 45 minutes to one hour, basically because it has to come out in all languages; the text is ready so far in English and Arabic but not yet in Spanish and French.

Document C 83/LIM/31, which is the Report of the Resolutions Committee, reflects that that Committee has found the draft resolution receivable but we may not discuss it until we have discussed the amended draft Undertaking which is going to be part of the Resolution.

We could make good use of our time while we are waiting for the documents to be distributed by continuing the general discussions.

V. ESPINOSA (Nicaragua): Nuestra Delegación considera de mucha importancia el informe del Director General de la FAO sobre el tema de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Esta importancia refleja voluntad y esperanza, para que los pueblos del mundo, principalmente los países en vías de desarrollo, tengan la oportunidad de contar con una amplia posibilidad de utilización de genes potenciales en el mejoramiento de cultivos alimenticios, asegurando un recurso vital para el desarrollo agrícola mundial.

Las semillas mejoradas son conceptual y pragmáticamente el factor básico para sostener incrementos de productividad y producción deseadas por nuestros países.

El desarrollo científico en el campo de mejoramiento de plantas determina como base fundamental la utilización racional y técnica de los recursos genéticos. Esto, en su potencialidad de obtener variedades con alta respuesta a la tecnología de producción, resistentes a factores adversos de clima como la sequía y bajas temperaturas y resistentes a plagas y enfermedades.

Los avances metodológicos y técnicos en el desarrollo de nuevas variedades y su propio sostenimiento dependen del grado de protección de los recursos genéticos a nivel mundial. Estos avances tendrán mayores perspectivas de éxito en la medida en que la diversidad y variabilidad genética se aproveche con equidad y justeza en todos los países del mundo. Esto es, propiciando y asegurando la conservación, mantenimiento y libre intercambio de los recursos genéticos de interés agrícola.

Es preocupación técnico-científica, que el desarrollo de variedades con características uniformes en morfología, fisiología y productividad derivan una tendencia de estrechez de la base genética. Ello ha determinado la necesidad de establecer y promover el rescate y aprovechamiento efectivo de la amplia variabilidad genética la exploración, recolección y conservación de dichos materiales; como fuente de combinaciones genéticas deseadas por los productores y los países en función a sus características agroecológicas y bióticas presentes.

Nuestra Delegación apoya y es consecuente con el criterio de que los recursos fitogenéticos son un patrimonio y que por lo tanto deben ser objeto de libre intercambio entre los países y sus respectivas instituciones para fines científicos y para su utilización en programas de mejoramiento genético.

Consideramos que esta es la base idónea para asegurar un crecimiento apropiado de la agricultura. No es deseable para los países del mundo, en particular los que están en vías de desarrollo, mantener una agricultura dependiente a través de importaciones de semillas para llevar a cabo sus programas de producción.

Por ello apoyamos el establecimiento de un acuerdo internacional con base jurídica que asegure la conservación y el libre intercambio de recursos fitogenéticos. Esto fundamentado también con la creación, bajo los auspicios de la FAO, de un banco internacional de dichos recursos de interés agrícola, caracterizado por una red internacional de libre acceso al intercambio de recursos fitogenéticos en diferentes estados de desarrollo y niveles de generación.

Apoyamos el principio, en que se fundamenta la Resolución 6/81 del 22º período de sesiones de la FAO, de que los recursos fitogenéticos constituyen un patrimonio común de la humanidad y deben estar libremente a la disposición de la comunidad internacional y de cada Gobierno mediante un compromiso firme de cooperación e intercambio.

Estamos conscientes que el desarrollo de un principio de esta naturaleza involucra acciones y medidas progresivas para alcanzar el objetivo deseado. Por ello, estamos de acuerdo en que las actividades básicas, propuestas en el Informe del Director General de la FAO, relativo a los recursos fitogenéticos en cuanto a prioridad de la prospección y la recolección, conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos, mantenimiento de dichos recursos, documentación y evaluación, medidas de seguridad y su utilización.

Para cumplir con estas actividades y medidas, también es importante la cooperación internacional para el fortalecimiento de programas nacionales de mejoramiento genético, principalmente en aquellos países que adolecen de las infraestructuras mínimas de conservación genética, que requieren más apoyo en equipo y recursos humanos calificados y mayor asistencia financiera y capacitación para el desarrollo efectivo de acuerdos de manejo internacional de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Es muy importante reconocer los esfuerzos y acciones realizados por otros Organismos en materia de normas y protección de los recursos fitogenéticos, lo cual se debe considerar como un elemento fundamental para reafirmar y fortalecer el principio del derecho universal sobre la utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos, señor Presidente.'

Para finalizar, reafirmamos nuestra posición de apoyo a los conceptos, acciones y medidas, así como también a la propuesta de Proyecto o Resolución indicada en el informe del Director General de la FAO.

Hacemos un llamamiento a todos los países presentes para que apoyen el principio de que el patrimonio universal sobre los recursos genéticos es un derecho inviolable de los pueblos que luchan para un desarrollo económico y social más justo. Asimismo que los mecanismos de solidaridad internacional juegan un papel importante para mantener un status favorable de este principio.

Queremos hacer una mención especial de la disposición de España y México de hacer accesible su materia prima genética en beneficio de la comunidad internacional. Nuestro país se solidariza con esta posición y estamos anuentes, dentro de nuestras grandes limitaciones, a poner a la orden nuestros recursos genéticos. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

S. ZAHARIEV (Bulgaria): First of all I want to follow the previous speakers and congratulate the Director-General for including this very vital item on the agenda of the Conference. I would also like to congratulate Dr Bommer for the very good introduction of the item to us and prefacing this Resolution, which we find a very fine document.

My country has no problem in supporting the draft Resolution we are discussing now in its general terms. The spirit of this Resolution is very near to our understanding how such an important item shall be discussed and resolved by an international organization such as FAO. I think I have a good reason to say this because we in Bulgaria have created already a National Centre for Genetic Resources with some 260 expert personnel, storage rooms, research fields and all other necessary facilities. We will be happy to exchange our experience and knowledge with other countries and if FAO wish so to put all this facility at its disposal to use as a training base for the experts in the other countries and free exchange of the genetic resources.

Speaking at the end of the debate on this item does not give much chance to say more on much of the discussion as many of the delegates before me expressed the interesting view which was very much like ours and need not be repeated now.

I would like also once again to confirm our support to the present Resolution having in mind its great importance to the future of this very important item, genetic resources.

KYO-EUN KIM (Republic of Korea): The Republic of Korea would like to join the previous speakers in expressing their compliments to FAO and to Dr Bommer for his excellent work on this important subject.

Since the Republic of Korea has not stated its position on this subject, I will make our brief position on this subject, even though its chief delegate expressed his hope that the proposed Undertaking should be favorably considered for reaching an agreement.

The Republic of Korea would like to give its full support to the principles of this Undertaking. However, it is not in a position to make any commitments at this stage to the responsibilities of adhering governments which are described in paragraph 7 and 8 in particular in the field of financial matters.

Two aspects are not clear to our mind and we have not thoroughly looked at those two aspects, the first, how we propose the new system would work under the auspices of FAO and the second, to what extent the adhering government should take financial responsibilities both for strengthening the national institutes to serve as an effective network within the proposed framework and a better international cooperation. In conclusion, we support the Undertaking in principle.

A. ALLAIN (Observer for International Organization of Consumers' Unions): We have been looking forward to the opportunity of addressing this Conference on behalf of the IOCU, the International Organization of Consumers' Unions. The IOCU today has 121 members in 50 countries all over the world. It is the spokesman and advocate for consumers at the international level.

The IOCU also has a long tradition of cooperating with FAO, particularly in the fields of food safety, nutrition and food standards, through the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

You may recall that at the 1981 FAO Conference and at this year's COAG meeting we expressed our views on the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources. Although we had hoped and expected to speak earlier in this debate we would still like to make some brief comments on the paper in front of us.

It is worth noting that this subject and particularly the concern about genetic erosion, the free exchange of germplasm and the consequences of the adoption of so-called "Plant Breeder's Rights", was raised several years ago by a non-governmental non-profit organization and I would like to thank the International Coalition for Development Action, ICDA, for the valuable work they have done over the past years to create better understanding of this complex issue among the public and among policy makers. The research done by ICDA has been very useful for this purpose and much of it is contained in the document by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation of which many of you have received copies.

The issue before this Commission today is of critical importance, as has been stressed by several delegations as well as in the excellent report by the Director-General. The continuing and rapid erosion of the genetic base of food crops threatens the survival of future generations. If we don't act now, in a few years time it may be too late. If Member States are serious about world food security and the need for developing countries to become self-sufficient in food production, then they must adopt an instrument and the means in the field of plant genetic resources which will indeed enable those countries to become self-sufficient. The present situation threatens developing countries with an additional dependence, apart from the dependence on food imports, and that is the dependence on seed imports.

The Director-General's report under discussion deserves our appreciation, for having combined the most important aspects of the issue in a succinct manner. The resolution attached to it, however, presents a voluntary Undertaking which allows signatory States to make exceptions which in practice only apply to industrialised nations. We think this is dangerous and do not believe that such an Undertaking would change much in the present unsatisfactory situation. It would probably do no more than legitimize the right of the industrialised countries to have access to the germplasm of the Third World without guaranteeing developing nations access to the genetic material obtained on the basis of that germplasm.

That genetic material, for instance the so-called advanced breeder lines, could be excluded from the Undertaking when signing it. However, we all know that such specialist stocks, advanced breeder lines and the final product they lead to, are obtained by using germplasm collected mainly in the Third World. Plants are not the invention of man; they are the result of thousands of years of evolution and of the gifts of nature to all the inhabitants of planet Earth. We believe it is unfair and unacceptable that the results of the use of this gift of nature to all mankind be reserved for a few only. Hence, we strongly support, as we did in 1981, the call made by the Mexican delegation on behalf of many developing nations for a legally binding Convention. The rule of law in the protection and free exchange of genetic resources should not be forsaken at this Conference.

Practically every developing country we have heard has stressed the need for a legal framework. From the discussion it is now abundantly clear that the present loose and ambiguous system works for some but not for all. When those who have power say there is no problem and those who have no power say there is, one can safely assume that there is a problem. Why is it that those who have power are suddenly becoming legalistic, discussing differences between words like auspices and jurisdiction, and between centres and institutions? Such delaying tactics should be recognized for what they are.

We understand the need for some kind of reward for the researchers who discover and develop new varieties which enrich the world's food resources. But let us not fool ourselves: by far the most important work in this field has been and is still being done by small peasant farmers, mostly in Third World nations. The so-called advanced breeder lines of today would not exist were it not for these silent breeders and safe-keepers. The "new" varieties of the 20th century are sometimes no more than accidental discoveries or relatively simple crossings with accessions found in gene-rich depositories. For instance, the zera-zera sorghum cultivated for centuries by African peasants and donated by the Sudan is now the basis for all hybrid grain sorghums used today. Or take a particular variety of barley, very popular in Germany today, which was bred directly from a farmer's field in the Near East.

The IOCU, as a consumer defense body, is firmly opposed to the granting of monopolies to private interests, because these are not to the benefit of consumers. In the case of Plant Breeders' Rights, which we see as a form of monopoly control, neither would they benefit the farmers nor food production, which is the concern of FAO Member States. "Plant Breeders' Rights," at least in the English language, is quite a misnomer: the breeder is actually earning a standard salary while his or her company often reaps enormous profits on a particularly successful variety. For example, a flower native to Guatemala which was patented in the USA without improvement now yields profits to a private company.

A more fitting word for Plant Breeders' Rights would be "Seed Company's Rights". They are a form of patent that may last from 12 to 30 years and amount to granting monopolies to the companies concerned. We doubt that such monopolistic conditions actually improve food production and security. It is tragic that as zera-zera sorghum is vanishing, international chemical companies have become dominant in sorghum breeding and in fact one company attempted to market a hybrid grain sorghum based upon zera-zera sorghum back to the Sudan, endangering the remaining genetic diversity. It is especially sad that the particular hybrid seed was only offered coated in three chemicals, the third one of which was there only to neutralize the toxic effect of the same company's leading herbicide, thus enhancing the company's herbicide spray sales.

Such seed "packages", because of their high cost, make the new varieties less accessible to poor peasant farmers who, unlike the companies, are not protected by patents, but who provide the raw material for the "new" seed. And it is these very farmers who still grow the food for the majority of the world's people and who deserve most recognition and reward.

Furthermore, a substantial part of the basic research leading up to new varieties is done by universities and other publicly funded institutions. Frequently such institutions develop excellent new varieties with valuable characteristics, such as resistance to drought, to disease and pests, particularly suited to Third World conditions. And yet, such varieties may not be marketed by seed companies, because they already hold the rights to a competing variety, which may be less productive or resistant, but which is highly profitable.

There is thus no incentive to sell an even better variety.

You will recall, Mr. Chairman, the applause that the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Whelan, got in Plenary when he said how important the FAO Conference was as a forum where governments could make their views known and could give political direction to the work of FAO. We believe that the same kind of participation by governments is necessary in the overview and political direction of the IBPGR, the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. We respect the good scientific work done by the IBPGR over the years and believe it should continue doing this. However, the IBPGR is only a technical body and its members act in their personal capacity. We believe that when we deal with such a fundamental resource, which is the heritage of all mankind, there is a clear need for a political body comprised of government representatives to set guidelines and oversee the work that is being done. We therefore support the view of FAO's Director-General and that of several countries, that an Intergovernmental Committee as a subsidiary body of the Council of FAO be set up to deal with plant genetic security. This Committee, as a subsidiary body to the Council, should be responsible for all aspects of plant genetic resources conservation and use. This would include the proposed Gene Fund, the IBPGR and an international gene bank system.

As part of its effort to finance and expand the work of the IBPGR, the new Committee should enthusiastically further the formation of an international gene bank system, as proposed by the Government of Mexico. We also applaud the Government of Spain for the outstanding leadership it has taken on this issue since 1979, when it raised the matter in the Council, and for having Offered to place the material in its own gene bank under the authority of FAO. We strongly encourage other countries to follow that positive example. Such a gene bank system is needed in order to guarantee that the germplasm presently stored in national and private banks, or duplicates thereof, are always available to the world community as a whole. This is such an important resource that it cannot be left to the moods of national parliaments or governments to decide whether or not, at any moment, they will or will not exchange the germplasm held in their countries. Duplicates held in an international bank system would be international property held under the auspices of the FAO for the benefit of all humanity.

To summarize, we would urge delegations at this Conference to confirm the following elements as the system for protection, conservation and use of plant genetic resources:

a) an International Convention on Plant Genetic Resources the legal body.

I know that we are presently discussing an Undertaking, but I think that everybody in this room realizes that eventually we will have to move to something more binding and that is why we strongly urge the need for a Convention.

b) an Intergovernmental Committee the political body

- c) the IBPGR –the scientific body
- d) a World Gene Fund –the financial; body
- e) an International Gene Bank System the material body.

Such a structure would do justice to the importance of these resources and its legal foundation could be included in the International Convention. The Fund and the IBPGR could improve the technical capacity of developing countries to collect, document and utilize germplasm and thus increase food production and world food security. The best place to conserve is the place where traditional varieties are found. All of this will promote agricultural development, particularly in Third World countries, as well as preserve much-needed germplasm for cross-breeding beyond the birthplace of the variety.

I have dealt at some length with this issue because consumers everywhere must be concerned with it. What we have heard here is that all Member States without exception have agreed to the principle that plant genetic resources are the common heritage of mankind and that they should be exchanged freely. The only difference in the debate I note is that developing countries want industrialized countries to put that principle and that agreement into writing in an honest and straightforward manner.

H. MAST (Observer for International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants): I am speaking for the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, UPOV. UPOV is an intergovernmental organization, having its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. It comprises 17 Member States. Most of these States are represented in this Conference and have spoken at this Conference, so I can be very brief.

Before I start my talk I would like to say that I think that this is not a session in which to discuss the pros and cons of Plant Breeders' Rights. Therefore I do not want to go into this question in this place. Besides, it would take too long to answer the many remarks and many attacks which were issued by the lady who talked before me.

Let me at the beginning thank FAO for inviting UPOV and me, as its Vice-Secretary-General, to this Conference.

In listening to the delegates, I have learnt a number of things which I will report on when going back to Geneva, report on to my own Union, as well as to the World Intellectual Property Organization.

There were, as I see it, two subjects treated under item 15 of this Conference. These two subjects are interconnected but still different objectives. The first subject I see is the need to conserve plant genetic resources, mainly in gene banks. I think there is no one here in this room who could favour and endorse the importance of this subject more than UPOV does. UPOV has been created for the benefit of the breeders and, as I have said already in the COAG meeting, genetic resources are the raw material of the breeders. So breeders, and thus also UPOV, are in favour of doing everything to conserve genetic resources and to prevent genetic resources from being eroded or getting lost. In UPOV some years ago we conducted a symposium, a meeting on genetic resources, and it was the general view that everything should be done to preserve genetic resources. So we in UPOV are fully in agreement with the objective followed by this Conference as far as the conservation of genetic resources is concerned. As I see this Conference and this Meeting it has a second objective, namely to grant free access to genetic resources for everybody, for people in developed countries as well as in developing countries. Here again I must say that as a principle UPOV shares the concern expressed in the meeting, and as a principle we are in favour of assuring to everybody such free access. In saying this I believe and hope, of course, that the thought that breeders, or breeding institutes should be forced to turn over to gene banks, and to the public, material in their private possession, material that they still use for their breeding work, is not followed. I think this would be against the private property system. It would have nothing to do with UPOV, or with plant breeders' rights, it would be simply against the normal private law provisions. Therefore, it would be illegal, and even unconstitutional in some countries, and it would also be unrealistic. I think this line should not be followed, and I think it is not necessary to follow it.

I believe that breeding material is available in great amount. We heard from CIMMYT about the thousands and thousands of lines which are released by this institution, which are rendered to the public. I think what is needed is to install a system, or to develop a system, by which this material is made available to the user. I think the problem you are confronted with here in FAO is a purely technical problem, namely how these lines, how this material which exists in several gene banks, how this material is properly registered, properly described, properly brought to the attention of the public, and made available to the public. And this is a question of the staffing of gene banks, and institutions which are storing the material because to make available the material to the public you need personnel, who after having registered it, keeps it available to the public, and renders it to the public on request. These are the type of questions you are confronted with,

and these are exactly the type of questions we are confronted with in UPOV too. The offices in the UPOV Member States competent for the granting of plant breeders rights, have to compare the varieties for which protection is sought, with the existing varieties, varieties already known. The offices of UPOV Member States test the new varieties, they test it here in Europe, usually over two years in testing plots. They describe the varieties, and I think the most reliable description of cultivars comes from the offices of UPOV Member States and, of course, the offices of UPOV Member States store the material. So, you see from this that the same tasks, the same technical tasks which are to be tackled by FAO in the coming months, and the coming years, are tasks which have to be tackled also by UPOV, and we have just set up a working party for automation and for computer programmes, which will see to it that these tasks are tackled with the help of the computers, and I hear that the same thing is done in FAO. What I would like to propose, and the reason I have come here to this meeting, is to propose to FAO that it continues to cooperate in the registration and in the storing and retrieval of plant material, as has been done in the past, and in particular that agreement is reached on the various descriptor lists to avoid duplication of work, and to avoid confusion.

I also want to mention that UPOV works together with the World Intellectual Property Organization, an organization which has achieved already great progress. First of all, in the so-called patent documentation. That means making patents, the patents stored in the various patent offices, available to the public. There are systems of computerization in this field, which are very progressed. In the technical field of patents it is possible for industrialists in one part of the country, with the help of computers, to get the necessary information from all other parts of the world, and I think this is something we should have in the field of agriculture in some years too. Also I would like to mention that in the World Intellectual Property Organization, working in the same building as UPOV, also a programme is developed, or many programmes are developed, to help the developing countries in this respect.

The time is very short and I want to finish here. I want to offer to everybody here in the Conference to discuss with them the importance of matters which are concerned with these topics.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished observer from the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. That exhausts my list of Speakers. I would like to urge distinguished delegates to believe me that the translators and typists, and everybody concerned, are working at full speed to try and bring the documents here, but we still do not have them yet.

Unless there is anyone who wants to continue the general discussion for a few minutes, I would suggest that we recess for a few minutes.

The meeting was suspended from 11.10 to 12.35 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 10 à 12 h 35

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.10 horas a las 12.35 horas

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, once more we apologize for this delay but you realize we are not dealing with a very easy problem here. It requires time for consultation so that we can arrive at some agreement among the delegations.

At the end of the debate on the Director-General's Reports on Friday there were varying opinions. It therefore became necessary to establish a small Contact Group of about 13 to reconcile these various shades of opinion. The Contact Group then further deliberated the matter on Friday the 18th, during the night and the whole of Saturday the 19th. In its deliberations, the Contact Group focused attention on the proposed Undertaking. Therefore on average each article of the proposed Undertaking was deliberated upon for more than one hour.

The draft Undertaking before the Commission in C 83/LIM/32 is a product arrived at in a cordial spirit of cooperation and compromise. It is important to note that the explanations offered by the Secretariat went a long way to clarify that the thrust of the Undertaking is to establish a framework within which Member Nations will be able to freely exchange plant genetic resources without restrictions. The Undertaking will further facilitate the gradual development of a network of gene banks that will constitute a global system under the auspices of FAO. Under this Undertaking all the previous and current work on plant genetic resources will be taken due account of and will continue to be supported and strengthened. It has been fully recognized that the Undertaking only provides a basis on which further and more specific Undertakings can be developed. There is therefore ample scope to refine and improve this document as work and international collaboration unfolds in the future. The freedom of nations to accede to the proposed Undertaking on their own terms is a feature which should leave everyone at ease about the intentions and implications of the contents of this document. It would be foolhardy to imagine that because of this document all other initiatives in the field of plant genetic resources development would be retarded. However, the provisions of the Undertaking will naturally require systematic conformity to agreed standards and will therefore entail a code of conduct on those who participate.

I therefore invite the Commission to consider this document with a clear understanding that as much as necessary has been said and done on it.

At this point, distinguished delegates, I would hope that we can support the efforts of the Contact Group and accept the document as it stands. However, before we do that I would like to ask the Secretary to indicate some of the corrections that have to be made and some results of further consultations.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The first applies to all the language versions and it is in sub-Para (d) of Paragraph 2.1 of the Annex. In sub-Para (d), which is a definition of the word "institution", several words should be added in all the languages and these are the words: "with or without legal personality". They were in the original draft and have been left out of this draft. So (d) should read: " 'institution' means an entity established at the international or national level, with or without legal personality", and the rest of the sub-para would remain unchanged.

We have a very few errors in the English text and some translation changes to suggest. In the haste of producing this document I am afraid errors did creep in. The first in the English text is in para 2.2. It is a typographical error and it should read, "This Undertaking relates", not "related". There is also a typographical error in sub-paragraph (b) of Article 6 which should read in the second sentence "in the UN system". A third in paragraph 7.1, sub-para (a) in the third line - this is the English text - should read "under the auspices or the jurisdiction", rather than "under the auspices of the jurisdiction". It is a typographical error.

There are a few more, but I think they are obviously of punctuation and misplaced letters. However, in the Spanish text we have a few changes which I would like to announce for the benefit of all those who are reading the Spanish text, and the Assistant-Secretary will announce some changes in the French version.

(Continúa en español) En el párrafo 1, artículo 1, "Objetivo", en el penúltimo renglón la palabra "herencia" debería leerse "patrimonio", y la palabra "disposición", en el final del renglón, debería leerse "disponibilidad". En el artículo 5 y en diferentes párrafos del artículo 8, donde está escrito "los Gobiernos adheridos", se debería leer "los Gobiernos adhérentes". Y finalmente, señor Presidente, en el artículo 7, en el último renglón del párrafo 7.1, última frase, debería leerse "para desarrollar un sistema global". En la pequeña "e" del párrafo 7.1, de nuevo "un sistema global de información", y el segundo renglón, en el final del renglón "en las colecciones antes mencionadas", se debería quitar la palabra "base", que se ha quitado en las otras versiones. Finalmente, en el párrafo 7.2, debería leerse de nuevo "sistema global" y no "sistema mundial". Y finalmente, el párrafo 9.2, en la segunda frase, debería empezar en español con las palabras "la FAO tomará o recomendará".

FORTHOMME (Secrétaire adjointe de la Commission II): Au paragraphe 7.1 a) il est dit: "Il se crée un réseau..." au lieu de: "Il se développe un réseau ...".

Au paragraphe g), au lieu de: "le CIRPG poursuive et étende ses activités actuelles, dans les limites de son mandat", il faut lire: "Dans le cadre de son mandat".

Au point h) ii), au lieu de "L'ensemble des activités menées dans le cadre de l'Arrangement assure une nette amélioration de la capacité des pays en développement à produire et à distribuer ...", il faut lire: "... à créer et à distribuer."

CHAIRMAN: One can anticipate that there may be comments from other delegations but in order that we may make some progress and dispose of those things on which there is total agreement, perhaps, since you have had time to look at the document, we should check with you article by article, to see whether there are any comments and then we will know exactly what the position is on each article. Are there any observations on Article No. 1?

S.P. MUKERJI (India): On Article 1 I have only two minor suggestions. First, on the third line, "and made available for plant breeding" full stop, instead of stopping at that "plant breeding" I would suggest "plant management" also, because the objective is not merely breeding as such but also plant protection. And, in certain circumstances, we might have to identify certain plants for the purpose of developing a proper plant protection material or compounds. So we should not confine availability only for plant breeding purposes, there may be some other aspects of plant protection and plant development. I would therefore say "for plant breeding and plant management" which would include all aspects of protection, etc.

Further on in the same Article, the last sentence, where it is stated in the fourth line: "resources are a heritage of humanity", I would say "of mankind" instead because that occurs in the Resolution itself and it is a more acceptable and a more popular term.

CHAIRMAN: Could I ask at this stage Dr Bommer to comment on the addition of "plant management": is it in line with the intentions and spirit of the Undertaking?

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): It is certainly in line with the Undertaking, in fact it is more than I had thought about, that somewhat unusual term of management, it broadens it but perhaps we can find a better term. Otherwise I think it should be adopted this way.

R. SALLERY (Canada): In our initial intervention we indicated that this was indeed a difficult issue, that there were honest differences of view as to whether or not a problem really existed and if it did, what were we going to do about it. We believe there is disagreement in principle and would not therefore wish to engage in a clause by clause analysis and agreement. We shall therefore not participate in this debate but will enter our comments in the adoptive resolution.

D. ÖBST (EEC): I have a question to the last part of Article 1. I wonder whether this particular wording is not in contradiction with Article 10 which gives the reservation to plant health issues. I refer to the words "and consequently should be available without restriction". We have in the Undertaking itself the restriction on plant health grounds. I wonder whether a better wording could not be found.

CHAIRMAN: I believe this wording was deliberately agreed on by the Contact Group. It had nothing to do with restrictions such as health or other things. It was to clarify the use of the phrase "freely available". It was agreed in the Contact Group that it would be better to use the words "without restriction" instead of free availability of plant genetic resources. So it is not in contradiction to what is in Article 10, which also is without prejudice to measures on phyto-sanitary grounds.

Are there any further comments on Article 1?

E. MARTENS (Belgique): Je crois que la remarque du représentant de la CEE tient quand même, puisqu'il m'apparaît qu'il y a une certaine contradiction avec la dernière phrase de l'article 5 où l'on parle sous réserve de réciprocité, ou à des conditions approuvées d'un commun accord. Alors que je crois qu'ici il y a quand même certaines restrictions qui sont incluses.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (Mexico): Como miembros del Grupo de Contacto y dado que estos comentarios se hicieron en su oportunidad en la sesión del sábado por la tarde, respondemos a los comentarios hechos por las delegaciones que han insistido en la contradicción entre el artículo 10, "medidas fitosanitarias", y eventualmente el 1 y el 5. La respuesta fue que estamos en el marco de un compromiso, en el cual los Estados establecerán las limitaciones del caso para los diversos recursos, o categorías de recursos fitogenéticos que contiene el compromiso.

En consecuencia, el acuerdo logrado en el Grupo de Contacto fue el de no restringir el contenido del compromiso en el entendido de que los países estarían manifestando su voluntad y posibilidad, como lo señala claramente el artículo 11, en el momento de firmar dicho compromiso.

A la luz, pues, del artículo 11, las restricciones del caso se establecerán por países y en consecuencia invitamos a los delegados a que no nos lleven a un debate prolongado sobre el punto. Son dos aspectos distintos: uno el de las medidas fitosanitarias que hay que reconocer, y otro el de los principios que dan base a la Resolución, y el artículo 5 se refiere específicamente a la disponibilidad.

CHAIRMAN: I believe that clarifies the point for Belgium and the EEC.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): En tout cas le texte français est très clair, parce qu'il s'agit de poser des principes. Là on a dit que c'est un bien de la communauté qui devrait, dans les conditions normales, et maintenant dans les dispositions du champ d'application on peut amener des pratiques d'adoption ou de mise en oeuvre de principe. Il s'agit de dégager un principe, il est tout à fait normal que l'on dise "devrait". Naturellement, dans la pratique on essaie d'aménager, mais il n'y a aucune contradiction à mon sens, même sans parler de compromis.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I would recommend to say "for plant breeding and scientific purposes" which is wide enough, I think, for what you intended to say. Will the delegate of India accept that?

CHAIRMAN: That accepted, we now move to Article 2. We come to Article 2. No comments. Then that is accepted. We come to Article 3.

P. HOYOS (Austria): I wanted to ask whether "the active collection" is mentioned somewhere later in the other articles. "The active collection" seems not to be mentioned later on so could be deleted.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is mentioned in other Articles, for example 7, and I think you will find it later on. It is definitely used. Any further comments? We are on Article 3. No comments. Thank you. Article 4, no comments, accepted. Article 5.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I have only a small minor suggestion. I think it will be more acceptable to most of the countries if instead of saying "It will be the policy of adhering governments" we say "It will be the general policy of adhering governments".

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Nos parece que la forma de redacción presentada por la Secretaría es más Clara. No tengo fuerte oposición a aceptar incluir la palabra "general", pero la redacción actual es más precisa. Le pediría al distinguido representante de la India que lo tomara en cuenta. Queremos ser precisos en nuestro compromiso.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): It is for the purpose of not making it too specific and too narrow that I wanted to use the word "general" because the national policies are determined by the governments accountable to parliament. It will be very difficult for any government, especially in a parliamentary set-up, to give an undertaking on a specific policy narrowed down to specific items. In order to make the wording as less offensive or as less provocative as possible, I thought the word "general" should be more acceptable.

M. S. ZEHNI (Libya): Perhaps you note that it says "of the adhering governments" so this will be their policy after they indicate that they will adhere to this policy.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, I think that is important. I was going to add to India that governments having adhered to the Undertaking would then of course bind themselves with this kind of policy.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): Without forecasting what the action of my own Government will be I thought that even the process of adherence will be facilitated if the word "general" is added because it might repel a number of governments from signing the document.

CHAIRMAN: Does anyone have strong feelings about "general"? No, I do not see any and there are no more comments on 5, therefore I will take it as accepted, as amended. Article 6.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je m'excuse mais je pensais que l'article 5 tel qu'il est présenté était adopté, mais compte tenu de l'amendement c'est une restriction que des pays ne doivent pas accepter. Vraiment je me demande s'il y a un consensus pour que l'on ajoute "généralement"; cela n'apporte rien, sinon une restriction, or nous ne sommes pas intéressés par une restriction. Je ne sais pas si c'est le cas de certaines délégations.

H. FARAJ (Maroc): Je crois que c'est un problème de rédaction de langue à langue. En français, lorsqu'on ajoute un épithète ou une précision, on limite le sens du texte. Donc là si on adopte en français l'amendement proposé par l'Inde cela veut dire que l'on restreint le principe que nous défendons tous. Par conséquent, j'appuie la position du Sénégal.

CHAIRMAN: On the basis of the explanation given would India not consider being cooperative?

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I would like to be as cooperative as possible. I have no objection to the present text.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed. Now Article 6.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): As I had indicated earlier I would like to see in the wording of clause (a) of article 6 a reference to plant survey and plant identification because that is the first step that any developing country, or any country, has to take in order to protect its genetic resource. It is very important and I would suggest that this must find a place here, plant survey and plant identification.

CHAIRMAN: Where exactly would you like that to go in?

In the third line "resource activity, including" then we add "plant survey and identification, plant breeding" etc. etc.

CHAIRMAN: Any comments?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voudrais quelques informations sur les activités du GCRAI. On cite les autres institutions du système des Nations Unies, et on fait une phrase spéciale pour cet organisme. J'aimerais savoir de quoi il s'occupe.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Actually it is explained at length in the Report of the Director-General but I am happy to add this information that the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research is a group of sponsoring agencies and countries with equal sponsorship of the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and FAO channeling roughly \$180 million to agricultural research in which a large share is devoted to plant breeding, germplasm development and germplasm maintenance in 13 international agricultural research institutions, one of those is this International Board of Plant Genetic Resources which operates in close collaboration with FAO, very closely and specifically in the field of plant genetic resources.

CHAIRMAN: Are you happy, Congo?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): En principe, cela devrait être compris dans les institutions du système des Nations Unies. Je voudrais savoir pourquoi on lui a consacré une phrase à part, ce qui fait d'ailleurs une répétition. Est-ce qu'il est important en raison des fonds qu'il distribue? Pourquoi n'est-il pas compris dans le libellé qui précède, et est-il spécifié de manière explicite?

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): It is mentioned separately because it is not a body of the UN system in the strict sense. As I explained, there are three international agencies belonging to the United Nations system acting as co-sponsors. There is another United Nations agency, or two other United Nations agencies, IFAD and the United Nations Environmental Programme being among the sponsors and then you have a number of donor countries, you have the World Bank, you have many others not belonging to the UN system, so it is a funding group and so it is not easy to define it here as saying belonging to the United Nations system and therefore it is being mentioned separately.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Tratando de darle elementos al distinguido delegado del Congo, completaría la explicación hecha por el doctor Bommer: del Grupo Consultivo también son miembros fundaciones privadas que tienen un papel destacado en el mismo; me estoy refiriendo a la Kelloog a la Rockefeller y algunas otras que omitió mencionar el doctor Bommer. Es importante esta distinción porque el control del Grupo Consultivo no lo tienen las instancias o instituciones de Naciones Unidas. Tal vez esto le permita al distinguido representante del Congo no insistir en su postura.

CHAIRMAN: I can see that the delegate is now happy. Are there any comments on 6?

E. MARTENS (Belgique): A l'article 6 (b), sixième ligne, ma délégation voudrait voir ajouter après le mot "GCRAI": "et en particulier le CIRP". Dans le même sens, il faudrait le noter aussi dans l'article 7.1.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any observations on that proposed amendment?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Me disculpo ante la Comisión por el uso del micrófono pero, ante la ausencia de representantes de países en desarrollo que seguramente estarían tomando en este momento la palabra, me veo en la obligación de insistir en el uso del microfono.

Se insistió en el Grupo de Contacto sobre la inclusión del Grupo Consultivo y del CIRF y los argumentos que se dieron fueron fundamentalmente que no son los únicos elementos activos en materia de recursos fitogenéticos; que existían otros agentes, otras instituciones.

Se mencionó que en términos de los recursos que maneja puede no ser tampoco el principal.

A manera de transacción aceptamos incluir el término del Grupo Consultivo pero que no se nos pida incluir también al IBPGR. Le repito, no sé si por procedimiento sería conveniente tener un mayor número de delegados para evitar que uno o dos países tomen la palabra.

CHAIRMAN: I hope with that explanation Belgium will realize that this is all-embracing. But would you insist, or do you agree? Belgium agrees. Thank you very much. Are there any other comments on Article 6? Then we come to Article 7.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): J'ai deux observations à faire sur l'article 7. Au point a), le libellé soumis à notre examen deux terminologies: "sous les auspices ou la juridiction de la FAO". J'aimerais que l'on se prononce sur l'un des deux termes. Personnellement, je préférerais: "la juridiction de la FAO".

Au point g), on parle du CIRPG et l'on dit également: "... étende ses activités actuelles, dans les limites de son mandat, en liaison avec la FAO." Je ne vois pas pourquoi on hésite à dire: "sous les auspices ou la juridiction de la FAO."

On devrait savoir ce que l'on veut mettre dans le texte. Il s'agit d'un engagement, il ne faut pas laisser la possibilité de reculer une fois qu'on s'est engagé. Je suis moi-même pour: "la juridiction de la FAO", dans les deux cas.

CHAIRMAN: I think with respect to 7.1(a) it should really be "the auspices or the jurisdiction". That is a typographical error. I would like to ask Dr Bommer to comment on 7.1(g).

D.F.R. BOMMER (Asistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I can' only explain that in the Contact Group this paragraph was introduced and adopted. "Liaison with FAO" could read "cooperation with FAO".

CHAIRMAN: Congo, is that all right?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Pour le point a), je ne sais pas s'il y a un choix possible ou si les deux termes: "sous les auspices ou la juridiction" doivent être retenus. Personnellement, je serais pour "la juridiction".

Pour le point g), on peut mettre: "en liaison ou en coopération avec la FAO", mais pourquoi ne met-on pas: "sous les auspices de la FAO"? Je sais bien qu'il s'agit d'un consensus, mais il faut quand même tenir compte de ce que l'on veut mettre dans un texte d'engagement, puisqu'il s'agit d'un engagement.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps we could finish with this. I just want to indicate that we spent more than two hours on this one in the Contact Group and we ended up agreeing that for purposes of serving all languages - because, for example, it seems clear that the English "auspices" were not the same as the Spanish "auspices". So we agreed that it should be "auspices or jurisdiction" to accommodate everybody. But if you insist we can refer to Legal Counsel. Do you insist?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Si vous voulez laisser la porte ouverte, chacun choisira. Si vous pensez qu'il y a un choix à faire, on peut laisser le texte tel quel. Mais personnellement, je pensais qu'un terme devait être retenu qui serait valable pour tout le monde, car pour un engagement, c'est tout de même un peu vague, il faut le reconnaître, juridiquement parlant.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your cooperation. You still have problems with 7.1(g). Dr Bommer, could you clarify that?

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I think "liaison" could be changed to "collaboration". "Auspices" would not be correct reflecting the status.

CHAIRMAN: Congo, are you happy that IBPGR is not under the auspices of FAO?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je ne veux pas tirer les choses en longueur, mais j'essaie de comprendre ce que cela veut dire. Enfin, on peut accepter cela comme ça.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your cooperation again. Are there any more comments on Article 7?

J.M. BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): Unicamente no nos ha quedado claro si se ha modificado el texto del artículo 7.1 g), si se mantiene la palabra "conexión" o se cambia por "coordinación".

CHAIRMAN: I think we are going to leave it as it is.

J.J. HARDON (Netherlands): We expect that Article 7, notably 7.1 (a) and 7.1 (e), may cause some confusion in the respective responsibilities of FAO and IBPGR and their mutual relationship. We do feel that this should be clarified because it is precisely ambiguities of this kind, which may have a bad effect on the Organization and its activities. Especially in a time of shortage of funds we cannot accept that. We would like to make a proposal. It is that FAO and IBPGR or CGIAR are asked jointly to prepare a study which surveys what is being done in the field of genetic conservation, or perhaps more interestingly what is not being done in the field of genetic conservation. When we have a clear picture of the total requirements we can define how we are going to solve these problems. Also this will clarify the role that IBPGR can play in the total field of genetic conservation and also clarify the role of FAO. But if nothing else is being done we feel this may cause some confusion and we feel this is bad for the Organization.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think your proposal is a legitimate one, which definitely should be dealt with. But in the meantime can we leave these words as they are on the understanding that your request will be met by those three organizations? Are there any more comments on Article 7?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Me voy a referir a una omisión involuntaria, totalmente involuntaria, de parte de la Secretaría, de un acuerdo al que llegamos el sábado por la noche en el Grupo de Contacto.

Se omitió por error la parte final del artículo 7.2 con lo cual habría que completar, y repito esto es una simple omisión de la Secretaría lo que nos presenta el Documento 83/LIM/32 con la siguiente oración (aparece originalmente en el Reporte del Director General y aceptamos el párrafo en su forma original) que diría: "El Centro pertinente deberá, siempre que así se lo pida la FAO, poner a disposición de la Organización material de la colección base y permitirá su acceso a los locales e instalaciones de la colección".

Señor Presidente, repito que esto es una omisión involuntaria de la Secretaría y que habría que incorporarla en el Documento que estamos revisando.

D.F. SMITH (Australia): Our clear understanding was that it was agreed to omit that. I have consulted a number of other representatives on the Contact Group who agree. In view of the fact that the Secretariat did not write that in as an amendment, I presume that is their position as well.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The Secretariat is not supposed to have any position in this. If we were trying to arrive at some agreement, is it the words "access to the premises and facilities" that really cause problems?

D.F. SMITH (Australia): No. It is simply our own notes, which clearly show an agreement that that portion was to be excluded, and I understand that other members have made that same note.

J. M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): I should just like to intervene briefly to say that my notes accord with those of the delegate of Australia, and having just conferred with the delegate of the United States his notes also accord with those of the delegate of Australia.

J.M. BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): Se da la circunstancia de que nuestras notas coinciden completamente, al parecer, con las de la Delegación de México.

G. ANDRE (Sweden): Our notes coincide with those of the United Kingdom and so on. I have noted it in my manuscript.

B. H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Je ne sais pas s'il a été dit expressément de supprimer ce passage. J'ai pris moi-même des notes et ne me souviens pas qu'on ait dit de le supprimer. Personnellement, je ne l'ai pas supprimé. Il faut que d'autres délégations se prononcent.

W. E. ADERO (Kenya): My notes agree with those of Australia, United Kingdom and United States of America.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates who are not with the Contact Group, you realize we have conflicting notes from the Contact Group. Perhaps you might bring your weight to bear on a quick arrival at a decision on this matter.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Ma délégation n'a pas participé au groupe de contact. A la lecture de l'article 7.2, et d'après la discussion en séance, il semble que si on n'amende pas cet article d'après la proposition du Mexique et autres, on risque d'avoir un texte qui soit la négation de tout ce que nous avons dit. Il est dit notamment: "Tous gouvernements ou instituts ayant accepté de participer à l'Arrangement peuvent en outre informer le Directeur général de la FAO qu'ils souhaitent que la ou les collections de base dont ils sont responsables soient considérées comme faisant partie..." Ils peuvent donc refuser ou accepter, selon leur désir, que les collections soient une propriété de l'humanité. Je pense qu'il faudrait laisser de côté ces contradictions, suspendre l'examen de cet article et qu'on l'amende selon les propositions qui nous ont été faites.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Señor Presidente: Para compartir con los delegados en la Comisión lo que sucedió en el Grupo de contacto y brevemente reseñaré que, después de un prolongado debate del artículo 7.1, y dado que había una serie de puntos a discutir, decidimos hacer un pequeño intervalo con posterioridad. La Secretaría, en la persona del Doctor Bommer, llevó dicha propuesta específica para el 7.2, en el que se diluía el término "Banco Internacional" por una "Red Internacional de Colecciones Base", y él, la Secretaría, propuso poner un punto final en el artículo 7.2, inmediatamente después de "Red Internacional", punto final. Quedaba totalmente al margen, ignorado, que dicha Red Internacional estaría bajo los auspicios o jurisdicción de la FAO, y el resto del párrafo se eliminaba. Fue la propuesta de la Secretaría a la que inmediatamente la delegación de México se opuso, argumentando que habíamos incorporado ya en el 7.1, inciso a), la noción de "Red Internacional de Colecciones Base bajo los auspicios o jurisdicción de la FAO", como aparece en el documento, y de acuerdo a un intercambio de opiniones con el distinguido delegado de la Gran Bretaña, habíamos aceptado hacer un cruzamiento, refiriéndolo nuevamente en los mismos términos en el artículo 7.2. La misma expresión que empleamos en el 7.1, a), para el Banco Internacional, lo emplearíamos idéntico en el 7.2. Como consecuencia, no procede la recomendación, que así la entendemos, efectivamente, la Secretaría recomienda "los Gobiernos toman decisiones". La decisión fue de hacer una referencia cruzada y utilizar el mismo término y continuar con la oración del párrafo en su forma original, porque nos permitía establecer las modalidades en el establecimiento del Banco. De otra manera, como el distinguido representante del Senegal ha mencionado, queda totalmente desdibujada, totalmente en el aire, dicha propuesta, y no logramos el objetivo deseado.

Esto fue lo que sucedió en la Comisión del Grupo de contacto el sábado por la noche. En consecuencia, la propuesta nuestra fue simplemente destacar una omisión involuntaria de la Secretaría. No creo que sea un problema de traducción. Muchas gracias.

CHAIRMAN: I see that Australia would like to take the floor. It looks like we are back in the Contact Group. Therefore, after Nicaragua I will be suggesting that if the Commission is not able to take a definite decision on this, since we also will not have this room after 2.30, we will have to go on to the other parts and then go back, or take the matter back to the Contact Group, and then have a night session.

V. ESPINOSA (Nicaragua): Mi delegación solamente quería referirse al asunto éste de las notas, ya que nosotros no tenemos ninguna, pero, además nos parece que no se trata de que esté en las notas o no esté en las notas, sino, como han dicho los delegados del Senegal y México, el párrafo 5, parte segunda, queda virtualmente en las nubes, por lo que apoyamos que se incluya.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): I take the floor in the hope that we can achieve some progress on this. As everybody has pointed out this was a very difficult document to come to grips with, and it took us some eleven hours, from memory. It is a pity that we seem to have floundered on this particular sentence. I will have to indicate at the start that Australia just cannot accept that sentence. It has two parts. One concerns making material available to FAO as such, and the other concerns the policing arrangements that would be introduced. I feel we all have a measure of compromise in trying to agree, and find acceptance for this, and we have always said that we should try to have an agreement that most people can adhere to, because that is the only way we are going to have something that is effective. I feel that some of the parts that are in that sentence are actually subsumed in other articles. I refer in particular to Article 9.3 which, in fact, can be fairly widely interpreted, because it refers us back to the fairly comprehensive treatment of what various agencies and bodies will do in Article 7, which again it is possible to have fairly wide interpretation. I feel that a way around this tremendous difficulty which we have with this second sentence of 7.2, which we honestly believed had been excluded, and I remember also that the paragraphs in 7(h) were added somewhat to overcome the concerns of some delegates. Possibly that Article 9.3, and looking at the particular parts of 7, such as 7(f) which concerns the early warning aspects of FAO, which I think are very useful and a very valuable contribution to identifying where problems may arise, and then leaves open the question of how we make material available to other governments. I mean, do you actually pass to FAO? Do you have a system which works through FAO, which I think has always been the Australian point of view, that you have a useful information system, an early warning system that FAO coordinates and operates, and we thought that was the really valuable contribution that can be made by such an organization as FAO, and the sorts of facilities it provides and operates. So I would hope they we can get around the difficulty of this sentence without further meetings of the Contact Group and so forth.

CHAIRMAN: As you are aware I am very reluctant to go on with this kind of debate, because we do not seem to be getting anywhere. However, before I give the floor to Congo let me make a last desperate effort to ask whether it is - because I hear the word "policing" coming from the delegation of Australia - whether it is that final part which says "and will permit FAO to have access to premises and facilities of the collection".

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): Both parts.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je n'ai pas l'intention de prolonger la discussion, mais je voudrais simplement souligner que le texte que nous avons adopté est suffisamment souple (je le trouve même trop large). Nous faisons l'effort d'être corrects les uns vis-à-vis des autres, même lorsque nos avis ne sont pas partagés. Ainsi que l'ont dit ceux qui m'ont précédé, je pense que le texte qui nous est proposé devrait être complété selon les propositions des délégations du Mexique et autres. Il y a évidemment beaucoup d'idées qu'on pourrait inclure, mais il faut parvenir à un compromis.

CHAIRMAN: Before we pass on to 8 are there any views or other delegations that could be of benefit to the Contact Group when it reconvenes? Mexico, you are in the Contact Group, and unless there is going to be an improvement on the situation maybe we should allow other people. You are contributing something positive.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Gracias, señor Presidente: la delegación de México siempre hace sus intervenciones con el mejor de los ánimos y tratando de construir; nuestro ánimo es llegar a un arreglo, y reconociendo el argumento de la delegación australiana, la última oración tiene dos ideas: la primera, que es la que nos preocupa, es la del mecanismo que permite establecer el Banco Internacional. Primera idea. Y la segunda, que es la que le preocupa a la delegación australiana, es el acceso y restringido a los locales de las instalaciones. Si ponemos un punto final inmediatamente después de la primera idea, creo que Australia podría aceptar incorporar esta recomendación. En otras palabras, en la versión en español quedaría punto final después de "colecciones base".

CHAIRMAN: We seem to be getting somewhere. I will ask the Secretary to read what is suggested, so that we know exactly what we are talking about.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): This would be added to the end of the present paragraph 7.2, and as amended by the delegate from Mexico would read, "The centre concerned will, whenever so requested by FAO, make material in the base collection available to FAO".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. How does that go down with you, Australia?

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): I have to confer with perhaps other members of the Contact Group, as you rightly suggested, mainly because it was not only Australia who had an opinion about this. I think there was a fairly strong opinion throughout the Contact Group. Perhaps if I could take your suggestion on board, I think as a first reaction I would prefer to see the full stop after the word "available".

CHAIRMAN: We are moving very close to it. Mexico?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Señor Presidente: En español no tiene sentido. Tal vez sea un problema del punto en inglés.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Secretary to read out in Spanish.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretaria de la Comisión II): Gracias Señor Presidente: la frase debería leerse con la enmienda como sigue: "El Centro pertinente deberá, siempre que así se lo pida la FAO, poner a disposición material de la colección base".

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (Mexico): ¿A disposición de quién, de la Organización de la FAO?

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): Obviously, to make the material available to the network it provides us with considerable difficulty; it raises this physical question again which I thought we had all rejected, this question of a physical bank, and I also note at the beginning of the sentence I would draw your attention to the beginning of the sentence - which refers to governments or institutions that agree to participate in the Undertaking. This is restricting that requirement to those governments. If we make the restriction too strong we are going to have less chance of some governments participating because they see this as a greater difficulty, and I would appeal to other delegates well, leave a degree of looseness if you like, but obviously to whom it is made available, it is made available to the network that we were talking about earlier in "7", I think. Yes, 7 (a) takes the view "develops an internationally coordinated network".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Obviously I do not like to interpret your words but if Mexico is listening what you say is that the availability should not be restricted to FAO. FAO could have to request the material but then it should be made available to whoever requested it, and therefore it means it can only facilitate bilateral agreements in the making available of the material.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (Mexico): Le pediría que nos diese un minuto para respirar y poner en orden nuestras ideas. Efectivamente, no estamos pretendiendo que la FAO solicite material para ella, pero sí estamos pretendiendo que la FAO solicite material para un tercero, y la entidad o Banco al que se le solicite, deberá acceder a ello, deberá acceder a esta solicitud. En español, repito omitir "Organización" no tiene la fuerza, el sentido que le queremos dar a la parte final de este párrafo.

CHAIRMAN: I think your point is understood, Mexico, and Australia suggested that instead of leaving a blank there, we should put the word "network". Now I will ask the Secretary to read that amendment with the word "network" in Spanish.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretaria de la Comisión II): Podría leerse: El Centro pertinente deberá, siempre que así se lo pida la FAO, poner a disposición de la red o de la red internacional material de la colección base.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Pour la commodité du texte peut-être, mais, dans la pratique, quand nous mettons "mettre à la disposition du réseau", si un Etat bien précis voulait du matériel du Mexique, comment va-t-il s'organiser? A qui va-t-il s'adresser? Le réseau, c'est qui? C'est la FAO? Au moins on connaît la FAO, on peut faire une demande auprès d'elle, mais le réseau, c'est vague. Par où va-t-on commencer? Le réseau, c'est tout le monde à la fois. Vous comprenez peut-être, mais je ne comprends pas comment on pourrait le confier à ce réseau dont on ne connaît pas les éléments. Qui est le représentant du réseau?

Ma proposition concrète est celle que vous connaissez, c'est-à-dire qu'on mette "à la disposition de l'Organisation".

CHAIRMAN: Do you have a suggestion which could lead us to a more specific situation?

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): That is why I think my first preference is still the better one; to make the material available. It leaves it suitably undefined and I think that would meet our requirements. We do not have to be too specific in this regard; it is an undertaking, not a legally binding intention; that is the whole idea of what we have been working on and because of the nature in which it is drafted I think that would adequately meet the requirements on other developments.

H. FARAJ (Maroc): Je vous propose d'ajouter le mot "réseau", le réseau visé au paragraphe 7.1.a).

CHAIRMAN: How does that go down with you, Australia?

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): I think that is where we are. I also agree with Mexico that at least some members of the Contact Group should try and confer together for ten or fifteen minutes.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, we have not got anywhere on this one. We shall leave it for a while and let the Contact Group have another go at it and then we will have a night session. Now Article 8.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I have a suggestion insofar as clause 8.4 on page 6 is concerned. This clause says, "The funding of the establishment and operation of the international network, insofar as it imposes additional costs on FAO, in the main will be funded from extra-budgetary resources".

Mr. Chairman I feel that since FAO is going to undertake not only the establishment and operation of the international network but some other duties and obligations also as per Article 7.1, I would suggest that either this sub-clause should be amplified to include not only "international network" in the first line of this sub-clause, but also "global information service and early warning system". Then it will read like this: "the funding of the establishment and operation of the international network, global information service and early warning system, insofar as it imposes" and so on and so forth, or this clause might be redrafted to say, "The funding of the operations obligated on the FAO under Article 7.1, insofar as they impose additional costs on FAO, in the main will be funded from extra-budgetary resources". There are some substances, Mr. Chairman, not merely the international network, but there are other items which are to be undertaken by FAO which may need funding, and therefore to isolate only "international network" and leave out "global information service and early warning system" or other such obligations which will flow from Article 7.1 will not be desirable. Therefore I would suggest that this sub-clause may be amplified in relation to Article 7.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): I am not really opposing what the distinguished delegate of India is putting forward but I want to refer back to our discussions on Saturday evening. It seems to me that in part the most important value we wish in this convention or one of the most important functions for FAO is this early warning system, if you like, and that is referred to in 7.1 (f), and consequently 8.3 really covers that because it refers in 8.3 to 7.1 (f), which is the early warning system.

I think most of the other concerns of the delegate from India are covered by the word "operation" in 8.4, and again this was a clause which was meant to be all embracing, so the "establishment and operation" was very much meant to mean that most of the ideas and thoughts are not covered in 7.1 (f) already exist in 7.1, but I am not opposing what the distinguished delegate of India is saying; I think it is already covered.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I am grateful to the distinguished delegate of Australia for drawing my attention to Article 8.3, even if we accept that the "global information service" which is included in sub-clause 7.1 (e) has not yet been covered either by 8.3 or 8.4. Therefore I have no serious objection if, apart from "international network" the words "global information service" are also added to it. But I would still feel that early warning system may need some funding and it should come specifically in Article 8.4.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): If we are talking about including "global information service" in 8.4 it seems to me that it would be a little premature yet, because back in the body of the Report the Director-General says he wants to make a study, the feasibility of that and the cost, and then make recommendations. If we make a recommendation here it seems to me we are preempting the Director-General and his Report.

CHAIRMAN: It looks to me like there is not really any disagreement between Australia and India. India, would you not take it that the cross-reference made covers the sense?

M. FARAJ (Maroc): Je voudrais ajouter quatre petits mots au 8.4 en disant: "le financement de la création et du fonctionnement du réseau international, dans la mesure où il impose des frais supplémentaires à la FAO, sera assuré pour l'essentiel et dans l'immédiat par des ressources extrabudgétaires".

CHAIRMAN: This is another idea; but could we get a meeting of minds between Australia and India?

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I simply wanted to facilitate the funding problems of FAO, but if the FAO Secretariat feels that the wording as it stands now in Article 8.4 will not pose any serious problems to the Undertaking at any point of time in future, either the global information service or early warning system, I have no objection to the existing wording. But I would leave it to the Secretariat of FAO to satisfy them that this will not be a roadblock in the Undertaking, this very important task of the global information service in future, or the early warning system.

CHAIRMAN: Can Dr Bommer please confirm?

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I think the present wording takes care of this.

CHAIRMAN: India, you have been assured. Then we have no more problems on Article 8. Morocco suggested "for the time being". Could you explain it a little, "for the time being"?

M. FARAJ (Maroc): Elle est parfaitement justifiée. Il s'agit de ne pas laisser ce type d'opération ad vitam aeternam par des ressources extra-budgétaires, et laisser dans le futur au Directeur général de la FAO, lorsque le projet se développera, la possibilité de puiser et d'utiliser d'autres ressources. Voilà la modification de cet amendement.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): We seem to be in the position of Mexico, apologising for taking the *Hoc* all the time, but being a member of the Contact Group I thought we had more or less hammered out something we could all agree to. As far as I am concerned, the inclusion of those words makes Article 8.4 completely redundant and you might as well remove it altogether. The absence of 8. would make the position for Australia extremely difficult, that is all I can say. I had noted already that it is fairly loose in the main as a qualifying statement: we recognize that it may be useful from time to time to call on funds from, say the TCP which is part of the Regular Programme; hence the use of that phrase. I think it is a fairly mildly worded clause and so I could not agree with the suggested words, for the obvious implications they have.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to plead with Morocco here that this really is the basis of all the divergence of opinion on this whole matter and if we can afford it, please let us just take it that we have time to amend and refine this document. Let us live with what we have; do you mind? Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Any more comments on Article 8? None that I see. Let us take Article 9.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): A l'article 9.2 j'imagine que vous savez pourquoi je demande la parole. Il y a une petite étoile dans ce paragraphe et une note en bas de page qui indique pourquoi elle existe. Je voudrais dire que l'on devrait simplement au moins enlever cette étoile et le crochet, et le minimum serait que ce texte soit gardé en l'état, en éliminant la note qui figure en bas de page.

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J.M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): In the Contact Group we expressed reservations about this inter-governmental committee. In the interests of obtaining agreement we are prepared to remove those reservations although, in view of what the FAO Secretariat have told us about the difficulties of putting such a committee actually into the body of the Undertaking, we should prefer to see it in the Resolution rather than in the Undertaking, if that is at all possible.

Furthermore, I think we should perhaps like to make the positive suggestion that this inter-governmental committee should report to COAG, although that is really a matter for further discussion rather than a matter for this Undertaking itself.

CHAIRMAN: Now, on the words in parentheses.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): On the question of the IGG, as far as we are concerned I think we suggested on Saturday that it might be useful. We do not have any great problems with the idea of the body, let us put it that way. We thought it might have been more useful to overcome this legal problem if it was put in the Resolution, and I therefore thought it was better to state the position which the Contact Group was aware of; to have a Resolution asking the Director-General to consider the establishment of inter-governmental group to report to an appropriate body of the Council. That would leave the way clear for the appropriate considerations and legal problems to be sorted out by the Secretariat. I think all we need to do is give the Director-General the authority, and that is fine, I would have thought it was most satisfactorily handled in the Resolution itself.

CHAIRMAN: In the light of those explanations, Congo, would you like to speak again?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je pense d'abord que le groupe intergouvernemental doit se créer, si nous tenons absolument à créer la Banque internationale de ressources phytogénétiques d'une part. D'autre part, je pense qu'abondance de biens ne nuit pas et puisque l'Australie et un certain nombre d'honorables délégués ne semblent pas être dérangés outre mesure par ce libellé, on peut le mettre d'abord ici et ensuite dans la résolution. Je ne vois pas pourquoi il faudrait le supprimer ici pour le mettre dans la résolution, puisque pour nous c'est un point important.

B. SY (Sénégal): Il s'agit de la surveillance des activités. On nous a dit que le Groupe de tact avait eu de longues discussions pour introduire cette phrase dans la résolution, alors que place se trouve ici. Il faut qu'il y ait une institution intergouvernementale, nommée par la Commission et les Etats eux-mêmes, non seulement pour suivre mais contrôler les arrangements de l'article 7. Il faudrait que l'on dise que cette institution contrôlera le fonctionnement, car si elle ne fait que suivre, je me demande quelle serait sa raison d'être.

CHAIRMAN: It seems to me there are no strong feelings about having it here or in the Resolution. I would like the Legal Counsel to clear our minds.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think if you leave this within the Undertaking, it tends to be somewhat confusing, in the sense that it is not clear whether it is an integral part of the Undertaking, whether the creation of this body is contingent upon a wide measure of support for the Undertaking expressed by adhering States, or what the exact object is. On the other hand, if — as I think the delegate of the United Kingdom suggested and I think other delegates have agreed — it was placed elsewhere in the Resolution, that would be a possibility. Or, a second alternative would be to have a Resolution quite independently but connected with the Resolution on the Undertaking, but a specific Resolution, establishing a particular body; or, if you do not want to specify exactly at this stage the type of body that you would like to have established at the inter-governmental level, then giving instructions of what further measures should be taken in order to bring this about. But I would suggest that the least desirable place for this idea is in the middle of the Undertaking itself.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Con todo el respeto que nos merece el consejo del Asesor Jurídico, estamos de acuerdo con el distinguido Delegado del Senegal y lo destacamos insistentemente en nuestras intervenciones durante el Grupo de Contacto, incorporar en el compromiso al Grupo Intergubernamental es entender que el compromiso tiene diversos elementos y pretendemos que los Gobiernos aquí representados tengan también la capacidad de discutir en relación a los recursos fitogenéticos en el futuro.

El Grupo Intergubernamental es una pieza importante, podría decir vital, del sistema global al que aspiramos. Un sistema que incluye evidentemente bancos, pero también los cuerpos de decisión y en este sentido el Grupo Intergubernamental es la única, y quiero subrayarlo, la única instancia que tenemos los representantes de Gobiernos para poder discutir sobre la materia. De ahí la importancia de incorporarlo en el cuerpo del compromiso. Pero además, y esto es obvio, el compromiso es voluntario.

No estamos hablando como lo propusimos inicialmente de un convenio con fuerza legal; estamos hablando de un compromiso voluntario. La cláusula o el artículo 11 es muy claro y específico en ello.

En consecuencia apoyamos, fuimos nosotros, la Delegación de México la que incorporó este párrafo y queremos insistir en mantenerlo.

Habíamos llegado a un acuerdo en el Grupo de Contacto. Me sorprende ahora el cambio y por eso nos atrevimos a tomar nuevamente el micrófono. Además de eso, señor Presidente, inmediatamente después del artículo 7, en el mismo artículo 9.2 hay un problema de interpretación de la Secretaría. Nadie, y repito nadie, aprobó incorporar "la FAO". Se dice "tomarán o recomendarán las medidas necesarias", inmediatamente después del artículo 7. Me estoy refiriendo al Grupo Intergubernamental y a la Secretaría de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the "intergovernmental group"?

B. H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Etant donné l'importance que plusieurs délégations, y compris la mienne, attachent à la création d'un comité intergouvernemental, et compte tenu des discussions que nous avons eues au niveau du Groupe de contact, ma délégation suggère la solution suivante:

Qu'un comité intergouvernemental soit créé comme organe subsidiaire du Conseil afin qu'il puisse se réunir dès la prochaine séance du Conseil. Ceci pour plusieurs raisons:

1. Parce que le temps presse. En effet, il faut engager les moyens nécessaires pour sauvegarder le matériel phytogénétique qui est, comme nous l'avons tous remarqué, en voie de disparition. Si nous attendons la prochaine séance du Comité de l'agriculture, ce ne sera qu'en 1985 car le COAG ne siège que tous les deux ans alors que le Conseil se réunit bien plus souvent.

2. Selon la rédaction adoptée par le Groupe de contact, dont ma délégation fait partie, la conservation doit concerner toutes les espèces d'importance économique et sociale, et non pas seulement les plants cultivés qui tombent sous le mandat du Comité de l'agriculture. Le mandat du Comité intergouvernemental à créer doit donc dépasser le champ d'activité du COAG. Il apparaît plus logique que le Comité intergouvernemental soit directement rattaché au Conseil.

Ma délégation propose concrètement à notre Commission que le Comité intergouvernemental soit tout aussi bien mentionné dans l'engagement international que dans la résolution. Elle suggère à notre Commission d'approuver ce point de vue que le Comité intergouvernemental est partie intégrante du système mondial de ressources vitales. L'article 5, alinéa 6 de la Constitution, autorise bien un tel Comité intergouvernemental.

CHAIRMAN: I do not see anywhere on the horizon a meeting of minds on this and therefore we will push it aside for the Contact Group until we reconvene at 6.00 in the Green Room. Are there any problems on Article 10? None that I see, therefore that is accepted. Article 11?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): En un afán de llegar a soluciones por la tarde en el Grupo de Contacto recuerdo el contenido del artículo 11 en el cual los diversos Gobiernos establecerán las condiciones para llevar a práctica el Compromiso; cada Gobierno se reserva el evidente derecho de aceptar, y en qué grado, el Compromiso. Esto es importante. No estamos imponiendo nada a nadie. Lo digo para la revisión de los artículos que nos merecen la formación del Grupo de Contacto por la tarde.

Falta el título en español del artículo 11.

CHAIRMAN: Then with an addition to the Spanish version, Article 11 is also accepted. Therefore Articles 1 to 6 have been accepted and also 8, 10 and 11.

The meeting rose at 14.30 hours

Le séance est levée à 14h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 14.30 horas

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B. H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Etant donné l'importance que plusieurs délégations, y compris la mienne, attachent à la création d'un comité intergouvernemental, et compte tenu des discussions que nous avons eues au niveau du Groupe de contact, ma délégation suggère la solution suivante:

Qu'un comité intergouvernemental soit créé comme organe subsidiaire du Conseil afin qu'il puisse se réunir dès la prochaine séance du Conseil. Ceci pour plusieurs raisons:

1. Parce que le temps presse. En effet, il faut engager les moyens nécessaires pour sauvegarder le matériel phytogénétique qui est, comme nous l'avons tous remarqué, en voie de disparition. Si nous attendons la prochaine séance du Comité de l'agriculture, ce ne sera qu'en 1985 car le COAG ne siège que tous les deux ans alors que le Conseil se réunit bien plus souvent.

2. Selon la rédaction adoptée par le Groupe de contact, dont ma délégation fait partie, la conservation doit concerner toutes les espèces d'importance économique et sociale, et non pas seulement les plants cultivés qui tombent sous le mandat du Comité de l'agriculture. Le mandat du Comité intergouvernemental à créer doit donc dépasser le champ d'activité du COAG. Il apparaît plus logique que le Comité intergouvernemental soit directement rattaché au Conseil.

Ma délégation propose concrètement à notre Commission que le Comité intergouvernemental soit tout aussi bien mentionné dans l'engagement international que dans la résolution. Elle suggère à notre Commission d'approuver ce point de vue que le Comité intergouvernemental est partie intégrante du système mondial de ressources vitales. L'article 5, alinéa 6 de la Constitution, autorise bien un tel Comité intergouvernemental.

CHAIRMAN: I do not see anywhere on the horizon a meeting of minds on this and therefore we will push it aside for the Contact Group until we reconvene at 6.00 in the Green Room. Are there any problems on Article 10? None that I see, therefore that is accepted. Article 11?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): En un afán de llegar a soluciones por la tarde en el Grupo de Contacto recuerdo el contenido del artículo 11 en el cual los diversos Gobiernos establecerán las condiciones para llevar a práctica el Compromiso; cada Gobierno se reserva el evidente derecho de aceptar, y en qué grado, el Compromiso. Esto es importante. No estamos imponiendo nada a nadie. Lo digo para la revisión de los artículos que nos merecen la formación del Grupo de Contacto por la tarde.

Falta el título en español del artículo 11.

CHAIRMAN: Then with an addition to the Spanish version, Article 11 is also accepted. Therefore Articles 1 to 6 have been accepted and also 8, 10 and 11.

The meeting rose at 14.30 hours

Le séance est levée à 14h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 14.30 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

C

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Twenty-second Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session

COMMISSION II

22º período de sesiones

COMISION II

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE

18ª REUNION

(21 November 1983)

The Eighteenth Meeting was opened at 18.45 hours

C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dix-huitième séance est ouverte à 18 h 45 sous la présidence de

C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 18 reunión a las 18.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de

C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

15. Plant Genetic Resources (Follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81) (continued)

15. Ressources phytogénétiques (suivi de la résolution 6/81 de la Conférence) (suite)

15. Recursos fitogenéticos (medidas complementarias de la Resolución 6/81 de la Conferencia) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegates of Libya, Mexico and Pakistan for allowing us to start. Although we have had some little problems with 'auspices' this is certainly an auspicious occasion because all through Friday and this morning we were meeting in the Red Room, which means we had a red light and could not proceed. Now we are in the Green Room and we have the green light. I am sure that I would not be fooling myself, neither would I be fooling the Contact Group, if I told you that we have some good news. The Contact Group has finally reached agreement on the clauses that were giving us problems earlier this afternoon. I should therefore like to ask the Secretary to read the final versions of what has been agreed on paragraph 7.2 and Article 9, after which she will then read what has been agreed on the draft Resolution.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The first amendment agreed by the group this afternoon comes at the end of paragraph 7.2 in Article 7 of the Draft Undertaking and it involves the addition of the following sentence: "The centre concerned will, whenever requested by FAO, make material in the base collection available to participants in the Undertaking".

The second amendment is in Article 9, paragraph 9.2. In the first sentence the words contained between brackets would go out and the sentence would therefore read: "FAO will, in particular, monitor the operation of the arrangements referred to in Article 7". We would then put a comma and add the following words: "will establish any necessary mechanisms, and ...", and then we would go on with what is in the original text, the next sentence. So it would read: "will establish any necessary mechanisms and will take or recommend measures that are necessary or desirable", and the rest of the paragraph would remain unchanged. Just to make sure in the other languages, I would like to say that the words added in Spanish would be "establecerá cualesquiera mecanismos necesarios" and in French would be "mettra en place tout mécanisme nécessaire".

Passing on to the Resolution, several amendments were made. In the second preambular section, which begins "Recognizing that", the order of the three sub-paragraphs would be changed as follows: sub-paragraph (b) in the original text would become sub-paragraph (a), sub-paragraph (c) in the original text would become sub-paragraph (b), and the original (a) would become sub-paragraph (c).

In originally (c), now sub-paragraph (b), two changes are introduced. The sentence begins "full advantage can be derived from plant genetic resources only through an effective programme of plant breeding". In this sentence we would delete the word "only". Finally, at the end of the sub-paragraphs the words suggested this morning by the delegate of India, "plant survey and identification" would be inserted, so that the final clause would read: "training and facilities for plant survey and identification and plant breeding are insufficient or even not available in many of those countries."

In the third preambular section, which begins "Considering that", in the first sub-paragraph (a) we would insert the word "documentation", so that the sentence would read: "the international community should adopt a concrete set of principles designed to promote the exploration, preservation documentation, availability and full use... " we would change the word "exploitation, "to "use"- "... of relevant plant genetic resources", and here we would delete the words "for plant breeding". So it would read: "of relevant plant genetic resources essential to agricultural development".

In sub-paragraph (b) the word "documentation" would again be inserted after the words "maintenance, evaluation" in the early part of the paragraph: "maintenance, evaluation, documentation and exchange of plant genetic resources ...".

Sub-paragraph (c) again at the end of the paragraph the word "documentation" would be inserted after "maintenance, evaluation" and before "exchange of plant genetic resources".

Operative paragraph 1 remains unchanged.

In operative paragraph 2, which begins "Requests the Director-General" the final clause would be deleted, so that the paragraph would end with the words "contained in the Undertaking", and we would delete "especially Articles 3 to 5 thereof".

Operative paragraph 3, the final clause would also be deleted and three words inserted earlier, so that the sentence would read: "Urges governments and the aforesaid institutions to give effect to the principles of the Undertaking and to support ..." - and here we would insert "and participate in the international arrangements outlined therein". At this point we would finish that paragraph and put a semi colon and add operation paragraph 4.

Operative paragraph 4 would read as follows: "Endorses the Director-General's proposal for the establishment as soon as possible, within the framework of FAO, of an intergovernmental committee or other body on plant genetic resources open to all interested states".

CHAIRMAN: Before we get comments, if there are any, I should explain that there is under preparation a separate Resolution that will address the specific mechanism for the setting up of the Inter-governmental body referred to in the final operative paragraph. If the amendments, as just read out by the Secretary, are acceptable to the Commission, we would be ready to hear about that Resolution which is under preparation. First, let us hear if there are any comments on the amendments as agreed by the Contact Group.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I assume we are going to deal only with the amendments in the Undertaking itself, and not with the amendments of the Resolution. I think we should do it in two parts. Am I correct in that assumption?

CHAIRMAN: Let us finish first with the amendments in the Undertaking itself, which means 7(b) of Article 7, and Article 9. Then when we have finished with that we will go on to the Resolution. On the Undertaking now.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Queremos referirnos a las observaciones sobre el punto 9. La delegación de Panamá conceptúa que, si bien se han realizado algunas mejoras al documento en general, el mismo, a nuestro juicio, resulta en algunos casos excesivamente flexible. Por esta razón y en aras de su concretividad, tiene dificultades en aceptar que se elimine la frase "establecerá un grupo intergubernamental", y que en su lugar se introduzca una frase de tan amplias interpretaciones como la que se propone.

Nuestra delegación conceptúa que el grupo intergubernamental es el único foro que poseen los países para exponer sus necesidades de recursos fitosanitarios y por este motivo debemos ser concretos y plantear de manera clara lo que en realidad deseamos. Por tal motivo queremos proponer la siguiente redacción: "La FAO en particular vigilará la aplicación de los acuerdos mencionados en el artículo y establecerá un grupo intergubernamental que tomará o recomendará las medidas ...", y el resto continúa tal como está.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to other delegations, I would like once more to explain that the Contact Group spent all afternoon mainly on that aspect, and the compromise that was just read out by the Secretary was the only one acceptable, which we thought would meet the requirements as just stated by the distinguished delegate of Panama. However, this is for submission by the Contact Group to the Commission, and it is for the Commission to decide.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I endorse the views of my distinguished colleague from Panama. I was wondering why this roundabout way of saying the same thing has now been adopted with the Contact Group. It says so in our printed paragraph 4 of the Resolution that FAO endorses the Director-General's proposal for the establishment as soon as possible of an inter-governmental committee. But then it is being left out from this Undertaking. I was wondering what really the Contact Group had in mind in eliminating it from one place, and reviving it in another place. I think that paragraph 9.2 of the Undertaking was the appropriate place to say that FAO will in particular establish an inter-governmental group. We have so many inter-governmental groups for dealing with other commodities, and this is a very important area, for which I think we should retain this particular phrase within the parenthesis.

CHAIRMAN: I should explain here that the question of the inter-governmental group is mentioned in the Resolution specifically, because if it is included there it would be first time more effective to achieve that purpose, because, according to the proposal of the Director-General, which is referred to in the Report, such a body would only be established when a sufficient number of countries would have acceded to the Undertaking. But if this is reflected in the Resolution then the Conference would empower the Director-General to proceed immediately to establish this inter-governmental body. So for that reason the Contact Group agreed it would be more effective to have it in the Resolution, other than in the Undertaking, because of the complications of the timing for setting it up.

M. R. SY (Sénégal): Mon intention n'est pas de prolonger la discussion mais il y a un point qui ne me paraît pas très clair. Généralement, on prend une résolution pour proposer une solution à une situation nouvelle par rapport à ce qui existe déjà. Or, nous sommes en train d'élaborer un engagement international sur un problème bien déterminé. Nous ne voulons pas que dans cet engagement figure un organe exécutif de la FAO pour suivre le problème dont nous débattons, et dans la résolution qui est prise simultanément, on accepte d'inclure cette idée. Il y a là une situation qu'il faut éclaircir.

La FAO est composée d'organes exécutifs; elle comprend le Conseil, des comités et la Conférence. Or, si la FAO a une mission, il faut qu'on nous dise comment elle va exécuter complètement cette mission. L'amendement proposé par le Panama est très sage, tout en reconnaissant que le groupe de contact a eu à résoudre beaucoup de problèmes, nous l'en félicitons, mais je pense qu'il y a un problème important qu'il ne faut pas esquiver.

A.R. PIRES (Cape-Vert): Je partage tout à fait l'opinion du délégué du Sénégal et je l'appuie totalement.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal-Republic of) (original language German): After we have heard that after paragraph 9.2 there is an addition in the second line as the secretary read it out, after "Article 7" we are to add "will establish any necessary mechanism and". That was the addition as I heard it from the Secretary. We think that the matters you have mentioned are arguments which convince us. It is better to leave it out in paragraph 9.2 and insofar as such a paragraph is necessary then better to include it there.

CHAIRMAN: Could you repeat your suggestion?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): We do not have a concrete proposal but what we heard was that in 9.2 there was to be added a sentence "will establish any necessary mechanism and", and you yourself, Mr. Chairman, said that the question of the time factor must be taken into account and that was the main reason why the words "establish an inter-governmental group" in paragraph 9.2 were knocked out, and instead you said we would have a new paragraph, paragraph 4. For that reason we think that is a proposal we also could agree to, although we did say before that the Contact Group should deal with this question.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Perú): Señor Presidente, aunque yo estoy acá desde las 8 de la mañana y estoy por retirarme, lamento no haber sido parte del grupo de contacto por la carga de experiencia que tengo en estos trabajos fitogenéticos, pero no fui escogido; tuve esa mala suerte; sin embargo, me parece que si en el punto 4 ya se habla del grupo del Comité Intergubernamental y ya se menciona claramente, no veo por qué cuando se trate de vigilancia de las actividades y medidas afines de la FAO se quiere eludir el grupo intergubernamental. Lo que queremos es que justamente vigile. Entonces se le pone en el lado estricto en el punto 4, donde está medio perdido y creemos que una de las funciones más importantes del grupo intergubernamental está en el artículo 9.2, que es donde debería estar; en cambio, se le saca en una forma incomprensible. Yo, desgraciadamente, en este momento me tengo que retirar, pero me reservo para el plenario. Gracias, señor Presidente.

Sra. Doña H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Señor Presidente, simplemente para abundar en las expresiones que acaba de comunicar a esta Asamblea el delegado del Perú. Específicamente quisiéramos también apoyar a los delegados de Panamá, Pakistán, Senegal y Cabo Verde, que se pronunciaron en favor de mantener esta expresión del grupo intergubernamental en el párrafo 9.2. Si, efectivamente, se mencionaba en la resolución, no vemos ningún daño que se repita la mención de este grupo intergubernamental aquí, en el párrafo 9.2.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): Perhaps I should just indicate as far as the Contact Group is concerned - and this to reiterate I think what you yourself was saying - that this was a carefully wide and balanced sentence. People will realize the sentence is quite long and I think I could say it was a unanimous view that this was probably the best way to handle what was a very difficult situation, and perhaps difficult in the sense that the question of timing and the question of the legal provisions are the ones that are at essence here. What is the best mechanism for setting it up, and it comes back to the advice we had from, the Legal Counsel and so forth. It did represent a balance of interests, of course, but I think there was a reasonable amount of unanimity and quite a unanimous opinion of how this was handled and also how we handled the proposal in the reservation, so I feel it is somewhat of a pity that while I can sympathize with the views that have been expressed here and I think I can understand them, I think we might lose if we go back to the original form - at least from our own point of view - and perhaps other delegates might like to take this matter up.

CHAIRMAN: I still believe it is perfectly within the rights of distinguished delegates to take the floor and say as much as is necessary on the subject but I hope we are aware that we have at this stage simply enlarged the Contact Group.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Yo había ofrecido guardar silencio en esta Comisión como miembro del Grupo de Contacto, pero debido a que la delegación de Australia hizo uso de la palabra me permito también intervenir.

Le aclaro a esta Comisión que no hubo, y repito "no hubo" unanimidad en la eliminación del "Grupo Intergubernamental". La delegación de México se quedó sola defendiendo el punto, y en consecuencia la mayoría aceptó la nueva redacción. Mi compromiso fue guardar silencio en la Comisión, pero es mi obligación también en este caso aclarar que no hubo unanimidad en el punto y nuestro argumento fue que el Grupo Intergubernamental es el único, el único medio para que los representantes de gobiernos tomen y compartan decisiones en materia de recursos fitogenéticos.

En consecuencia, es una parte vital, repito vital, del sistema global que estamos desarrollando. Esta es la preocupación de ciertos países, que sea una parte vital, pero lo es también para los países en desarrollo.

En consecuencia, pido a los colegas que reflexionen en términos de la importancia que tiene el Grupo Intergubernamental, el peso que tiene y que tendrá en el futuro y la importancia de incorporarlo plenamente en el cuerpo del Compromiso, es decir en el artículo 9, inciso 2.

CHAIRMAN: I do not see any indication of desire to take the floor. Nonetheless, I would say that notwithstanding the explanations of the Mexican delegation, it is valid and still true to say that what the Secretary read out at the beginning is what the Contact Group agreed should be presented to the Commission, and of course it is clear that that was a compromise reached after a very lengthy discussion; there is a question about that, but this is what the Group agreed should be presented here. Are there any more observations?

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Para adelantar en el proceso de la discusión pienso que la parte que se refiere a la Resolución es lo que recoge el espíritu, la intención de los países. Y la segunda parte, el anexo del proyecto del Compromiso constituye más bien la parte instrumental de este espíritu resolutivo que acordará la Conferencia. Quisiera, si fuera posible, que el Consejero legal en este sentido nos auxiliara un poco en el Orden técnico del problema, pero si algo está previamente establecido en el sentido, en el basamento del documento y luego se agrega un documento instrumental, es decir reglamentario, me parece que no habría ningún problema en que se expresara exactamente en los dos lugares; que pudiera estar incluido el Grupo Intergubernamental en la Resolución y también en la parte instrumental: es decir en el proyecto de Compromiso, toda vez que este Compromiso es enteramente voluntario; por eso pienso y me solidarizo con la opinión de algunos delegados que expresaron su deseo, su interés de que apareciera en el punto 9.2, como estaba originalmente previsto.

CHAIRMAN: In accordance with your request I will give the floor to the Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I am rather reluctant to intervene at this stage, but to take up what I said earlier on this evening, I had some difficulty in seeing a reference to an inter-governmental body alone in the Undertaking and not anywhere else. The Conference has got to be absolutely clear on what it wants to do, and what it wants to do has got to be done. For that reason I think the fact is that it has been mentioned in operative paragraph 4 of the Resolution that contains a specific instruction; it is a specific action taken by the Conference. If you adopt the Resolution and the reference to the inter-governmental body is in that and in only very general terms, the actual follow-up action that is going to be taken either by the Director-General or by the governing bodies of FAO remains uncertain. It is also the uncertainty that would be created in the light of how much support there eventually might be for the Undertaking itself. For that reason, if it is mentioned in both places in a manner which is obviously consistent in both cases, that I think would be a perfectly appropriate solution, and I am not so sure in any case that the solution is not going to come later when the concrete proposal - I understand a resolution is being prepared which would contain a concrete proposal - will show exactly what the intergovernmental body would actually be.

But to get back to the precise question raised by the delegate of Cuba, there would certainly be no objection to having it in the body of the Undertaking in more or less general terms, and also in the operative paragraph 4 which the Contact Group has just adopted.

M. S. ZEHNI (Libya) (original language Arabic): I wish first of all to apologize to my Arabic-speaking friends because for technical reasons and because the discussion in the Contact Group went on in English and all that was agreed upon was taken down in English, therefore I wish to ask permission to use English unlike the practice I have been used to on similar occasions.

(Continues in English) The assumption that the Resolution under discussion here will be finally approved by the Conference, we feel that as it stands now this refers to a possible mechanism or to an inter-governmental committee or other body without specifying or clearly indicating the type of body we are talking about. So the Libyan delegation, in coordination and with the help of other delegations, took it upon us to attempt to offer a draft resolution as a solution to this problem because we feel that one of the most important aspects here is not to lose the momentum we gain by this Resolution under discussion here. So we would like to see some progress on the lines of this Resolution to be taken, steps to be taken, so as to proceed as soon as possible with the establishment of that mechanism or body we are talking about now. We attempted to do so with the understanding and realization from our side that whatever we are going to propose would not be strongest or the best possible form we would like it to be in because of practical, legal and other implications. So without going into too much detail, Mr. Chairman, I will let you in at this stage of our general thinking on this line.

The proposal, or the resolution we are proposing, will, of course, start and build up on the Resolution we are discussing now, if adopted. So in the preamble part there will be mention of the particular parts of the Resolution and the Undertaking we are discussing; and after that, we will be requesting the Director-General to establish a body, a type of body in addition that will refer to the membership of this body which, I think, is the desire of all here, to have it an open body for membership of all the UN governments. After that, we suggest to proceed with the terms of reference of that body.

In doing all this, we are inspired to a great extent by the Report of the Director-General and the line of thought he had in his proposals. At the moment you will appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that I am only giving notice to this Commission that we are intending to present a resolution, hopefully one that will be sponsored by others, so this is to give you the required time for giving notice to this body and to alert you that we are working on this. There are some uncertain parts of this resolution which are under consideration by some of my colleagues here, so if what I said at the moment is sufficient, I will appreciate it if you do not ask me for further details because these can be worked out.

A final thing I wish to say: we do this in the spirit of proceeding, putting the plant genetic resources question into perspective and to keep up the momentum, but you will understand that if we find the going difficult tonight and that what we are proposing does not find strong support from those we are intending to consult with from our group, then perhaps we will not proceed with this suggestion; but in case we do, you have been warned and alerted.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I have no doubt that delegates realise that this has not been an easy matter for this Commission and certainly not for anyone. The manner in which we have proceeded up to this point, I think holds promise. It is important to note that the paramount consideration in the

Contact Group was that the proposed Undertaking should receive the widest possible acceptance by member countries of the United Nations that would participate in the Undertaking if it is to be of any effect at all; and, as you realize, all this has been done in a spirit of compromise and cooperation because it has been for the benefit of all of us. But apparently we can only achieve that by continuing to walk on thin ice. I would therefore still say to member countries or delegates that were not in the Contact Group that the work done in there was, I am convinced, in the best interests of reaching common ground and a meeting of minds for the benefit of all.

I therefore want to repeat: the words that were presented to you are the words that were arrived at in that spirit and I think you would do a great honour to the Contact Group, and perhaps a service to the Commission and the Conference, if we could agree to adopt those. However, the decision is yours to take.

A.R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec vous. Je crois que le groupe de contact a eu une tâche difficile pour produire la proposition que nous avons sous les yeux, il faudrait maintenant que nous fassions un effort pour avancer et trouver une solution sur laquelle tout le monde soit d'accord, parce que si nous continuons comme cela je crois que nous ne verrons pas notre lit ce soir, que nous ne finirons jamais.

CHAIRMAN: Are they any further observations, perhaps on what Cape Verde has said?

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): I was really moved by the statement you made here, Mr. Chairman, and I really sympathize with both my friends from Mexico and Libya because after all, we have given them our confidence: they have worked so hard and, unfortunately, it is not always when we come up with compromises that we are fully satisfied. It is true that many of us would have preferred the text to remain as it was presented to us; but, as you said it very clearly, Sir, and as our friends from Mexico and Libya also explained, that was the best thing we could get. So I think what my friend from Cape Verde said would probably end this discussion and we can accept it as such.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any further observations? We have registered positively from Cape Verde and Lebanon.

M. B. SY (Senegal): Je crois que la situation est assez difficile. Ne pourrait-on pas appréhender les raisons précises pour lesquelles cela dérange que l'on mette à la fois dans la Résolution et dans l'Engagement le terme "groupe intergouvernemental"? On parle de calendrier, mais est-ce que, dans la Résolution, si nous exhortons le Directeur général à former un groupe, il n'y aura pas un problème de calendrier? Je pense que cela n'est pas très clair. Ce que les pays en développement veulent c'est que l'on puisse quand même, modestement, très modestement, participer à une action tendant à la sauvegarde, à la lutte contre l'érosion des ressources phytogénétiques.

Il faudrait qu'on précise vraiment une structure dynamique dans laquelle les pays pourront participer utilement à cette oeuvre qui est d'une importance capitale pour tout le monde. Mais je voudrais que l'on précise les difficultés qu'il y aurait à insérer le terme dans la résolution et dans l'acte d'engagement.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I am really very much afraid that if we go into something that, in our minds at least, does not convey very much substance, we might be here - as I am very well prepared to be - the whole night. I think the only definition of a compromise is: something that makes everyone equally unhappy. I am quite prepared to go along and to agree - in fact, I am very much tempted to agree - with what was said by Cape Verde and Lebanon which is, I feel, fully in line with your own thinking, Sir.

So I would just urge everybody in order that we agree on what, in fact, came out after the long deliberations in the Contact Group.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Tal vez por un problema de traducción el distinguido delegado del Líbano interpreto que había sido un acuerdo logrado en el Grupo de Contacto y que, en consecuencia, era la mejor solución. Problema probablemente de traducción, me permito ser muy claro en esto: no se llegó a un acuerdo unánime; no fue unánime el acuerdo. En consecuencia, son válidos los comentarios que hicimos en su oportunidad en el Grupo de Contacto y los que hemos hecho en esta Comisión. Este es el unico organismo o Grupo Intergubernamental que permitiría que los representantes de gobiernos pudieran opinar en relación a aspectos de recursos fitogenéticos en este momento, y el documento del Director General es muy claro, el párrafo 173 señala la existencia de una laguna, una "laguna", un espacio negro, una falta importante de un mecanismo o grupo intergubernamental que les permita a los Estados ser portavoces de las políticas que en esta materia deberán llevarse en el ámbito internacional. El informe del Director General es muy claro en diagnosticar esta ausencia, y de ahí,"de ahí la insistencia de que el Compromiso recoja las recomendaciones hechas en el párrafo 195, párrafo 195, en el que se destaca la necesidad de formar un grupo u órgano auxiliar para llenar esa laguna. Esta es la razón de nuestra insistencia, señor Presidente.

Quiero aclarar que por la hora observo que muchos delegados de países en desarrollo no se encuentran presentes y es por ello que nos permitimos hacer uso repetido del micrófono. Es un punto importante para los países en desarrollo, es el único organismo que tendríamos para discutir estas materias.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mexico. I agree one hundred percent that the delegate of Mexico is repeating the arguments that he advanced within the Contact Group and I do not think anyone expects him to go back on them. But it is also true, as I indicated, that when the Contact Group was about to rise, it was because no one in the Contact Group was any longer willing to stand in the way of a consensus. The delegate of Mexico did indicate that he thought there would possibly be problems from other delegations in the Commission but nonetheless - and here, if we could have the verbatim record of the Contact Group it would indicate this - no one at that point was any longer willing to stand in the way of consensus; and therefore there was consensus.

Y. ABT (Israel) : The exchange and availability of plant genetic resources is hardly going to be guaranteed only by the written word. We believe that the exchange and availability first and foremost will depend on the good will starting with the plant breeder and ending with the government. My delegation is of the opinion that to advance the improvement of exchange and preservation of plant genetic resources, this has been enhanced since this morning, bearing in mind Clause 4 in a Resolution which in our opinion certainly strengthens the ideas that were expressed in our previous meetings. We also feel that 9 in the International Undertaking, Article 9.2 affording FAO the task of monitoring arrangements relating to Article 7 should give enough teeth to motivate all of us, all our countries, to play ball and increase the exchange and training possibilities in the subject.

W. E. ADERO (Kenya): Kenya was in the Contact Group and I just wanted to underscore what you had said, what has been read by the Secretariat which is being discussed now, we agree that that is what should be presented to the Commission II and I want to say that as at the time we agreed to bring that text to the Commission, all of us who were in the Contact Group agreed that we could present it for discussion.

L. MOHAPELOA (Lesotho) : My delegation had not quite intended to take the floor on this issue, particularly at this point. We only take it because we feel compelled, looking at the circumstances and the environment we are in, where there is seemingly very little progress, looking at the whole issue and reflecting it in our minds we seem to think that we have here in front of us certain articles and certain proposals for an Undertaking which previously we had not had. Granted in a few respects there are items that some of us, particularly us developing countries, do not see reflected in the manner and in the time that we would have wished to, or at least hoped to see. We at the same time realize, of course, that there are possibilities in the future of implementing and realizing greater progress.

By saying this I am agreeing with those delegations that have spoken that have expressed the sentiment that it is perhaps worthwhile to appreciate that this was done in the spirit of compromise. Perhaps the other way of looking at it is that we need to look at the point of similarity, hopefully emphasize those and believe that in due course we will identify further areas of similarity and therefore cooperation. One can only add that when this compromise is made and accepted by the developing countries perhaps the developing countries will recall when we later review progress on the matter that we have ourselves at one point made a compromise. Particularly I have in mind when we discuss the Resolution that I am informed will be coming up.

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): A tal altura del debate me parece que convendría hacer un punto en alto y ver un poco en dónde estamos.

Ha habido varias intervenciones que merecen tenerse en cuenta. Kenya nos subraya que el compromiso o transacción a la cual se llegó en el Grupo de Trabajo ha sido sometido a esta Comisión para ser debatido, para ser estudiado.

No se nos ha dicho en ningún momento que teníamos que aceptar, sin ninguna posibilidad de discusión, lo adoptado por el Grupo de Trabajo, máxime cuando la Delegación de México que estaba representando la posición de los países en desarrollo nos ha dicho que se encontró solo en ese debate y que tuvo que aceptar esto como única opción.

Tenemos además el documento del Director General en donde se nos subraya que hay un vacío en esta posibilidad de que los países en desarrollo puedan discutir este tema quitando importancia para ello.

Tenemos además una propuesta de Panamá que debiera discutirse como tal puesto que ha sido apoyada por varias Delegaciones entre ellas por la Delegación del Perú que se ha reservado además su posición para abrir este debate en Plenaria.

No creo que estemos haciendo ningún servicio a la Conferencia dejando este tema que quede en suspenso para la Plenaria.

Tenemos también una propuesta de la Delegación de Cuba que pide al Asesor Jurídico que presente su posición como Asesor Jurídico respecto de la repetición en dos partes de ese documento de la mención que aparecería en el párrafo 4 de la Resolución. El Asesor Jurídico nos dice que no hay ningún inconveniente en que lo que se decidirá respecto del párrafo 4 sea repetido en el cuerpo del Compromiso, es decir, en el párrafo 9.2 como solicita la Delegación de Panamá.

No ve mi Delegación ningún inconveniente en que se le dé al Director General instrucciones más precisas puesto que en el fondo lo solicita en el párrafo 9.2 y que no dejemos abierto el que se establezca cualesquiera mecanismos, sino decirle al Director General cuál es exactamente el mecanismo que deseamos que establezca.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure the delegate of Colombia is right in almost everything she has said but I think we have to be fair to everyone, the delegation of Mexico was not the only delegation from developing countries and we have already had reflections that express other views on the same matter.

I do agree that the Commission has no obligation to take what the Contact Group has presented but nonetheless I think we need to reflect all views at all times. Any other observations? We have to come out of this one way or another. Let us get ourselves out. Perhaps at this stage, if we could suggest a way towards progress, if we could request the other members of the Contact Group to take the floor and make indications so that the Commission could be put into a much clearer position.

M. S. ZEHNI (Libya): I am taking the floor to indicate here that in the Contact Group no single country from the developing countries was not strongly in favour of the intergovernmental group. My delegation being one of them, we firmly know and believe that the ultimate aim of this Commission or this Conference will be the formation of an intergovernmental group. So there is no question here in our minds that we all, in the developing countries in the Contact Group, we were thinking that whatever happens or whatever we say in the Undertaking the ultimate result will be a formation of an intergovernmental group. The basic difference was that should it be mentioned in the Undertaking, in what form it should be mentioned and then should it be mentioned in the Resolution and what form it will be mentioned in the Resolution. This has to be very clear because this reflects on the whole of the conduct of the Contact Group which we join in understanding that it has a responsibility. We thought we shared it with the others in approaching this.. Now I can only mention here that I can only judge by what I heard in the English interpretation. My Spanish was not that good, what I got through the interpretation, that before we came to this meeting there was a total agreement in the text that we presented to you word by word. Saying this, we all had difficulty with this and in particular the Mexican delegation, they had great difficulty in accepting the intergovernmental group to be removed or to be mentioned in other languages and they indicated that other developing countries, particularly from their group will find difficulties with this. This is true but the way I understood it, that when we came out of the group there was an agreement in the text as presented to this Committee now and I repeat here, I judge only from what I heard from the English interpretation. We were not easy on parts of this compromise. We spent hours on it - the mechanism, the measures, should it be one sentence, two sentences or three sentences. Finally we accepted something which we thought would be acceptable to all if this wording in the Undertaking and the Resolution is backed by another resolution which will specify this intergovernmental body which spells out its terms of reference and the mode of its working. This is what I said we were working on, and we hope we can get some agreement on that. So the intergovernmental body, in the thinking of all of us, and certainly in my thinking, will be in; how to do it and where to do it, that was the only difference. There was no difference in the principle; it was how to do it.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Libya. May I complete the circle and ask other members of the Contact Group to take the floor, at least those who have not done so so far.

K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): I agree with my colleague from Libya. It was my impression and conviction also that the formation of an intergovernmental group was inevitable, it was only the means as to where this should appear that was at issue. The amendment to paragraph 9.2 was agreed because it was understood that the question of an intergovernmental body would appear in the Resolution which would be followed up by another resolution endeavouring to establish it.

J.M. BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): Gracias, Señor Presidente: Coincido con lo que acaba de exponer la delegación de Bangladesh. Efectivamente, nuestra delegación fue la que propuso la fórmula intermedia, intentando que se pudiese llegar a un consenso dentro del Grupo de Contacto. La fórmula que nosotros propusimos, similar a la que ahora se ofrece a esta Comisión, fue objeto también de un amplísimo debate y en ella la delegación de México y otras delegaciones introdujeron ciertas modificaciones a nuestra propuesta original.

Creo que en el ánimo de todos los países componentes del Grupo de Contacto estaba la necesidad de la formación de este Grupo o Comité Intergubernamental, pero las posturas que allí se manifestaron claramente demostraban una casi imposibilidad de llegar a una transacción en un punto tan importante, y únicamente a través de esta fórmula, no tan explícita como la contenida entre corchetes y a través de la inclusión de la referencia al Grupo Intergubernamental en el Proyecto de Resolución, en su preámbulo, fue posible que el Grupo de Contacto llegase a un acuerdo para presentar un texto a esta Comisión, aunque creo que estaba bien entendido por parte de todos que, en definitiva, era esta Comisión la que tenía que decidir. Nada más.

J.M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): I should like to stress that in the Contact Group not only the developing countries but the developed countries there accepted the fact that there will be an intergovernmental group. However, it was felt that a looser wording in the Undertaking combined with a very firm recommendation in the Resolution would help those few Member Nations who are still having some difficulty with the Undertaking to accept the Undertaking while still accepting the inevitability of an intergovernmental group.

I should like to remind those here that we are also anticipating tomorrow a further resolution from the Libyan delegation to set out in more detail the establishment and terms of reference of the intergovernmental group and bearing that in mind would ask them to recognise this compromise that was arrived at after long negotiations.

J.P. NEME (France): Je voudrais simplement rappeler, moi aussi, que ce texte du paragraphe 9.2 avait été accepté par tous les membres du groupe de contact après une longue négociation.

G. ANDRE (Sweden) : I have no more to say when the last delegates of the Contact Group have witnesses in this matter. I wholly support what they have said.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): All I need do is echo the words of the delegate of Sweden. There is nothing much more to be said that would be constructive in this issue.

CHAIRMAN: We did this not to set the members of the Contact Group one against the other, but we thought it was necessary that you should know the whole truth of what transpired on your behalf. I think we have what has been presented to you as indicated, and of course I should underline the strong positions that the individual delegations had before we came to the compromise. We are presenting to you the compromise and you have understood how it was arrived at. I think we are back in your hands. The decision is yours to take.

A.R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Après avoir entendu les membres du groupe de contact nous dire il faut adopter ce texte, je ne comprends plus car la majorité se prononce pour la création d'un groupe intergouvernemental. C'est donc ce qu'il convient d'adopter.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): Après ce que nous ont dit les représentants du groupe de contact, chacun a compris que la création de ce groupe intergouvernemental est inévitable. Si tout le monde est d'accord, pourquoi ne pas apporter ces précisions dans le texte, nous sommes dans un match où on ne cherche pas à savoir quel est le gagnant ou le perdant, mais si l'on a perdu, il faut le reconnaître, et c'est être sportif que de reconnaître que le groupe Intergouvernemental est inévitable et qu'il doit figurer dans le texte.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps at this stage we need to check with the delegations that have insisted on the inclusion of the words in the Undertaking whether, with all the mechanisms that have been suggested and the resolution that will be coming tomorrow and the operative paragraph 4 of the present Resolution and the fact that this has been mentioned in clear terms that give the FAO a mandate to proceed with mechanisms and whatever else is necessary, they are not yet willing at this hour to agree that there is no way that the intergovernmental group will not be formed and that maybe, as the delegate of Israel said, it is not necessarily in the words but in the spirit that we will achieve what we are trying to arrive at.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I would suggest in order to help you find a solution to the problem a small change: "FAO will, in particular, establish any necessary mechanism to monitor the operation of arrangements referred to in Article 7 and take or recommend measures that are necessary or desirable" etc. So we will delete the reference to intergovernmental group, and instead put in "any necessary mechanisms", if that will help.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your help, Pakistan. You have put what we have in the first part of the sentence in the second part of the sentence. Thank you very much for your contribution anyway. Are there any more positive contributions?

M. B. SY (Sénégal): La délégation sénégalaise était parmi ceux qui insistaient pour l'inclusion des mots "groupe intergouvernemental", mais si une majorité se dégage pour une autre rédaction, par discipline démocratique notre délégation ne verrait pas d'inconvénient. Il n'est pas très agréable d'être convaincu sans avoir reçu d'explications. On nous dit: Tout le monde entendait par "mécanisme nécessaire", "groupe intergouvernemental". Pourquoi éviter d'employer ce mot; on ne nous a jamais expliqué pourquoi on esquivait ce mot. Peut-être que la raison en est que cela doit rester entre les membres du groupe de contact à qui nous continuons de faire confiance.

Ma délégation, en s'excusant de ne pouvoir participer à la fin de la discussion, se ralliera à la majorité.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Senegal. I would like to answer you before you go away. You have been fair to the Commission and Contact Group. I think I need to be fair to you. The only reason is that with these words "in the undertaking" we might not get the support we need to be able to make the Undertaking as effective as it should be. This is all.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon): I think I will probably have to come with a slight word for a compromise. I am sure what I said earlier probably was misinterpreted, but now I have added one word to the last phrase here. It would read "FAO will in particular monitor the operation of the arrangements referred to in Article 7. Will establish any necessary mechanism or body that will take", and I am sure that everybody here will support "the body" and I do not think there will be any problem with that, and it will clarify the word "mechanism" more. It is a clarification of the word "mechanism". It is an addition, and I think everybody will accept it.

CHAIRMAN: With what has been said by Lebanon, and the distinguished delegate of Senegal before he left, that after the explanation he was willing to go along with the majority, I should like to indicate here we have the delegations of Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Cameroon, which are on the other view of not accepting what was presented to the Commission, and I think it is appropriate that we should say that we have taken note of their very strong positions, but perhaps request that they do not stand in the way of consensus.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): Si les mots "tout mécanisme nécessaire" sont pratiquement synonymes de "groupe intergouvernemental", il n'y a pas de problème. D'après ce que vient de dire le précédent orateur, on peut mettre "tout mécanisme nécessaire" ou "groupe intergouvernemental". C'est un compromis et on peut s'y rallier.

Y. HAMDI (Egypt): I will speak in English. I do not know, do we really have a problem? I myself am not so clear, because I have heard so many people in accord with what we have after the introduction of the Secretariat's additions. However, if the problem is in the idea of establishment of an intergovernmental group, or other body, which came in the main Resolution No. 4, which is added, and if this part is accepted, I think automatically this should be included in 9.2. So the problem here is we accept 9.2 as it stands here, or we accept No. 4 as it stands here, and if we accept No. 4, No. 2 would be similar. If we accept No. 9, and we do not accept No. 4, then we have to correct No. 4 so as to be in line with No. 9.2. I am sorry, I hope I have not confused you more.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to Mexico I think we need to give you the whole truth about this thing, which I tried to do in answering Senegal. You realize that this Resolution, of course, will be adopted by the Conference, and the Director-General will have the instructions, but the Undertaking has to be acceded to and signed by individual governments which will undertake to offer their genetic resources to the network, and so on and so forth. Some Governments will not be willing to do this with the text reflecting the intergovernmental group in the Undertaking. This is the reason. This is why we needed to arrive at a compromise. All those explanations were made. The concept of an intergovernmental group is acceptable, and will definitely be formed, but there are instructions, and so and so forth, and positions. To get out of that the Contact Group thought, as represented to you, that if we gradually build towards it, all the way from mechanism through specifically saying it in the Resolution, and then another resolution that: strengthens it and spells it out in detail, would achieve the purpose, which is to try and get as many members to accede to the Undertaking as possible.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (Mexico): Me preocupa la observación que hizo, señor Presidente, en el sentido de que unas pocas delegaciones se oponían a la aceptación del consenso respecto a excluir el Grupo Intergubernamental.

Por lo avanzado de la hora evidentemente estamos hablando en un foro con el 40 por ciento del quórum; de los delegados presentes un grupo importante se ha manifestado a favor de mantener el Grupo Intergubernamental en el artículo 9.2. Me atrevería a decir la mayoría de las intervenciones fueron en ese sentido, aparte del Grupo de Contacto; únicamente la delegación de Alemania tuvo objeciones, el resto de las intervenciones fueron de apoyo y/o de aclaración. Intervenimos después los miembros del Grupo de Contacto en donde, efectivamente, están divididas las opiniones; no veo entonces esa minoría del lado de los países que están apoyando incorporar el Grupo Intergubernamental.

Un segundo punto es, y es muy pertinente, lo resalto el distinguido delegado de Egipto en este momento, es la oposición, la oposición concreta de incluir en el 9.2 el órgano específico que queremos establecer. La respuesta que no se nos ha dado es que este órgano puede seguir siendo el IBPGR; este órgano, quiero que me traduzcan, este órgano puede seguir siendo el IBPGR y esto es lo que tratamos de evitar. Hemos insistido en que el IBPGR determina las políticas y FAO acata las instrucciones técnicas que el IBPGR establece. Esto salió a relucir en la discusión del artículo 7.1 inciso g) y esto lo resalto para indicar que no estamos hablando de FAO en un trato igual o con un trato justo con el IBPGR.

Nos preocupa, y hemos insistido a lo largo de nuestras intervenciones durante el año, nos preocupa que el IBPGR establezca las políticas que FAO acepta en esta materia de recursos fitogenéticos.

El Grupo Intergubernamental y por eso hay que destacar cuál es el organismo o mecanismo que queremos establecer, el Grupo Intergubernamental sería la única instancia nuestra para poder balancear esta relación; por eso la insistencia. Por eso no podemos permitir que quede la vaguedad de "cualquier organismo" o "cualquier mecanismo". Esto quiero que quede perfectamente claro, señor Presidente.

Como procedimiento, y dado que nos estamos quedando vacíos, hay que acelerar la discusión o mandarla a la Plenaria, pero insisto, no veo que los países que hayamos tomado el micrófono seamos minoría en relación a mantener el Grupo Intergubernamental en el artículo 9.2, no veo la minoría.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): I would hate to see the Contact Group re-open the debate that we had for 20 hours over these seven pages. It seems to me, if we are going to have a Contact Group, that is going to be effective that unless there is something the delegates really want to change, it should be accepted, otherwise there is no point in having a Contact Group.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My country's delegation on this point in the Agenda - plant genetic resources - cooperated constructively on this point, and contrary to what has just been said, it did not make any opposition here, that is not true. My country did not have the honour, and pleasure, of being in the Contact Group, but the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was represented in the Contact Group by the United Kingdom and France who represented the European Community and have put forward also our point of view. I want just to say this to make that matter clear. Mr Chairman, you yourself gave us the reason why here, in paragraph 9.2, we did not want to have this sentence in brackets. Instead of that we added "establish any necessary mechanism". In paragraph 4, on the other hand, we have "that as soon as possible an intergovernmental committee will be set up". But possibly it could take some time to set up this Group. We do not know how long it will take. We have to make the necessary preparations in advance. The proposal to be added to paragraph 9.2, has, in our view, the advantage that the Director-General, in the context of his competences, can act. We think that should be considered, if some delegations insist that this sentence, which is in brackets, is to be retained. Not only the question that a compromise was reached in the Contact Group, but the other points I have just mentioned, should also be recalled.

CHAIRMAN: I hate from the Chair to be pushed to make a ruling, basically because I believe that it is almost a tradition in this Organization that on matters like this we arrive at a solution by consensus and it would be a happy ending if we could continue to do so. Because we have before us now the words that we agreed in the Contact Group to consider and agree upon and on the basis of that wording it is clear that the majority is willing, after the explanation of the individual members of the Contact Group, to accept and go along with them. Therefore, that would be a basis to rule that the majority agrees with the compromise (and I underscore compromise) should be accepted so that we can proceed. But, before I am pushed to that, only so that there is the assurance that the inter-governmental group will be formed as soon as possible in line with the new operative paragraph 4 of the Resolution, I should like as a final desperate attempt to request the distinguished delegate of Libya just to highlight this point of the proposed resolution to give the assurances.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya): As I said before, some parts of the draft resolution we have in mind can still be worked out in agreement with others. But, however, I will attempt to give you the highlights of what I had in mind. But, you will allow me to repeat what I said earlier, that the form I am suggesting perhaps is not the strongest form possible, but I base my suggestion here about the agreement during the discussion of this whole Committee, on the general agreement at least, on the proposals of the Director-General, particularly when he referred to the "possible mechanism" in relation to this matter. You have the paragraphs of the Director-General's proposals for which I thought there was some great measure of support.

So the resolution tentatively will be as follows: there will be two preambular parts. The first one will be referring to this Resolution we are talking about, the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and it will be referred to as "The Undertaking". Here, I thought that we should refer again to Article 9.2 under discussion, which states that "FAO will establish", and here I am quoting the exact words as they stand now, but this will be changed - it depends upon the results of the debate "to establish any necessary mechanism", to monitor the operation and arrangements referred to in Article 7 of the Undertaking, and take or recommend measures that are necessary or desirable to ensure comprehensiveness of the global system and efficiency of its operation in line with the Undertaking. This is the preambular part.'

The Conference then will request the Council and COAG to take the necessary measures to establish the subsidiary body of COAG on plant genetic resources which would meet at the time of the Committee's regular sessions, and the membership and terms of reference would be as follows. So the membership first of all would be for all Member Nations of the Organization, regard less if they are members of COAG or not, and in addition I cannot recall now that particular rule in the General Rules of the Organization which I know of under which you can admit membership of that to anybody interested, of non-member nations of FAO that are members of the United Nations, of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Agency. This is a standard clause if you want to open its membership. So the operative part one will deal with the membership and it is open for all members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the IAEA.

The terms of reference use, almost to the word, certain parts of the proposals of the Director-General. So the terms of reference (a) to monitor the operations of the arrangements referred to Article 7

of the Undertaking: (b) to take or recommend measures that are necessary or desirable in order to ensure the comprehensiveness of the global system and the efficiency of its operations in line with the Undertaking, and in particular to review all matters related to the policy, programmes and activities of FAO in the field of plant genetic resources, and to advise the Committee on Agriculture. to give advice to the Committee on Agriculture or to the Committee on Forestry, because you know those are related. We have the genetic resources of forestry and perhaps the Committee on Forestry might deal with it as appropriate.

So these are the highlights in a very crude form, and at this stage while I have the floor, Mr Chairman, I would really like to have your indication and that of my colleagues here if they think this is the type of resolution which can guarantee their support so that I can proceed with it, otherwise it will be unfruitful on my part to proceed in this without the Commission's approval at least in principle.

CHAIRMAN: With these explanations and what has been prepared by the distinguished delegate of Libya and all the others we have had, can I ask, before we make rulings and move to the closure of the meeting, whether the distinguished delegate of Cameroon is still willing to not stand in the way of consensus.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): Au contraire, je suis l'homme du consensus. Nous sommes là pour ça! Je vous ai dit aujourd'hui qu'en matière de consensus il faut savoir perdre ou gagner, n'est-ce pas. Je constate que, peut-être l'heure avançant, les gens commencent à vouloir aller très vite, je ne l'aurais d'ailleurs pas souhaité parce que nous sommes ici pour travailler, même s'il faut dormir dans cette salle, pourvu que nous sortions avec quelque chose de sérieux pour l'emmener dans nos gouvernements. Néanmoins, si la majorité est dans ce sens, nous aussi sommes du côté de la majorité.

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): En realidad, no creo que sea Camerún el único que se oponga al consenso. México hace un momento nos dijo que había una enorme mayoría que estaba en favor de que se incluyera la mención de "Grupo intergubernamental" en el párrafo 9.2. Yo también, por mi parte, he oído a muchas delegaciones, inclusive a miembros del Grupo de Trabajo, que se mencionaron, el hecho de que en el seno del Grupo de Trabajo había habido una mayoría en favor de la creación de un Grupo Intergubernamental; en realidad, también he escuchado con muchísima atención lo propuesto por Libia sobre la nueva redacción para una resolución adicional.

En realidad, se trata de una cosa bastante profunda, bastante delicada y creo que convendría más a nuestras delegaciones, tanto las que estamos presentes como las que ya han abandonado la sala que realmente tengan la posibilidad de ver por escrito y con mayor detalle la propuesta de Libia.

En mi intervención anterior mencioné el hecho de que hay una delegación que se ha reservado la posición para intervenir sobre esto en la Plenaria; he escuchado a otras delegaciones que también se reservan su posición al respecto. Colombia, tanto como Camerún, es un país que está siempre en favor del consenso y de llegar a una decisión que convenga a la mayoría, de llegar a una transacción con la cual la mayoría, o si no todos, pudiéramos estar de acuerdo. Es un poco tarde y creo que tal vez convendría que levantáramos la sesión ahora, que estudiáramos el texto que propondrá Libia con mayor atención y lleguemos posiblemente a un consenso mañana.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your cooperation, Colombia.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Considero muy apropiada la propuesta de la Delegación de Colombia; rae sumo a esta propuesta en cuanto a que sería conveniente poder reflexionar durante estas horas hasta mañana y tal vez tener una mayor concurrencia en la sala para permitir un acuerdo más unánime y mayoritario y que esto, por supuesto, evitaría por supuesto dificultades posibles en el Plenario como se discute finalmente este info ;me y este acuerdo.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): No había pedido la palabra pero ya que me la concede yo también creo que es más conveniente posponer la decisión mañana temprano, levantar la sesión hoy, reflexionar cuidadosamente con la almohada y mañana llegar con una decisión que seguramente será efectivamente la de la mayoría.

CHAIRMAN: To clarify the consensus I was talking about it was that the great majority of the members in the Commission were willing to accept the wording recommended by the Contact Group. Now I see the sense in what is being said by those delegations that are so far indicating reservations, but I also have to indicate some practical problems that will now face us in the Secretariat. It is that we need to emerge tomorrow with a report, a text, and we have to agree what we include in the text. The only problem that we have now in the whole of the documentation before us is concerning 9.2 because we have no problems on the Resolution.

We have no more problems on all the other articles of the proposed Undertaking now. Do we give the Secretariat the green light to go ahead and prepare the documentation as recommended by the Contact Group, on the understanding that we are hoping to finally pronounce ourselves on a consensus tomorrow morning?

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): You have said we have no problems with the Resolution, Mr Chairman. I would have to disagree with that to some degree. I do not think we want to take it up yet, though, do we? Do you not want to finish the Undertaking first?

CHAIRMAN: Where we stand now is that all other articles of the Undertaking except 9.2 have been cleared, that is the Undertaking, and this is the one on which some delegations are requesting that we should look at tomorrow morning. Now we should put that aside and let the Secretariat go ahead and print all the other articles that have been agreed on and, hopefully, those other delegations will come and we can agree on something for 9.2, because we would have to agree on something after we sleep on it.

But now the Resolution has not been discussed. I think we need to give the Secretariat very clear instructions on what comes out of this Commission on the Resolution itself, so that we know the status regarding the Undertaking. Now let us find out with regard to the Resolution.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): Our delegation has no desire whatever to block a consensus on either the Resolution or the Undertaking. However, in respect to the Resolution I would like to say a few words. The United States position on the plant genetic resources issue is to support the present system coordinated by the IBPGR and to improve it as needed. As we said last Friday, any undertaking which would supercede - however gradually - overlap or fail to build on the existing system, will not command our support. Our delegation would note the proposed Undertaking as revised by the Contact Group is substantially improved insofar as the possibility of the United States accepting it. We feel, however, that the Undertaking should be sent to capitals together with a statement outlining any financial implications. Until these can be studied by our Government, we must reserve on operative paragraph 1 of the Resolution and would like that reservation indicated as a footnote on the Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United States for not blocking consensus and therefore the Resolution, insofar as that is concerned, can be adopted with a note of the reservation of the United States.

R. SALLERY (Canada): We also would not wish to block consensus. We have been very grateful to the Contact Group which has met over the weekend and again today, this afternoon, in an attempt to overcome apparent disagreements and to come up with a framework for today's discussion, one which might be acceptable to all of us. I would also like to commend your efforts, Mr Chairman. We have not yet finished our task but none of us underestimate the difficulties involved. The Contact Group and you yourself, sir, have, it seems, been quite successful and while the Canadian delegation has made its position quite clear in previous interventions, there is much in this report and in this discussion which will be food for thought and consideration by our professional colleagues in Ottawa.

Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 in the Resolution which, of course, once agreed to will establish the legal basis for the entire Undertaking, are essential elements which all governments must consider most carefully. And I can assure you, Mr Chairman, that my Government will study this document and our own position with great care. The Government of Canada would want to reiterate its continued commitment to the free access, exchange and conservation of plant genetic resources but believes - or at least has believed - that the improvements being sought can best or could best be achieved within the IBPGR's procedural system.

Our understanding of this Resolution is that the Director-General will now forward it to governments and to specific institutions for their consideration; and incidentally, we are somewhat surprised that there is no trigger mechanism or agreed to number of signatories which, once attained, would signal to the Director-General that the Undertaking might become operative or effective, and that he could then strike an IGG or whatever else is agreed to.

I assume also that, inevitably or not, someone in this august assembly - perhaps those who are preparing the new resolution, or the Secretariat - is giving some thought to the cost of such an IGG and how these measures are to be paid for. In any case we want to avoid any confusion which might lead to a misunderstanding at a later date. We see no need for this Commission or the Conference formally to adopt or endorse the Draft Undertaking which we have been considering over the past few days, as is suggested in Point 1 of this Resolution. If, however, it is the wish of this Commission to formally adopt the Undertaking, then we would request that following paragraph 1, a footnote be inserted indicating that the Government of Canada reserves its position on this Resolution and the Undertaking. This will avoid confusion at some later date when officials might wish to point to this report as being unanimously adopted by this Commission or Conference and imply thereby that the Canadian delegation to this Conference had endorsed its contents at that time which, of course, Mr Chairman, as you know, we have not. And if you wish, I have a wording which we could insert as a footnote.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Canada once more for his cooperation in not standing in the way of consensus, which means we may proceed with the adoption of the Resolution with a footnote that Canada has reservations.

A. NAGA (Japan): My delegation would like to thank the members of the Contact Group for their excellent work in providing the Undertaking. We find many points in the Undertaking which reflect the efforts of the Contact Group. We will certainly send the results to Tokyo for the consideration of my Government. Therefore, until the study of my Government is finished by my delegation, I would like to reserve its position on the Resolution including the Undertaking. As mentioned by other delegates I also request you, Mr Chairman, that our reservation be specified in a footnote to this Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Japan for his cooperation in not wishing to stand in the way of consensus and that the Resolution may be adopted with the footnote of reservation.

R.J. STONYER (New Zealand): I too have no wish to stand in the way of any consensus of this Commission and I certainly am very appreciative of the work and efforts that have been put in the last two days by the Contact Group. The New Zealand delegation has no problems with the basic Undertaking which has been set up before us. Unfortunately it does not seem to be possible to provide in that Undertaking some means of rewarding the commercial interests which have been so important to the development of agriculture in my own country. As the United Kingdom delegate said in the previous session, they pointed out that we cannot expect plant breeders to be denied incentives to develop new varieties or not to be compensated for the years of work and efforts they put into developing new plant strains. New Zealand herb and seed exports make up a very high proportion of world trade and are an important export for my country.

This Undertaking, as it is worded, is going to be subject to a number of limitations because I think this point has not been able to be taken into account in the form of the International Undertaking. I think it is most unfortunate because most of us are wholeheartedly behind the principles of international distribution of genetic material.

Again, I would say that the members of the Contact Group are to be congratulated on their very difficult task and we certainly commend them for their efforts.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of New Zealand also for not wishing to stand in the way of consensus but that the Resolution may be adopted with a footnote to that effect. Anyone else who wants to take the floor on the Resolution? I take it that with those footnotes the Commission agrees to the draft Resolution which will now be forwarded to Conference, after the adoption of the Report, of course.

It was so decided
Il est ainsi décide
Asi se acuerda

Now that we are done with the Report we should indicate what we do with the Resolution, i.e. what will happen tomorrow. We are scheduled to consider Reports 2 and 3 which will be dealing with the Reviews of the Regular and the Field Programme, with the World Food Programme Resolution and with item 16, 16.1 and 16.2 which was dealing with the Relations within the United Nations System. That is what we are scheduled to deal with tomorrow morning and we should dispose of those. In the afternoon we will have to look at the Report of the Commission on this matter, which of course, will include what we have just agreed on the Resolution and what we have agreed upon in the Undertaking and at that point then we can take up the matter that is outstanding on the Undertaking and if we do not finish tomorrow afternoon we will have to go on to a night session because we are scheduled to present our Reports to Conference the next day. So this is how tomorrow's programme will stand and hopefully by then the delegations that have requested time to sleep over this will come with more positive resolutions.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): If I understand you correctly, tomorrow afternoon together with the Reports we will also have the text of the Resolution and if possible at that time will be able to give again our views, if we feel the need to do so.

CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, you are talking about views on which Resolution?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): If I understand you correctly, together with the Reports of the Commission we will get the text of the Resolution again and it will be put before us here in our Session. Is that correct, together, both these texts?

CHAIRMAN: The text of the Resolution will be available but it will not be for discussion because we have just concluded the discussion on the Resolution. The text of the resolution we have just agreed on with the attendant footnotes and what has been accepted in the Undertaking will be the draft report. What has been prepared by Libya will be submitted for consideration by the Resolutions Committee tomorrow at 12.30.

The meeting rose at 21.00 hours

La seance est levée à 21 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.00 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/II/PV/19

Twenty-second Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session

COMMISSION II

22º período de sesiones

COMISION II

NINETEENTH MEETING DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE 19ª REUNION

(22 November 1983)

The Nineteenth Meeting was opened at 11.45 hours,

C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance est ouverte à 11 heures, sous la présidence de

C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 19ª reunión a las 11.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de

C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 2
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - DEUXIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 2

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Just by way of a brief introduction, I should say that the Drafting Committee met on three occasions, one a very extensive all-day meeting, to consider the material which is finally placed before you. The discussions on certain aspects of the Report were quite extensive and the Drafting Committee went into an in-depth study of the issue and we feel that the Reports which you have before you for consideration reflect the real consensus and feeling of what came out in the discussions in the Commission on these particular topics. The Drafting Committee hopes that you will find its work satisfactory and give it your approval.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The changes only concern the English text. Paragraph 7 in the third line: "at the core of FAO's activities in promoting agricultural and rural development" — not "in promotion", but "in promoting".

Then paragraph 11 in the fourth line: "TCP had helped to contain some of the harmful effects", not "farmful".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Let us now proceed with the consideration of the document paragraph by paragraph.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 6
PARAGRAPHEs 1 à 6
PARRAFOS 1 a 6

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): In connection with paragraphs 4 and 5 my delegation has a proposal, first to combine those two paragraphs in one paragraph — paragraph 5 seems too short — and then existing paragraph 5 reads according to our proposal, the last sentence of paragraph 4, to change words after "for more coverage", insert "of the FAO support to TCDC activities" and delete the word "networks". It would then read as follows: "The Conference stressed the need for more coverage of the FAO support to TCDC activities".

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): On the grammar of the proposal by Yugoslavia would it not be better to say "FAO support for TCDC programmes" rather than "support to" as I think the delegate of Yugoslavia suggested?

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Do you agree, Yugoslavia? Then if there are no further observations the paragraphs will be approved as amended.

Paragraphs 1 to 6, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 6, ainsi amendes, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 6, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 7 to 16

PARAGRAPHES 7 à 16

PARRAFOS 7 a 16

B. VAN HEMELDONCK (Belgique): Ma délégation n'était pas intervenue dans la discussion du rapport No 1 concernant le Programme de travail et de budget 1984-85 pour exprimer le désir de voir inclure les données principales concernant les fonds extra-budgétaires pour le biennium 1982-83. En effet, nous avions espéré trouver une référence dans le rapport sur les programmes de terrain. Le lien étroit qui existe entre le Programme ordinaire et les programmes de terrain n'est pas évoqué non plus, quoique le rapport No 1 y fasse allusion. Je ne veux pas insister pour que ce point soit explicitement incorporé dans le rapport, mais, néanmoins, nous faisons confiance au secrétariat et je suis convaincue que le secrétariat tiendra compte de ce désir et de cette inquiétude de notre part. Nous pensons que cette proposition sera probablement appuyée par d'autres collègues.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Even though no specific amendment is suggested, the Secretariat will take note of that.

F. ROHNER (Suisse): Je voudrais proposer une petite modification en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 8 et la référence aux donateurs.

A la septième ligne, il est dit: "La Conférence a insisté sur la nécessité pour tous les donateurs de faire le maximum d'efforts...". J'aimerais remplacer le mot "donateurs", parce qu'il me semble qu'on a trop tendance ici à se référer aux donateurs traditionnels, par "tous les gouvernements". En anglais, on pourrait dire éventuellement: "governments in a position to do so". En français, cela provoquerait une répétition du mot "faire" et je demanderai au secrétariat de trouver une formule.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think what you have suggested is quite understandable in English, but could you say how it should read in French?

F. ROHNER (Suisse): Je voudrais vraiment que le secrétariat fasse un effort. La formule en anglais paraît tout à fait acceptable. On doit pouvoir la traduire en français. Il faudrait éviter de répéter le mot "faire". On pourrait tourner la phrase différemment et dire: "pour que tous les pays redoublent leurs efforts" ou "que tous les pays capables de le faire redoublent leurs efforts". Il s'agit de trouver une formule.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): On pourrait peut-être dire: "donateurs potentiels". Cela pourrait résoudre le problème.

C.R.BENJAMIN (United States of America): I can support the language of "governments in a position to do so" in the English text. I also had a small change to make in the final sentence of that paragraph. I think that the word "alarm" is very melodramatic and might better be replaced by "concern".

B. VAN HEMELDONCK (Belgique): Je voudrais proposer une modification de la dernière phrase du paragraphe 8 qui se lirait comme suit: "La Conférence s'est aussi déclarée inquiète du recal de la part de l'agriculture dans les chiffres de planification du PNUD et, de ce fait, du recul de la part du PNUD qui est consacrée à des projets à exécuter par la FAO".

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): In this Organization, and in other international fora, we are used to using the language along the line of the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Senegal. I would suggest "the Conference stressed the necessity for all governments, of donor countries and of countries in a position to do so.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I hope this will be helpful. I would tend to support the suggestion of the United States delegate, i.e. that we use "the necessity for all governments in a position to do so". I think if we follow the suggestion made by Yugoslavia we are just repeating ourselves. Donor governments, and governments in a position to do so, this is the same thing. I would also agree with the US delegate's use of the word "concern" in the last line, "the Conference expressed its concern at the fall". Given those two points I would like to return to the first sentence, which does not seem to read quite properly, and I suggest perhaps that we should use wording which suggests, "The Conference emphasized its deep concern at the decline in the real volume of FAO's overall field programmes" or "expressed its deep concern at the negative repercussions of the decline in resources", or something like that. Right now it sounds like the actual ongoing programmes have negative developments, and if that is true that is one thing. If we are talking about volume it is a separate issue.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Yugoslavia, would you have any difficulty accepting the versions as suggested by the United States and Canada? No. Thank you very much.

C. BERINGER (Director, Field Programme Development Division): Just one factual comment on the first sentence. This was discussed in the Drafting Committee, and we explained on that occasion that the sentence refers to the total volume of field programme delivery in real terms from all sources, and there has been a negative development. In other words the decline in UNDP resources going to FAO's field programmes could not be compensated by increases from other sources. This is what this sentence says.

While I have the floor, with respect to the last sentence, and the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Belgium, I should like to say this, that the issue of measuring the agricultural contribution of UNDP resources has always been a very controversial issue, because they are multisectoral projects which have an agricultural component, some of which may be executed by the World Bank or by OPEC. Therefore, the statement that the share of UNDP resources executed by FAO as the major organization for agriculture in the UN system is very clear, and it is factual. Any statement with respect to agriculture in the total UNDP volume is much more difficult to verify, and much more difficult to ascertain.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. First of all, Canada, how do you feel about the explanations regarding the first sentence?

R. SALLERY (Canada): Yes, that is fine for the first sentence, thank you. We will let it stand.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

F. ROHNER (Suisse): Je voudrais intervenir sur la phrase à propos de laquelle M. Beringer a fait un commentaire.

J'estime que malgré tout une référence au chiffre indicatif de planification est utile dans ce contexte. Vous vous souvenez peut-être que dans notre intervention nous avons mentionné que l'une des raisons pour lesquelles la proportion réservée aux projets de la FAO avait diminué était aussi une question de priorité fixée par les gouvernements bénéficiaires. Donc, il serait utile à mon avis de mentionner ici le chiffre indicatif de planification. Nous devrions donc dire: "... de la part des ressources du PNUD consacrées dans le cadre du chiffre indicatif de planification...". Il faudrait voir où nous inclurions cela, mais j'aimerais que cette référence soit ajoutée.

C. BERINGER (Director, Field Programme Development Division): This suggestion is very easy to accommodate and is, in fact, correct. It would simply read, "had occurred in the share of UNDP's IPF resources devoted to projects executed by FAO." If I may make the suggestion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Switzerland, are you happy with that?

F. ROHNER (Switzerland): Yes, I can live with it, understanding that IPF is clear to everybody, what it is.

E. MARTENS (Belgique): La délégation belge préférerait que soit ajoutée la première proposition qui a été faite. Cela va d'ailleurs dans le même sens qu'a donné M". Lignon après la discussion sur l'examen des programmes de terrain, une sorte de résumé ou de synthèse.

C. BERINGER (Director, Field Programme Development Division): In order to accommodate the suggestion of the distinguished delegate of Belgium one may say in the last sentence, "then expressed its concern at the fall which had occurred in the share of UNDP's IPF resources devoted to agriculture, and in particular to projects executed by FAO", if that is acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Belgium, can you live with that? Thank you very much. Any other observations on paragraph 8? Australia.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): I would just like the paragraph read out by the Secretary, if we could have that, please? The paragraph as it now reads.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The first and second sentences of Paragraph 8 would remain unchanged. The third sentence, which begins, "Strongly deploring", in the second clause it would read, "the Conference stressed the necessity for all governments in a position to do so to make every effort to reverse these trends". And we will try to find an appropriate French translation. In the fourth sentence, "In this same connection, the Conference expressed its concern at the fall which had occurred in the share of UNDP's IPF resources devoted to agriculture, and in particular to projects executed by FAO."

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I should like to refer to the first line. I would like to amend it as follows, "The Conference emphasized its deep concern for the negative developments in the real volume of FAO's overall field programmes". This amendment concerns the Arabic text, and corrects the drafting from the grammatical point of view.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Egypt, but what you have just said in English leaves out "during the biennium". Is that what you intended?

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): No, I would just like to change the words used . to express concern in Arabic. I would like to use another word in Arabic, leaving the sentence as it is until the end.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): Given that it is a fairly wide audience that will read this report ultimately, I think that we should spell out IPF, rather than just having an acronym there, if you do not mind.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no further observations on paragraph 8 then we approve that as amended.

M. ZJALIC (Yugoslavia): I would like to suggest to change in the first line of paragraph 16, the last word "interventions" with "programme approach", "change in FAO's field programme approach from technical assistance towards technical cooperation", and so on.

C. BERINGER (Director, Field Programme Development Division): I understand fully what the distinguished delegate from Yugoslavia is trying to say, but I would suggest perhaps "field programme orientation" rather than "approach" because a lot of our field programmes are, in fact, in response to requests, rather than on the direct initiative of FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much and I see that is acceptable to the distinguished delegate of Yugoslavia.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Mon observation porte sur le paragraphe 14 et sur l'expression: "Concept révisé élargi de sécurité alimentaire..." Je suggère de supprimer le mot "révisé" car dans les autres documents ne figure que l'expression "concept élargi..."

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This is one of the points that took quite some discussion in the Drafting Committee and we thought that the rendition of "revised and broadened" would have been used to cover all the discussions, not only within this Committee but in other committees where the matter of food security was being raised. So I think that at least from the English viewpoint we need to retain "revised and broadened" to meet all the discussions that have gone on so far in all the committees. I cannot say for the French, but certainly in the English we would have thought that "revised and broadened" would need to be retained.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to Pakistan I want to indicate that I am advised it has to be in all languages.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): This sentence refers to the particular revised and broadened concept which the Director-General had brought before the Committee on World Food Security and was subsequently endorsed by the Council and the countries, and that concept contains both. It is a revised concept and a broadened concept. It now contains three components which the earlier concept we were using did not. So this is a more accurate formulation of the term, at least in English. I do not now know how it has to be in French but it has to be that it was a "revised and broadened concept".

CHAIRMAN: Congo, in the light of the explanation that the wording in all languages has to be the same, are you willing to accept the inclusion of "revised"?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Jusqu'ici nous avons toujours employé l'expression "concept élargi". Si on veut maintenant ajouter une nouvelle notion, il s'agira d'une nouvelle terminologie.

CHAIRMAN: Evidently something new has been added and so we will have to leave it at that.

Paragraphs 7 to 16, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 7 à 16, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 7 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 2, as amended, was adopted
Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, deuxième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 2, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 3
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - TROISIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 3

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 12
PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 12
PARRAFOS 1 A 12

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): J'invite le Secrétariat à vérifier au paragraphe 9, dans la version française, le terme "contribuants". Ce terme ne me semble pas convenir; on pourrait sans doute en trouver un meilleur.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The Secretariat has promised they will try and find a better word.

R. SALLERY (Canada) : In paragraph 11 I wonder if we might not preferably use "The Conference supported the pledging target of US\$1.35 million". After all it is the governing body of the World Food Programme, the CFA, which approves.

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): Mr Chairman, I do not think it would be quite appropriate, and I read in the Report of the Conference two years ago "The Conference unanimously endorsed the pledging target". The target has to be agreed upon by both the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference. It is not only taken notice of; it has to be approved.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Yes, I believe Mr Regnier is absolutely correct, and in fact his wording is much better than mine. "Unanimously endorsed" is fine.

CHAIRMAN: Are you suggesting we should use that wording here?

R. SALLERY (Canada): Mr Chairman, I would suggest that we use the wording that we used in the last Conference, i.e. that we endorse the target that was approved by the CFA.

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): If we want to do exactly what we did two years ago, in the narrative we said "the Conference unanimously endorsed the pledging target" and so on, and there was a long explanation and then the last paragraph said, "The Conference unanimously adopted the following resolution". So you may have the same here because you have also paragraph 13 which says, "The Conference unanimously adopted the following Resolution" and this should stand because it is necessary for the Conference to approve and for the General Assembly also to approve.

CHAIRMAN: Canada, we will leave the wording as it stands?

R. SALLERY (Canada): If I understand this correctly Mr Chairman, "the Conference unanimously endorsed the pledging target", to be followed up in paragraph 13 by "the Conference unanimously adopted".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. That looks acceptable.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): J'interviens sur la deuxième ligne du paragraphe 11 dans la version française, où il est dit: "Si beaucoup eussent préféré un objectif ..." je suggère de dire: "Bien que beaucoup de délégations eussent préféré un objectif ..." et le reste de la phrase inchangé.

H.P. STRONG (United States of America): I apologise Mr Chairman but I would like to go back to paragraph number 10 in the second line and the second sentence which says 80-percent. The figures that I have seen for 1983 published by the World Food Programme seem to me a bit different. In order to be exactly right on the percentage, I wonder if the Secretariat could check that figure and put in the correct percentage as determined by the World Food Programme.

CHAIRMAN: We will check and adjust.

Paragraphs 1 to 12, as amended, approved

Les Paragraphes 1 à 12, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 12, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 13, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 13, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 13, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 14 TO 30

PARAGRAPHS 14 à 30

PARRAFOS 14 a 30

Jean-Pol NEME (France): Je voudrais rectifier une erreur de traduction dans le texte français du paragraphe 16 où il est dit: "Quelques membres ont signalé que leur pays avait accru ses contributions...". Je préfère que l'on dise: "... avait accru leurs contributions...".

CHAIRMAN: The Secretary agrees. Any more observations on 16? No.

L.J. EAKIN (Australia): On paragraph 18, just a question of the grammar, I think, in the second last and last line where we say "with a view", and I think it should read "to it being concluded". So it would read, "with a view to it being concluded by June 1984".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, this is agreed.

D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): Para proponer que en el último renglón del párrafo 26 se añada antes de "Colombia" la palabra "Cartagena", que es la ciudad donde se celebraría la reunión. Entonces quedaría: "en las reuniones de CEPD que iban a celebrarse en Bucarest (Rumania) y en Cartagena (Colombia) en 1984".

CHAIRMAN: Yes, thank you very much.

A. BOTHNER (Norway): On paragraph 27 I am not quite happy with the term "traditional donors". Possibly it could be replaced by something else, for instance "those donors that channel only a minor part of their assistance through the UNDP", or something similar.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I see no objection to that.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): I like the speed with which we are going through the Report but please excuse me if I comment on paragraph 27. something id said there about the discussion about the the analytical assessment . I have listened to that discussion with great interest and I remember that the delegates of Australia and Canada made comments on it. And when I read paragraph 27 of this Report I wonder those delegates can live with that text. My mother tongue is not English but if I look at the last sentence of that Paragraph, "the Conference expressed the view that reliable and authoritative assessments should and practically could" etc. Well, it is very difficult to understand for me, so I ask for an explanation of that. The wording seems tome very bad.

R. SALLERY (canada): As you probably know and as our colleague from the Netherlands may not know, we spent many hours on this patitular item in the Drafting Group. We were not altogether happy with it and we think that we will probably live to regret it and indeed so will the FAO. I would have perferred something like "the Conference expressed the view that in most cases reliable and authoritative" etc. There will no doubt be situations when this sector deals with agriculture and focuses on activities. FAO, for example, is most competent but other agencies and this institution is not. Do we leave it solely in their hands to perform this? I would think not, but in any case we are prepared to join the consensus and let it go through.

F. BREWSTER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Before you gave Canada the floor, that is precisely what I wanted to say: we did spend a lot of time on this Particular area in the Drafting Committee and I think this was the consensus that everyone agreed we could perhaps live with. That is why it came out in this particular form.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I have very little to add after what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said, except to remind that both Australia and Canada were present there and this was a compromise and we were trying to use, as much as possible, the language used in the Council Report earlier on this issue. That is practically the same language as is used here, so I think we can leave the same language.

L. J. EAKIN (Australia): I would simply like to add that it was by way of consensus which caused us to adopt the form of wording that we have before us. As has been explained, there was considerable discussion and I would simply echo Canada's words in that respect.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, that is a very coherent Drafting Committee! Can you live with that, Netherlands?

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am very satisfied with these explanations.

Paragraphs 14 to 30, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 30, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 30, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 31 to 44

PARAGRAPHE 31 à 44

PARRAFOS 31 a 44

G. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): En el párrafo 32, en la cuarta línea del texto español que dice "como quiera que la EID es una directriz para la acción", a la delegación de Colombia le interesaría que allí figuraran las siguientes palabras: "como quiera que la EID tiene una función directriz para la acción".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I understand that could be changed as you suggest in Spanish but perhaps I should ask the Secretary to read how that would sound in English.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): Looking at the two, we think that the English might remain the same and the Spanish might read "tiene una función directriz." The English perhaps could remain unchanged.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections from the English-speaking delegate and if there are no further comments, we approve paragraph 32.

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): En el párrafo 43 la delegación de Colombia estaría interesada en la siguiente corrección que creo que se aplica solamente al texto español. Se leería así la primera oración: "No obstante, la Conferencia también destaco que el crecimiento de la producción necesitaría lograrse en una perspectiva más amplia -y aquí viene la corrección- teniendo en cuenta el progreso social con la participación en los beneficios por todos los sectores de la población".

Es solamente una corrección de estilo y tengo la impresión que se aplicaría únicamente al texto español.

Paragraphs 31 to 44, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 31 à 44, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 31 a 44, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 45 to 48 approved

Les paragraphes 45 à 48 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 45 a 48 son aprobados

CHAIRMAN: There being no more observations, document C 83/II/REP/3 is adopted. I congratulate the Drafting Committee and thank the Commission for a very good performance this morning despite the fact that we started late.

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 3, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, troisième partie ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 83/II/PV/20

Twenty-second Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-deuxième session

COMMISSION II

22º período de sesiones

COMISION II

TWENTIETH MEETING

VINGTIEME SEANCE

20ª REUNION

(22 November 1983)

The Twentieth Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

C. Ntsane, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La vingtième séance est ouverte à 15 h 15, sous la présidence de

C. Ntsane, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 20ª reunión a las 15.15 horas bajo la presidencia de

C. Ntsane, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

15. Plant Genetic Resources (Follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81) (continued)

15 Ressources phytogénétiques (suivi de la résolution 6/81 de la Conférence) (suite)

15. Recursos fitogenéticos (medidas complementarias de la Resolución 6/81 de la Conferencia) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, good afternoon to you. We have before us for this afternoon three documents which we are going to deal with. Last night we dealt partly with two of these. The one that we have not dealt with but which was introduced in general terms last night is C 83/LIM/33 which is a new resolution. That is the first document we are going to deal with.

The second document that we shall deal with is C 83/II/REP/4 which contains the Draft Resolution on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and has an annex which is the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and in that document we will deal in the first part concerning the resolution with a footnote on reservations that were made last night, and on the second part we will deal with Article 9.2.

The final document that we shall deal with is C 83/II/REP/5 which is the report of Commission II on Plant Genetic Resources (Follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81) and in that document I want you to note that this document has not gone to the Drafting Committee. It has come directly to this Commission because we do not have time to take it to the Drafting Committee and then back to the Commission, so we are going to consider it directly.

We start now with document C 83/LIM/33.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): J'ai suivi avec intérêt l'ordre dans lequel vous souhaitez que le document soit examiné. Personnellement, je souhaiterais que cet ordre soit un peu bouleversé, c'est-à-dire que l'on commence par la dernière discussion que nous avons eue ensemble; nous pourrions regarder le nouveau texte qui est introduit, le document C 83/LIM/33, avant le dernier document. Je pense que dans le nouveau texte qui nous est proposé, il est fait allusion aux choses sur lesquelles nous ne nous sommes pas mis d'accord. Je suggérerai que l'examen du nouveau C 83/LIM/33 soit reporté à un peu plus tard, lorsque nous aurons épuisé les premières questions.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Congo, but I should rule that we will start with C 83/LIM/33, because last night we considered the resolution now contained in C 83/II/REP/4, and the only thing that is left on it is to get the wording of the reservations on the resolution, and we have dealt with the Undertaking and the only part of the Undertaking that has not been agreed upon is Article 9.2. All others were agreed upon last night, so we have considered those two documents except for those two aspects that I have mentioned, and unless in C 83/LIM/33 you have a cross reference to 9.2 then you are free to do so.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya): I think the point just raised by Congo is a pertinent one which I think requires some explanation on my part. As this draft Resolution was thought of late yesterday or last night, at that time the only wording that was available was "any necessary mechanisms", so I am putting it here on the provision that whatever the final outcome of the discussion of 9.2 we would put the exact wording of 9.2 instead of this wording here, but this is the wording that was available up to last night so it should not be binding to anybody at this stage.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Assuming that we are dealing with C 83/LIM/33, I think it appropriate that we compliment our Libyan colleague and those who worked with him for the work which they have done on this resolution. You will recall that my delegation at one point had suggested that the IBPGR could report to COAG periodically, or that COAG could have as one of its agenda items for its sessions, an item on plant genetic resources. This Resolution meets many of our concerns and will, I believe, be acceptable to many of the delegations here.

You will recall, however, that the Government of Canada made a reservation on principle on the previous resolution and the undertaking itself. We will therefore have to make a similar reservation on this resolution, at least until our authorities in Ottawa have had an opportunity to consider it; and I would therefore request that a footnote to this effect appear in the resolution.

It would also greatly facilitate our consideration of this resolution if we could be assured from you, Mr Chairman, and the Secretariat that the resolution in no way interferes with the current mandate of the International Board of Plant Genetic Research, that the sub-committee as proposed would not seek to govern or direct the activities of IBPGR; that the costs of activities developed by the sub-committee or the secretariat in response to this resolution are to be borne by the voluntary signatories to the Convention itself.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your continuing cooperation, Canada.

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): En realidad quería con su venia hacer una pregunta sobre el procedimiento solamente.

El Delegado del Congo hizo una propuesta sobre el orden en que íbamos a tratar los documentos aquí en el seno de esta Comisión. La propuesta de la Delegación del Congo fue apoyada por la Delegación de Libia que fue la Delegación que presentó este documento.

Antes de seguir adelante en el debate, me gustaría saber cuál es el documento que estamos discutiendo y a qué documento tenemos que hacer referencia en nuestra intervención.

CHAIRMAN: Since Libya had drafted the resolution, what the delegate was doing was to give an explanation of the words that are used which are cross-referenced into Article 9.2 of the proposed undertaking. We are now dealing with document C 83/LIM/33.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): Our delegation would join with certainly most of the comments from the Canadian delegation. We feel that the Libyan resolution is well done. We feel also that if a new body is needed, the proposal to establish a sub-committee of COAG which would meet concurrently with COAG is probably the best arrangement. However, the United States is not convinced that a new sub-committee is necessary and, in any case, it would seem premature until the undertaking becomes operative.

Likewise, the decision on the need for a sub-committee would seem better left to the Director-General, the Council and the COAG, without mandating that it be set up.

For these reasons, and to be consistent with our policy on the undertaking, the United States wishes to reserve its position on this resolution and requests, like Canada, that our reservation be indicated in a footnote to the resolution.

S. GOTO (Japan): With regard to the proposed resolution we are of the view that the possible establishment of a subsidiary body of COAG on plant genetic resources should first be examined by the COAG itself, including the necessity of a new body or, if COAG considers it necessary, the terms of reference of the new body. We believe it is not appropriate for the Conference to pre-judge the future practice of the Director-General and of COAG. If the Conference wants to adopt this resolution, we would like to reserve our position on it and the reservation to be specified in a footnote.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je vous remercie, M. le Président, d'avoir bien voulu me redonner la parole, et je remercie également la délégation de la Libye qui a fait la proposition de résolution et qui m'a donné les explications que j'attendais.

.Si j'ai demandé que l'on change l'ordre dans lequel sont examinés les documents, c'est parce que j'ai constaté qu'au deuxième paragraphe de la résolution présentée par la Libye, on faisait également allusion au point 9.2, et je craignais que l'on puisse examiner un texte qui fasse allusion à un autre texte. Dans cette optique, je pensais qu'il était bon qu'on en finisse avec l'engagement d'abord, et ensuite que l'on examine la résolution après avoir réglé la question de l'engagement. J'ai donc suggéré que la résolution de la Libye soit examinée plus tard.

Si la Conférence estime que l'on peut faire autrement, pour moi, cela va aussi bien, en sachant d'avance que la question est ouverte pour la résolution du fait qu'on ne se serait pas mis d'accord sur l'engagement.

A. LUTZ (Finland): I have a question, namely: now we have this document C 83/LIM/33 and I see that it can be related to Article 11 of the undertaking when discussing the principles. I do not know whether this new committee or sub-committee which has been proposed can be interpreted as one of the principles. If it can be interpreted as one of the principles, then I see a certain danger that this would probably prevent some countries from joining in the undertaking.

H. FARAY (Maros): Notre délégation est parfaitement favorable à la résolution présentée par la Libye. Nous l'appuyons à fond. Mais nous sommes obligés de faire des réserves qui vont non pas dans le sens de celles du Canada, mais dans le sens de celles du Congo. Etant donné que cette résolution fait allusion, et même référence, à l'engagement international, il nous paraît pour le moins curieux d'adopter la résolution avant de s'être mis d'accord sur les termes de l'engagement.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): My delegation would like to compliment the Libyan delegation for bringing forward a very constructive resolution which has our wholehearted support. Yesterday the Pakistan delegation was one of those who insisted on mention being made of the inter-governmental Committee in Article 9.2 of the Undertaking. In view of the fact that this resolution has been moved, and subject to some slight amendments which we shall suggest when the substance of this resolution is discussed, we shall withdraw our opposition to the draft, suggested by the Contact Group.

CHAIRMAN: Do you have amendments that you would like to propose?

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): Is this the time for suggesting some minor amendments in this? I thought that the discussion was going to be on the general principle of this resolution, but perhaps a little later, if you so wish, I can suggest amendments.

CHAIRMAN: If you are ready with the amendments, we can take them right away.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I would suggest that in this operative paragraph starting with "requests" – I would suggest "requests the Council", the word "hereby" is not necessary - "requests the Council to establish a subsidiary body". The rest of the words need not be mentioned. This is the only amendment I had in view.

LEGAL COUNSEL: There is a slight technical difficulty, I am afraid, with the suggestion made by Pakistan. The words "and the Committee on Agriculture to take the necessary measures" are intended to cover the fact that the Council does not establish the subsidiary bodies of its own subsidiary bodies. In order to follow the hierarchy down the line, the Conference instructs the Council, the Council in turn instructs its own subsidiary body to create the body which you are trying to establish here.

I therefore think, with all due respect, that it would be preferable to leave the wording as proposed by Libya in this particular paragraph. The word "hereby" could, of course, very well be left out.

CHAIRMAN: Pakistan, are you happy with the explanation?

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): I am happy with the explanation but that only means that the words "and the COAG" need to be deleted. But I had suggested that my proposal that the words "take the necessary action to" may still be eliminated. I did not hear any clarification to that effect from the Podium.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Yes, I think that would be perfectly in order. The paragraph would then read: "Requests the Council and the Committee on Agriculture to establish" etc. I think that would meet the point raised by the delegate of Pakistan.

J. SONNEVELD (Netherlands): Generally we can agree with the proposed resolution. We have only one question and in fact a proposal. In paragraph 2.(b) it is stated that, it belongs to the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee "to take or recommend measures". My question is whether a subcommittee can take measures and that it should not be "recommend measures" and then "to recommend to" either to FAO or to national governments or to IBPGR or whatever other organization "to take measures".

LEGAL COUNSEL: In connection with the observations of the delegate of the Netherlands, the sub-sidiary bodies of the Committee on Agriculture, of course, report to that Committee, so you could leave just "recommend measures". Its reports will, of course, go to the Committee on Agriculture which is the only body to which it is competent to report.

CHAIRMAN: Netherlands, are you happy with that?

J. SONNEVELD (Netherlands): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Any more requests for the floor? In that case I believe we have had our discussion on document C 83/LIM/33 and the resolution. The principle of the resolution is generally agreed but with the reservations as indicated by Canada, the United States and Japan.

Before we adopt this resolution, as we did this other one yesterday, we move to the next item so that we can get appropriate wording with respect to the second paragraph of this resolution. Going now to document C 83/II/REP/4, on page 2, which contains the resolution on International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

R. SALLERY (Canada): The question of the text of the footnote and the location for that footnote, I would like to propose that the footnote appear right after "Resolution /83", in other words at the top of the page. The footnote itself would read very simply as follows, "the Governments of Canada, Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America reserve their positions with respect to the Resolution and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources".

CHAIRMAN: I should like to direct this question to the secretariat and the Legal Counsel. Is that arrangement proposed by Canada acceptable and in order?

LEGAL COUNSEL: The making of reservations is very common and there have been many precedents for doing so. The place where the reservation is inserted and where the footnote actually appears varies considerably and has many variants in the practice of FAO. I do not think there would be any objection, unless the Conference itself has any objection. From the Secretariat point of view, it would not be inadmissible to place it where the delegate of Canada suggested.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, that is in order.

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): We expressed yesterday some difficulty with parts of the undertaking. I think I am asking for some guidance at this point. We feel there is still an omission in the undertaking as it is set out at the present time. Is this the correct place to put down the reservations for the other countries, is this the right approach?

CHAIRMAN: New Zealand, are you reserving your position on everything, Resolution and Undertaking?

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): Not everything, no, certainly not.

CHAIRMAN: On what?

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): As we pointed out yesterday we feel there is an omission in the undertaking which does not cover for the breeding material, from the compensation of breeders for the breeding material and it is this particular area where we have the difficulty.

CHAIRMAN: New Zealand, would you be happy if your reservation was recorded in the report.

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): Yes, that would be satisfactory.

CHAIRMAN: In that case we move on to the Annex.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Antes de pasar al Compromiso, y dado que se han manifestado reservas para aprobar la resolución sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, tal vez valdría la pena hacer una leve enmienda, leve enmienda, para tomar en consideración estos casos en el punto 4, al final de la resolución. Repito, para reconocer estas objeciones que han manifestado algunas delegaciones, propondríamos una redacción que diera cabida a esta situación. Al final del punto 4, el último de la resolución, tendríamos que sustituir "Estados interesados" por "Estados firmantes del Compromiso", "Estados firmantes del Compromiso", ya que nos estamos refiriendo al órgano o mecanismo intergubernamental, al cual pueden acogerse todos los Estados Miembros, en este caso particularmente, los que firmen o apoyen con su firma el Compromiso internacional. Esto es para responder simplemente a las notas al pie de página que se han incluido.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I should like a clarification from the delegate of Mexico. I am not entirely sure of how his proposed amendment fits in with the Resolution which had been proposed by Libya whereby an intergovernmental body, which would be a subsidiary body of the Committee on Agriculture, would be open to all Member Nations of FAO and also to non Member Nations of FAO. The amendment that he is proposing to paragraph 4 limits the Director-General's proposal to only those states that are signatories - perhaps signatories is not the right word, rather those who actually adhere to the Undertaking. Therefore there seems to be a conflict here. Maybe the delegate of Mexico could explain what he has in mind, because I might also point out that the Director-General's proposal in document C 83/25, as far as I recollect, does not limit membership of the body proposed there to those countries that adhere to the Undertaking. I would also draw attention to the fact that when adhering to the Undertaking, Article 11 specifically envisages governments indicating the extent to which they can give effect to the principles contained therein. Moreover, would "those who adhere" include those who adhere, but at the same time indicate that they had certain difficulties with one or more provisions?

CHAIRMAN: In the light of those explanations, Mexico, do you insist on your amendment?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Agradecemos la explicación del Asesor Jurídico, pero nos parece pertinente la observación y la propuesta de todos modos. Efectivamente, estamos hablando de un órgano auxiliar. En este caso estamos poniéndonos de acuerdo en que será dependiente del COAG para que puedan tomar o compartir, sería más apropiado decirlo, compartir, decisiones en materia de recursos fitogenéticos. La resolución y particularmente el Compromiso, se refieren a Estados e Instituciones no miembros de la FAO, como correctamente lo señaló el Asesor Jurídico, que tengan la voluntad, y subrayo voluntad, de firmar el Compromiso. Esto es simplemente lo que hay que mostrar: la de firmar y apoyar al Compromiso. En consecuencia, la constitución del órgano auxiliar tendrá acceso a aquellos que han firmado el Compromiso, y en consecuencia, se incorporen plenamente a las discusiones del órgano auxiliar.

Creo que la posición nuestra es muy clara, señor Presidente: la voluntad-estamos pidiendo que el Compromiso vaya acompañado de una firma inicial.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I just wanted to ask additional questions to the Legal Counsel, one, whether or not it would be possible to exclude membership, say, on this sub-committee to members who were already members of COAG, whether that is possible, and two, whether or not it is necessary for us to specify some kind of trigger, mechanism in order to make this resolution operative, i.e., do you need a minimum number of signatories?

J.M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): I am afraid I have some difficulties with the Mexican suggestion. It had been my understanding that this intergovernmental committee which we have all now been arguing about for some time was intended to be a body open to all, not only Member Nations of COAG but to other countries and also other organizations. In this case even the original wording of point 4 is somewhat narrow, although I do not intend arguing with that, but I certainly have difficulties with the narrowing of the scope of the Committee as proposed by the Mexican delegation.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I should like to answer the two questions raised by the delegate of Canada. In paragraphs 12 and 13 of Rule XXXII, which relates to the Committee on Agriculture, it is laid down that the Committee may establish subsidiary bodies on an exceptional basis. Paragraph 13(a) in particular provides that the Committee may include in the membership of subsidiary bodies Member Nations that are not members of the Committee. Paragraph 13(b) goes on to refer to non-Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, I think it is fairly clear from these provisions, that all subsidiary bodies would be open to those states that are members of COAG and, consequently one would not exclude members of COAG on the basis of whether or not a country had adhered to the Undertaking. That is the first point.

The second point relates to whether a trigger mechanism is required. The answer to that is no. The Undertaking is not a convention; it does not enter into force on ratification or any particular act by a certain number of governments. A government which adheres to the Undertaking is making a unilateral declaration which is strongly morally binding on it. But it is not a legal obligation vis-à-vis all the other governments, and this is explained in some detail in the basic document that you have been considering. The Undertaking will be circulated and any government may, at any time, write to the Director-General indicating that it is prepared to adhere to it and, as I said before, also indicating the extent to which it is in a position to apply the principles embodied in the Undertaking.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Actually it was not the intention of my delegation to speak on this point. However, I think we have to. Having heard the reasons adduced by the delegate of the United Kingdom I should like to say that we too share them and find it difficult to accept Mexico's proposal for this paragraph 4. Perhaps I could add one further reason for our misgivings. It was our original view that COAG itself could perform the tasks of this inter-governmental body. The majority view was that a decision had to be taken now on the setting up of a subsidiary body, that was the view that prevailed. We have our misgivings about that but we did not voice them.

There is one thing I want to say, however. Let us not forget that the attractiveness of the whole Undertaking is a point of quite considerable importance. The Undertaking as a whole can only be effective if it provides a basis for the cooperation of a large number of Member States. This is something I think we ought not to jeopardise.

CHAIRMAN: Apart from the difficulty that was expressed by the delegate of the United Kingdom and the one from the Federal Republic of Germany it would seem that in line with the explanations of the Legal Counsel the proposal you have made might be contrary to the provisions in the Basic Texts. Would you still like to insist on your amendment?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Nuestra intención en la propuesta fue fundamentalmente destacar la necesidad de buena voluntad que debe mover a los Estados en la firma del Compromiso. Hemos insistido, a lo largo de nuestras intervenciones, que los países en desarrollo hubieran aspirado a un convenio internacional donde las responsabilidades y los derechos de los participantes fueran

reconocidos y respaldados por todos, dentro de un marco legal. A lo largo de nuestras intervenciones hemos insistido en que, si no hay condiciones para ello, el Compromiso internacional que nos presenta el Director General es aceptable bajo el supuesto de buena voluntad de los participantes. En el momento en que algunas delegaciones se hacen reservas respecto a la resolución y tienen el derecho, como miembros del Comité de Agricultura, de participar en el órgano auxiliar que formamos, no observamos equivalencia de responsabilidades y derechos de todos aquellos miembros que, habiendo firmado el Compromiso, estamos también participando en el órgano auxiliar. Este fue el motivo, la razón que motivó nuestra recomendación. Si no hay delegaciones que apoyen nuestra moción, si se considera pertinente que existen más observaciones, nosotros retiramos nuestra propuesta.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your cooperation, Mexico.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I have just heard the intervention of the delegate of Mexico, but we have certain difficulties with respect to operative paragraph 4 of the resolution under consideration. We feel that as a matter of principle any organization or country or body which does not undertake any responsibility with respect to this Undertaking inasmuch as it is not a signatory, with or without reservations, we do not see such an organization or state or body getting any right to monitor activities in respect of this Undertaking. This is a quid pro quo. If some body takes responsibilities or liabilities in respect of this Undertaking only such a state or body should have a right to monitor. We do not see how this could be left open to everybody that they get a right to monitor or supervise activities of organizations participating in this Undertaking, whereas they do not undertake any responsibility whatsoever. So we would like to limit the membership of this inter-governmental body to such organizations and countries which have something to do with the Undertaking and certain responsibilities under this Undertaking. Otherwise we will find it very difficult to agree.

CHAIRMAN: Before we go on with this discussion, the point of the matter is that you have suggested that this body should be a subsidiary of the COAG, and the Legal Counsel has just read the provisions that indicate what should happen in the event that COAG establishes a subsidiary body, and that is open, according to law, to all Member States who are members of COAG, including even others who are not Member States. There is no way that we can go against the provisions of the law as long as we say that this body should be a subsidiary of COAG.

A. CAVERO MONCANUT (España): Mi delegación no ve claras las cosas en este momento. Apoya la propuesta de México por que considera que igual que hay reservas para la firma del Compromiso debería haber reservas para formar parte del Grupo Intergubernamental a los países que no estén interesados en el compromiso.

Yo no sé legalmente si se podría hacer estas reservas para entrar en el grupo, pero no vemos que las cosas estén claras en este sentido.

CHAIRMAN: I think it should be clear. Members of the body who are participating in these deliberations all have a right to reserve. However, I would like once more to ask the Legal Counsel to explain very carefully what is in the Basic Texts relating to COAG and the establishment of subsidiary bodies thereof.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Paragraph 12 .of Rule XXXII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that COAG will define the terms of reference, composition and, as far as possible, the duration of the mandate of each subsidiary body. In this particular case the Conference is handing down instructions to COAG on how it is going to create its subsidiary body.

Paragraph 13 goes on to provide that the COAG may include in the membership of the subsidiary bodies, Member Nations that are not members of COAG, and it also provides that non-Member Nations of FAO may also be included in the membership of these subsidiary bodies. It would therefore appear that the subsidiary bodies should at least be open to the members of that Committee.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Je dois dire que l'explication donnée par le Conseiller juridique rend les choses plus confuses dans mon esprit et en tout cas le libellé du délégué du Mexique me paraît plus clair. Nous voulons tout simplement que ceux qui n'ont pas signé cet Engagement ne soient pas dans un organisme où, au fond, ils ne sont pas engagés. C'est cela le problème: nous voulons que les gens soient liés et que, par ce fait, ils puissent, au sein de ce comité intergouvernemental, avoir aussi des responsabilités allant dans le sens de l'engagement qu'ils ont pris. Je ne vois pas comment, sans être engagé, on peut être dans une institution. C'est pourquoi ma délégation appuie fortement la proposition du délégué du Mexique qui lui paraît plus claire.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros entendemos que si hay países que han expresado reservas sobre la resolución y el Compromiso están indicando claramente que no van a participar en la implementación de las decisiones a que se llegue sobre este asunto.

El párrafo 4 dice "un Comité intergubernamental u otro órgano". Esto no quiere decir que deba ser un Comité, un Órgano completamente abierto a todos los países. Generalmente se establecen Comités u Órganos limitados a un número de países y esto obviaría la reserva legal en que viene insistiendo el señor Roche, de manera que por estas consideraciones la delegación de Colombia apoya la propuesta de México, que es la única coherente.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je suis désolé d'avoir attendu longtemps pour avoir la parole que j'avais demandée avant les deux précédents orateurs. Peut-être suis-je intervenu trop souvent, si cela a dérangé le Président j'en suis désolé.

Je voudrais dire un certain nombre de choses: premièrement, je suggère que, par votre intermédiaire, le Mexique puisse nous dicter le complément qu'il propose au point 4 de la résolution; ensuite, je voudrais rappeler que-, tout au long de notre débat général, toutes les délégations, sans exception, ont insisté sur l'importance du sujet dont nous débattions. Je pense que la création d'un comité intergouvernemental qui aura la responsabilité de coordonner les activités des institutions qui existent et de celles qui seront créées est primordiale. Sans être totalement opposés à la proposition de la création d'un comité qui serait dépendant du Comité de l'agriculture, nous pensons qu'il est indispensable de mettre en place un comité intergouvernemental.

Concernant le point de vue juridique, je voudrais savoir si la Conférence n'a pas la compétence pour décider de la création du comité intergouvernemental. Jusque là, nous avons évoqué un certain nombre de choses. En tant que Conférence, avons-nous la possibilité, la compétence, de suggérer la création d'un comité intergouvernemental?

Pour terminer, si vous acceptez qu'un certain nombre de réserves soient retenues au point 4 pour ceux qui ne veulent pas souscrire à la Résolution pour les raisons qu'ils ont invoquées, nous pensons qu'à ce titre nous pouvons également faire des réserves en ce qui concerne ces deux résolutions, si l'on n'acceptait pas la création du comité intergouvernemental.

CHAIRMAN: So that the same question will not crop up again, I should like at this stage to meet the request of Congo by asking the distinguished delegate of Mexico to repeat the proposal and then giving the floor to the Legal Counsel to answer.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Como decía al principio de nuestra intervención, la nuestra es una enmienda pequeña. Al final del número 4, al pie, al final de la Resolución suprimir la palabra "interesados" y sustituirla por "firmantes del Compromiso". Repito, "firmantes del Compromiso" punto.

LEGAL COUNSEL: So far the Conference has been seized of the resolution proposed by Libya which endorsed the Director-General's proposal, contained in the basic document that you were discussing, that any subsidiary body that was created would be a subsidiary organ of COAG. In reply to the question raised by the delegate of Congo, I should mention that there are other types of body which the Conference may, if it so wishes, establish. They are bodies of a different kind and they are provided for in Article VI of the Constitution. Paragraph 1 of Article VI provides that the Conference or Council may establish Commissions, open to all Member Nations and Associate Members, or Regional Commissions, open to Member Nations of certain Regions. Paragraph 2 of Article VI provides for the establishment of Committees or Working Parties which are open to selected Member Nations. Those would be the only other alternatives open to the Conference at this stage and I leave you with that thought.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am reluctant to enter into an argument, particularly when so many legal views are being expressed, but I am more concerned with the practical aspects of this. The amendment, as I heard it, refers to signatories of the Undertaking. There may be many more signatories and non-signatories of the Organization than there are those reserving their position on the Resolution. Only four countries have reserved their position on the Resolution, but this does not mean that 146 countries are going to sign the Undertaking next year. Therefore, you may end up, when you want this body to meet, with a very small and unrepresentative membership, unrepresentative insofar as the totality of the membership of the Conference is concerned. I do not think this is something which is desired by anybody. We want this Committee to meet and to discuss, even though it may not be possible to achieve agreement, and even though some countries may not approve of what the Conference is doing with these two Resolutions.

Furthermore, I would observe that in the proposed terms of reference in C 83/LIM/33 it is not only the operation of the Undertaking which is in question but all matters relating to the policy, programmes and activities of FAO in the field of plant genetic resources, so that this Committee would have a somewhat wider scope than that covered by the Undertaking itself.

I repeat that I do not want to get into arguments with delegations on the merits or demerits of reservations. I would imagine that those who are reserving their position would observe due caution in committees in trying to impose their opinions on those who have not reserved their positions, but that is an entirely different question from excluding non-signatories. We might in that way exclude one-half or more of the membership of FAO from the Committees, so I would counsel caution in the further discussion of this issue.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Perú): Creo que en este momento es necesario etimológicamente saber lo que quiere decir "compromiso". Compromiso quiere decir comprometerse a algo, y es más, si leemos el párrafo 2 allí llega el momentum del compromiso; de todas maneras el Director General va a consultar, el párrafo 2 lo dice, va a consultar a los Estados Miembros, les va a pedir una fecha para la cual, digamos, estén de acuerdo con esto y lo van a integrar o no lo van a integrar; supongo que la respuesta que va a querer el Director General no va a ser verbal, va a ser una carta escrita, lo cual prácticamente es el compromiso que buscamos. Parece que no han leído ni han pesado bien el punto 2. En el punto 2 hay un momentum del cual ya no se puede escapar; cuando el Director General le pida a cada Estado Miembro "bueno, este es el compromiso internacional ¿qué reserva tiene usted, lo va usted a cumplir?". Supongo que no se va a quedar el Director General contento con una respuesta de palabra, va a tener que contestársele por escrito y eso prácticamente es un compromiso.

Por consiguiente, yo creo que esto es una cuestión de buena fe y de buena voluntad. Creemos que sea como un viaje en un bus que sale por primera vez y yo no quiero comprar el boleto sino a mitad del camino, cuando sé que el viaje es muy bonito. Si yo tengo confianza en que este bus debe caminar bien pues tomo el boleto cuando recién parte el bus y corro los riesgos y defendiendo este viaje. Esta, digamos, medida tan importante en la cual yo sé que todos tienen buena fe, inclusive los que aparentemente no comprenden y creen que firmar el compromiso es una Letra en blanco, un cheque en blanco; yo no creo que lo sea, pero sí tiene que haber un momentum. De acuerdo con lo que dice el artículo 2 hay un momentum, y ahí se dice fecha entre paréntesis en la cual el Estado X va a decir: sí señor, solamente el punto 3 y el 2, con el resto me comprometo. Entonces por más que el Asesor Legal esté muy pegado a la letra y que diga que no hay necesidad de firmar, va a haber necesidad de mandar una respuesta por escrito, lo cual es un documento escrito que va a comprometer al que lo firma.

Por consiguiente, yo en el punto 4 no quitaría la palabra "interesados", dejaría "todos los Estados interesados firmantes del compromiso".

Yo apoyo la idea de la delegación Mexicana y me parece que he expuesto algunos elementos relacionados con el punto 2 que en algún momento de toda esta mecánica operativa van a tener que contestar los países si se comprometen o no porque el Director General les va a hacer una consulta por escrito seguramente.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Peru. I do not want you to make the mistake that I do not like you; I like you very much, but when members are going to sign the Undertaking that is a decision that will be taken in the individual countries and we have not even asked them to answer here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On that very point, to be absolutely clear about where you want to go, paragraph 2 of the Undertaking does not merely request you to get on the boat and pay your ticket in full the first time. On the contrary it says to inform the Director-General by a certain date

"of the extent to which they are in a position to give effect to the principles contained in the Undertaking". This means that even those, the majority, who have not entered reservations now at this meeting may still say that they accept some parts but not others, and even those who have entered reservations may still say that they accept all of them, but then you have a strange situation in which a hundred countries can be accepting different parts of the whole, and what do you do then? Do you exclude all of them who say there is one little word I don't like or exclude those who say there is one little paragraph I don't like. You end up with a committee of five people. This does not make sense from the Director-General's point of view. We want a committee who can make progress even though they may not one hundred percent endorse everything that is being adopted today by the Conference. It really does not make sense to exclude people who may or may not accept all or some of the parts of the Undertaking if and when they write to the Director-General by that date.

The concept here is totally at variance with that part of paragraph 2. I am not suggesting that you go back and change paragraph 2, God forbid at this stage. But I am suggesting that you might look at paragraph 4 in the light of paragraph 2 of the other document.

R.C. GUPTA (India): We have carefully listened to the clarification given by the Legal Counsel of the Organization and the explanation of the Deputy Director-General.

From what the Legal Counsel stated to be the provision of the relevant Rule, it seems to us that it is not binding upon COAG to include all the members of COAG into a particular sub-committee. The Committee on Agriculture has the power to constitute a sub-committee and may include from among all the members of the Committee, so it is not incumbent upon it to include all the members or the non-members. What the Director-General explained has relevance, but we are prepared to go to the extent that any country, while signing this Undertaking and indicating to what extent it will abide by it, even to the least extent - if they agree to two provisions, fine - we say include them in this intergovernment group, but some of the countries who have completely reserved their position, they dissociate themselves completely from this Undertaking. We cannot see how such countries should delegate to themselves the right of monitoring the activities of such of the countries or bodies who have signed this Undertaking. It is the simple principle of law that powers flow from responsibilities. Those who do not undertake any responsibility of any kind whatsoever, how do they get the power to monitor the activities. Again it is not a question of five or ten countries. I am quite sure and sanguine that lots of countries would indicate their willingness, maybe with reservation, that they agree with ten provisions, or five provisions or two provisions, but we are sanguine that lots of countries will agree to this, and whether, going to the extreme, - you see with two countries it's a question of principle; it is not a question of practicability purely; it is a question of principle. Those who do not undertake any responsibilities under this code of conduct, or moral responsibilities, we certainly cannot agree to give them any right to monitor the responsibilities.

G. STUYCK (Belgique): Ma question ne signifie nullement que je me désintéresse de ce passionnant débat juridique, mais ma délégation, comme beaucoup d'autres, s'est toujours montrée soucieuse depuis de nombreuses années de savoir ce que les propositions qui nous étaient soumises par le secrétariat pour la constitution d'un nouvel organe ou pour l'adoption d'un programme par un organe de l'organisation pourraient représenter comme dépenses, quel serait le budget supplémentaire qui serait nécessaire pour financer de telles activités. Nous venons à peine d'adopter le budget de l'Organisation. Je me félicite qu'il ait pu être accueilli à l'unanimité par la Conférence, et je vois déjà que l'on nous propose un nouvel organe, qui devrait accroître ses dépenses, à moins que M. le Directeur général adjoint m'assure qu'il n'en sera pas ainsi. Toutefois, je serais reconnaissant au Directeur général adjoint s'il était en mesure de nous indiquer quelles seraient éventuellement les dépenses supplémentaires que la création du Comité consultatif, ou d'un organe quel qu'il soit, pourrait représenter comme charge pour l'Organisation.

CHAIRMAN: I believe it would be proper to dispose of certain questions where possible as we go along, so that we can make some progress. Deputy Director-General, are you in a position to answer to Belgium?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I thought this point had been raised during the Commission's discussions and been disposed of there, but for the sake of helping this discussion along I would say that we would make our best efforts to fit the requirements of work on this subject into our work programme which already envisages work on plant and genetic resources. Instead of carrying out some of the activities which might have been carried out if there were no committee, we will carry them out in

connection with the committee. The additional work and expense involved in having a committee will be related almost entirely to the amount of discussion that goes on in the committee itself, so it really depends on how long Belgium and others want to speak in that sub-committee what the extra expense will be, but even so I think that we can absorb that by using flexibility and perhaps saving money on other discussions.

M. AHMAD (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation does appreciate the sentiments expressed by the Mexican delegation, the Indian delegation, and the delegation of Colombia when they said that this committee should be confined and restricted to only those members who are signatories, but I thought that in paragraph 4 the word is not "all States"; it is "all interested States". It has been made clear that this Undertaking, if it is to be adhered to at all, will be a moral commitment, and I think those people, those States, who show interest to become members are ultimately prepared to take- on that moral responsibility, and we should have a framework under which we should encourage the states so that we can achieve universal membership for this very important body. The word "interested" I think does carry some kind of a minor moral obligation ultimately to take on this responsibility, and we should not bar the door on such States.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Estando como están las cosas, nosotros en un momento al principio de la discusión vacilamos un poco en cuanto a la necesidad de esta proposición que hace la distinguida Delegación de México.

Pero nuestra Delegación esperaba que los que no desean participar del Compromiso, no tendrían tampoco interés de participar en el Subcomité, y qué función podría hacer un Asesor o Auxiliar del COAG, si no están mínimamente con deseos de participar. Por lo tanto, veo ahí una contradicción. México propone garantizar la plena función de este Subcomité o Comisión la tengan los que están dentro del Compromiso porque sería absurdo llevar la discusión dentro del Subcomité; esto sí es una vertiente práctica. Dentro del Subcomité van a participar los que tienen todavía cierta convicción cara a la función de esta situación. Consideramos que no debe haber problema.

Nosotros estamos muy claros desde la discusión del Comité de Agricultura de que hay una situación de intereses y que esto hay que irlo aceptando poco a poco; y lo lamentamos porque vemos que los que han hecho la reserva son países que podrían dar mucha ayuda por su valor técnico, por su poder y capacidad científica en esta rama que necesita de ellos. Pero creemos que en la medida en que avance el tiempo y que se le vaya contestando al Director General serán más los que deseen participar de lo acordado en esta Conferencia.

No vemos la preocupación de la exclusión. Creo que no hay interés por parte de México en excluir, sino que creo que sí hay una autoexclusión que viene previo a lo que México ha planteado. Además analizando lo que algunos de los que han reservado han dicho que comprenden en parte, pero que necesitan un análisis más profundo por la situación técnico-científica que esto conforma. Esto lo estamos discutiendo desde el COAG. Por lo tanto, esperamos que esto proporcione un aumento progresivo de los firmantes o de los aceptantes.

En este momento creemos que es pertinente la proposición de la Delegación de México.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia piensa que empieza a aclararse un poco el desenlace de este debate.

En efecto, estamos muy agradecidos al Sr. Roche, nuestros Consejero Legal, quien al citar el párrafo 2 del Artículo VI de la Constitución que se refiere a Estados Miembros seleccionados, ha hecho desaparecer la reserva legal a este respecto. Por lo demás, los cuatro países que han hecho reservas, si bien lamentamos que ellos hayan asumido esa actitud, no han dicho aquí ninguno de esos cuatro países que quieran participar en ese Comité o en ese Órgano. De manera que por lo menos debemos reconocerles los representantes de esos Estados que han sido sensatos y coherentes en su actitud.

Con respecto a los costos ya el Sr. West respondió al Embajador de Bélgica que hay necesidad de encuadrar esto dentro de la relación costo/beneficio. Es un asunto que interesa a una gran mayoría de los países del mundo. De manera que tal vez una redacción un poco más amplia podría atender las inquietudes planteadas por el Sr. West con respecto al párrafo 2 del Compromiso acerca del tiempo y la manera de cómo los distintos Estados van a ir aceptando las disposiciones de ese Compromiso.

Podríamos a caso complementar la propuesta del colega mexicano que fue explicada también por el colega Embajador del Perú y decir lo siguiente al final del párrafo 4: "Todos los Estados interesados signatarios del Compromiso y aquellos Estados que en cualquier momento se adhieran a éste."

R. SALLERY (Canada): I really do not know if I can be of any help at this time or not. I think it is unfortunate that the atmosphere has become somewhat confrontational. I would like to assure the delegate of Peru, who is a good friend of mine, that I certainly like him and also the delegate of the Congo and of Mexico and others; and that is not, of course, the issue at stake here. When the four countries put forward their reservations it was just that: a reservation. We did not say a direct no, and that is our interpretation of it: that in situations like this, it is a sovereign right of governments to have hesitations, to take a bit of time to see how a mechanism is going to work. I think we would all do well to listen to the advice and the wisdom of Mr West in this case, that it would be difficult enough, signatories or not, to have people agree and to get this programme working.

There have been some references to the commitment of Member States to this issue. Well, certainly there would be no question of commitment of the four Member States to this Organization. If you look at Conference document C 83/LIM/13 which has the status contributions, you will certainly see that all four of those States are paid up. They have been strongly supportive members of this institution, which occasional disagreements - that is to be expected. In our own case, even though we may have difficulties at times with the FAO, we insist on paying our contribution the first day it is due; we could pay it the last day. So I do not think our interest and support for this Organization should come into question at this time.

The advice which Mr West has given us is I think good and important. I would much rather be wooed than spurned in this situation. That is up to this new Committee or whatever it is going to be, to attempt to develop its programme and rationale for its existence and to convince those or other members who have not become signatories, to do so. If, however, we insist on limiting the membership to signatories of some type, clause 4 states in the second line "within the framework of the FAO". Now, given the fact that I know, at least in our case - I am not speaking for all four - but if I have to go back to Ottawa and say there is going to be this Committee which we are barred from, even though it is going to be in the FAO and we do pay our dues and fees and everything on time, I know we will have a lot more difficulty. We pay our fees for specific reasons in order to participate in the activities of this institution and surely you would not expect to have complete consensus at all times. If we are going to penalize people there may be good reason to penalize the other 57 members who, for one, two, three or four years have not paid their dues.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am not going to get into the question of paying dues; I have had enough of that in Commission III! But I do want to draw attention again to paragraph 2 because I am concerned that we are talking loosely about signatories and adhering, and I cannot see anything here which leads to the conclusion that there are going to be signatories or non-signatories. If you read the paragraph you will see that it refers not only to Member States but also to non-Member Nations that are members of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and autonomous international institutions; and all these people are asked to inform the Director-General of the extent to which they are in a position to give effect to the principles contained in the Undertaking. They are not asked to sign the Undertaking. They are asked to inform the Director-General of the extent to which they are in a position to give effect to the principle and they may well do so, saying: I can give effect 99 percent, or 75 percent, or 15 percent.

Therefore you cannot define a class of people as signatories or anything else because that kind of situation will not arise. There will be a number of letters, each with its own statement of what their position is on the principles, and some may not even reply, for some time at any rate. So I do not see how you can, in fact, give effect to the idea of excluding those who have reserved their position or who have "signed" because that kind of clear-cut situation is not going to arise. And, as I said before, if you want to exclude everybody who has not accepted these principles 100 percent, you will have no Committee; and that would be no good to anybody. We want a Committee in which the majority of Member Nations can reach a consensus. Some may disagree but we will make some progress, and it is progress we want. And if in that progress we can convince those who have reserved their position or who in their letters say there are some parts they do not accept, to accept all of it, we shall have achieved a great step.

J. SONNEVELD (Netherlands): My delegation is really concerned with the course the debate is taking. I think we were all of the opinion that this Organization should work and be constructive on the matter of conservation of plant genetic resources and the understanding means precisely that we want to join forces. And I think the way we are now discussing each others, participation is exactly the opposite, and that we should take such decisions as will facilitate the members of this Organization and others joining. This discussion about having members excluded from activities which should serve a precise purpose, I really do not understand that this can be a valid exercise.

R.C. GUPTA (India): In so far as the wording suggested by the Mexican delegation, my delegation would wholeheartedly agree with the Deputy Director-General that in paragraph 2 it is not that the countries or organizations are required to be signatories to any particular thing and abide by it 100 percent. Paragraph 2 makes it very clear that countries or organizations have to indicate the extent to which they are in a position to give effect to the principle contained in the undertaking. We clearly understand that some countries or organizations can indicate their position without adhering to this undertaking in its entirety, but our argument is that they have to show some interest in the sense that they have to indicate to what extent they are in a position to participate in these activities.

If I may, I would like to react to the comments of my colleague from Canada. It is not a question of contributions to the Organization. We would not for a moment suggest excluding any honourable sovereign member of the Organization from its activities; that is far from our hearts and there is absolutely no question of excluding anybody. All we are trying to say is that such of the organizations or States who indicate their interest should be a part of this inter-governmental group. The delegate of the Netherlands said that we are trying to exclude somebody. That is not so: certain countries are excluding themselves from this Undertaking by reserving their position. We would urge them and warmly welcome them to participate in the activities under this Undertaking. We would benefit from their participation, we would be happy with their participation but if they choose to exclude themselves from all activities under the Undertaking, we find it difficult to see how they would be able to monitor the activities under the Undertaking.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I am very hesitant about speaking once again on this question but, as I said earlier, we have to proceed very carefully in this matter. That was the view also of the Secretariat and of some other delegations who thought along similar lines. I think we also have to think in practical terms about what we are doing. If what we really want is for this Undertaking to be dealt with by a subsidiary body of COAG - if that is what we really want - then we must fully realize that that subsidiary body will report to COAG itself. For that reason I think that we have to proceed very warily if we do not want to be inconsistent and to exclude some countries from a COAG subsidiary which will subsequently, as members of COAG, be addressing themselves to the whole nexus of issues.

It is our view that at all events it should be a specialized body, either COAG or a COAG subsidiary, that deals with these matters. Should other delegations take the view that another intergovernmental committee needs to be set up, then I can say here and now that my delegation will not go along with that.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Le problème que nous sommes en train d'examiner est particulièrement complexe. Il est complexe parce qu'on soumet à notre approbation un engagement international qui n'emporte pas l'adhésion de certains pays. Et voilà que ces mêmes pays souhaitent participer à un organisme qui sera chargé de suivre l'application de cet engagement. C'est une situation difficilement compréhensible dans une optique logique, mais qui se comprend parfaitement dans le cadre d'un jeu d'intérêts. Il faut craindre que celui qui n'est pas convaincu d'une entreprise, celui qui n'a pas l'intention précise de participer à une oeuvre, s'il doit par ailleurs contrôler l'exécution de cette oeuvre, il est certain que la bonne volonté n'est pas de mise, en tout cas d'une manière garantie. C'est un jeu de commencer par la discussion de la résolution et de finir par le problème que nous voulons esquisser. Dans ce cas, on va nous faire accepter a priori que tout Etat peut participer au Comité intergouvernemental et finalement on va refuser cet organe intergouvernemental.

Qu'est-ce que cela veut dire? Cela veut dire maintenir les pays en développement qui voudront lutter contre un phénomène grave, à savoir l'érosion des ressources phytogénétiques qui se pose plus dans leur pays que dans d'autres qui ont réussi à régler ce problème à leur niveau, cela veut dire •maintenir ces pays dans leurs difficultés et dans une situation de dépendance.

Il n'est pas question ici de participation financière, il s'agit de coopération, de collaboration, de solidarité. A partir de ce moment là, que chaque pays veuille, pour des considérations économiques ou financières, s'imposer, cette situation doit cesser. Dans une organisation internationale qui ne réunit que des pays souverains sur une base égalitaire et de solidarité humaine, il faut faire table rase de ces considérations économiques et qu'on se souvienne que l'équilibre de ce monde ne dépendra que de la volonté de tous les pays d'oeuvrer dans un sens de compréhensions mutuelle et d'entraide. Cela ne pose aucun problème. Que les pays qui ne sont pas vraiment convaincus de l'utilité de l'engagement n'essaient pas d'entraver la marche en avant des pays en développement; qu'ils maintiennent leur position de réserve mais qu'ils reconnaissent qu'on ne peut pas contrôler quelque chose dont l'utilité n'est pas suffisamment perçue à ce niveau.

CHAIRMAN: I believe delegates that as we go along things must remain clear. In the written text of the reservation of the four countries there is no indication or suggestion that those countries that reserve want to monitor the activities of a body to which they have reserved the formation of and therefore I think it is right that as we make our discussions we should realize that it is the law of the Organization that says on the basis of the suggestion made in the proposed resolution, the kind of body that is suggested, the law says, allows those member states to participate. I have not heard that they want to participate or they want to monitor the activities in that body but the law allows them to do so. So I'm not quite sure we are right in talking about self-exclusion, or some such suggestion. So I think delegates should make their points and their arguments clear but let us not take words out of other peoples' mouths.

A. LUTZ (Finland): I want to bring up one aspect to this discussion, namely what has been said in paragraph 9.2, in either of these versions, namely that this body whatever it will be, has to recommend measures that are necessary or desirable in order to ensure the comprehensiveness of the global system. Well, if we want to establish the verbal system then we should not exclude anybody from this group. I think this should be the logical outcome of what we are going to decide in either of these propositions for 9.2.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): No habíamos solicitado el uso de la palabra, pero ya que nos invita a tomar el microfono, lo hacemos con todo gusto.

La delegación de la India ha señalado con toda precision que no hay ninguna intención de excluir a ninguna delegación, a ningún país, en la conformación del Organismo o Grupo Intergubernamental que estamos conformando en este momento. Su última intervención, señor Presidente, fue pertinente. La Organización está abierta a todos, y ésta es, repito, la voluntad y lo que nos movió a precisar que serán los países signatarios, los países que se adhieran al Compromiso, todos aquellos que podrán participar en el Grupo Intergubernamental.

Quiero parafrasear a los delegados que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra para decir que, efectivamente, hay que andar con pies de plomo. Todos apoyamos el Compromiso, y el doctor West nos ha señalado que el artículo 11 señala las limitaciones que los países notificarán que tienen en este momento y que no han podido superar, y pese a su voluntad, tienen restricciones para aceptar en pleno el compromiso propuesto. Esto no excluye su apoyo, esto no excluye la voluntad de apoyar en algunos de sus artículos, en algunas de sus cláusulas, el Compromiso. Los cuatro países que han tenido reservas para aceptar la resolución no nos han dicho que se opondrán finalmente al Compromiso. Simplemente - y tienen todo su derecho - han dicho que quieren revisar cuidadosamente, con toda responsabilidad, la resolución y el Compromiso que vamos a aceptar. Nos parece, efectivamente, una responsabilidad que todos compartimos. Ellos, con toda seguridad, estarán incorporándose con su apoyo al Compromiso, y consecuentemente, al Grupo Intergubernamental.

Quiero hacer una precisión. Hasta este momento ha habido muy pocas delegaciones que han guardado reservas respecto a nuestra inicial propuesta, mostrando con ello una voluntad mayoritaria para apoyar el Compromiso y la resolución. Hago esta salvedad porque me pareció entender, a través de la traducción, en la intervención del Director General Adjunto, que muy pocos países estarían apoyando el Compromiso. Nuestro parecer es opuesto. Nuestro parecer es que la mayoría está dispuesta a mostrar su voluntad y que es cuestión de tiempo para que los cuatro países que han mostrado reservas lo hagan también.

En consecuencia, no es admisible que alguien pretenda excluir a nadie de la Organización. Pretendemos, sí, que haya una conjunción, que los países seamos consecuentes, entre nuestra voluntad y el apoyo con firmas o con una notificación, de la intención de llevar a la práctica el compromiso que adoptemos. El mecanismo puede no ser, como nos lo aclaró el doctor West, la firma, la rúbrica, pero sí una notificación, demostrar la intención de llevar a la práctica el compromiso que se adopte, y esto podría sustituir a mi propuesta original y la enmienda hecha por Colombia. Al final del párrafo incluir la siguiente frase. El punto 4 quedaría como está y adicionaríamos la siguiente frase: "que hayan notificado su intención de llevar a la práctica el Compromiso que se adopte". Punto final. Repito a velocidad de dictado: "que Hayan notificado su intención de llevar a la práctica el Compromiso que se adopte". Punto final. Repito: Si la propuesta es mantener el párrafo original como esta, adicionarle la siguiente frase.

CHAIRMAN: Does anyone have a problem with that amendment?

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I have another type of problem so I would like to address Libya, through you, because Libya submitted this resolution originally. I would like to hear the Libyan views on the issue we are discussing now in the light of 2 (c), how it is to be understood. Under (c) I see that one of the Terms of Reference would be for the sub-committee to review all matters relating to the policy matters and activities of FAO. I think it also merits being taken into account.

J.M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): In respect of the Mexican amendment I am afraid the new wording does not help me at all. The United Kingdom delegation cannot accept that we should establish a sub-committee of COAG which is going to be discussing matters relating to the global system of plant genetic resources, not simply to the system under FAO jurisdiction and should restrict the membership of that Committee in the way it is being discussed.

I must admit I am somewhat puzzled at the cause of the discussion here this afternoon because I had been under the impression that we had agreed the whole of this document, apart from one point, yesterday evening.

R. SALLERY (Canada): We, like the United Kingdom, could not accept the last Mexican proposal, although the first part of his introduction I find very useful. I think the wording as we have it now is the best wording we could come up with, "open to all interested parties". Surely that would be the criteria which determines whether or not people participate or not.

CHAIRMAN: I was going to ask Mexico whether he does not think the word "interested" is not all embracing and would cover, as Canada says, all those who were interested and all who would have to indicate one way or another their interest in the Undertaking.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Después al menos de una hora de intercambio de comentarios es obvio, es evidente que no es suficiente el párrafo como está. Tratamos de ser consecuentes con lo que hemos mantenido a lo largo de las discusiones e invitaría a la Mesa, al señor Presidente, a que considere que hasta este momento la mayoría de las voces que se han pronunciado lo han hecho a favor de una enmienda; la mayoría de las voces que se han pronunciado lo han hecho a favor de una enmienda de dicho párrafo.

I.P. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): Indudablemente estamos en un atascadero del cual resulta difícil salir. Trataré de dar una contribución que probablemente no haga ningún daño, si es que no hace un bien.

Nos parece que en este momento hay dos posiciones aparentemente contradictorias pero que en realidad se concilian perfectamente entre sí. De una parte está el interés de que lo relativo a los recursos fitogenéticos tenga la posibilidad de ser considerado por el más amplio número de países posible, es decir que no se restrinja a nadie de antemano la posibilidad de intervenir en la materia relativa a recursos fitogenéticos. Por otra parte, existe el interés, que parece también legítimo, de que en algún modo quede delimitado quiénes son los que están actuando dentro del Compromiso que se plantea.

Yo encuentro que no debiera de haber contradicción en ambas posiciones y pienso que una forma de salvar ambas dificultades sería en el párrafo 2 donde dice que se invita a comunicar al Director General en qué medida están en condiciones de aplicar los principios, se añada "y el interés de participar en el Comité que se menciona en el párrafo 4". De esa manera estamos diciendo que incluso aquellos que digan "nosotros no participamos del compromiso, no lo aceptamos pero nos gustaría estar en el Comité para analizar nuestra posibilidad de formar parte del Compromiso" podrían formar parte de ese grupo; pero tampoco está abierto en general sin ninguna delimitación. Sería necesario por lo menos que manifiesten su opinión y su deseo de participar. Y el último párrafo, el 4º, quedaría tal como está o agregando "los Estados interesados que hagan expresión de su interés conforme el párrafo 2". Una cosa parecida.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): J'ai suivi avec une attention soutenue les explications complémentaires ainsi que celles du conseiller juridique. Je voudrais simplement rappeler qu'à la question posée de savoir si nous avons le droit de mettre en place un comité, le conseiller juridique nous a répondu de façon affirmative. Au stade actuel, après quelque temps de discussion, nous nous demandons si le texte tel que libellé n'était pas suffisant. Nous pensions qu'il ne susciterait pas de discussion particulière, mais la question est revenue sur la table parce que des réserves ont été émises. Dans ce cas, effectivement, il y avait lieu de compléter le texte, dans la mesure où le Comité de l'agriculture est ouvert à tous les Etats Membres alors que le comité que nous envisageons de mettre en place nécessiterait un intéressement individuel de chaque Etat. Tout le monde pense que si le texte est suffisant les réserves ne peuvent être retenues; si des réserves sont émises elles nécessiteront qu'un complément soit ajouté, dans ce cas nous mettrons le complément tel que proposé par le Mexique. C'est une proposition que nous soutenons de façon claire.

J. ZIMMERMANN (Denmark): I would like at this stage of the negotiations to make a little intervention. What you have heard now is that some delegations tried to limit the invitations which the Director-General had to make to all members of the United Nations system to participate in these arrangements. It has been in the scope of the Nordic countries and it was made very clear in our intervention that these invitations should be open to all members of the United Nations system.

I would like to state here at this stage of the intervention that it is still our point of view that these invitations should be open to all members states of the United Nations. I think this is to the benefit of all partners in these arrangements. We still want to maintain this point of view.

As a supplementary, I would like to add that the Swedish delegate participated in this Contact Group. We have worked very hard. We tried to reach a compromise and we thought we had reached a compromise. Therefore it might seem that we have been quiet in the negotiations. This is because in our imagination we should capture that compromise. In other words, the word of a gentleman is his bond. We still support this compromise of the Contact Group because we see it as a benefit for all. You know our point of view, that we want to maintain the present system and improve it, also improve it to the benefit of the developing countries and to see it developed and expanded.

Having seen the performance of the meetings last night and the meetings until now we cannot see real difficulties. In our imagination we have gone a long way through. A year or two ago we were still miles apart from each other. I think now we are close to a really good compromise, to a really good basis for further improvement. I think we should stick to this basis, a very sound basis. I can see promise ahead. So, I would like to appeal to you and to the delegates that we do not lose the track that we are very close to.

Coming to the Nordic point, these invitations, these possibilities for coming to this arrangement, should be open to all Member States of the United Nations.

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Realmente he dudado mucho en intervenir nuevamente porque la voz de Colombia se ha oído bastantes veces, tanto anoche como esta tarde. Sin embargo, en la forma en que se ha ido desarrollando el debate me insta a insistir nuevamente para tratar de puntualizar un poco la situación.

Tal como yo veo las cosas, México hizo una propuesta de enmienda; esa propuesta fue apoyada y luego ampliada por Colombia, propuesta que fue aceptada por una gran mayoría de países que se pronunciaron en forma muy explícita y clara en favor de esta enmienda.

Sin embargo, durante varias oportunidades se ha pedido el parecer del nuestro Asesor Jurídico que, con todo respeto acojo, evidentemente, lo que él nos ha dicho; luego se plantearon cuatro reservas de países importantes que además han tenido la amabilidad de recordarnos la cuantía de sus cuotas y la rapidez con que las pagan. Luego, en vista de todo esto, México ha presentado una nueva propuesta que se ajusta, si se podría decir, mejor a las disposiciones jurídicas que nuestro Asesor Jurídico nos ha leído con tanta precisión.

En vista de todo esto quisiera expresar muy claramente que nuestra Delegación apoya nuevamente la posición expresada por México,

Dicho esto insisto en que ninguna de nuestras delegaciones, muy lejos de ello, están en contra de una participación lo más amplia posible en este Grupo Intergubernamental y en el Compromiso; por el contrario, el párrafo 2 dice muy claramente que este Compromiso está abierto a todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO, a los Estados no miembros de la FAO que pertenecen a las Naciones Unidas, a alguno de sus organismos especializados o a organismos internacionales tales como el de la Energía Atómica, y a las instituciones internacionales autónomas que tengan responsabilidades con respecto a los recursos fotogenéticos. Esto aparece muy claramente expresado en el párrafo 2 al cual nunca, en ningún momento ninguna de las delegaciones que se han pronunciado en favor de la propuesta de México han hecho alusión a esto ni le han puesto ninguna limitación.

Yo no creo que la nueva propuesta de México en forma alguna limite la participación de ninguno de estos Estados Miembros, no miembros, organizaciones, etc. que se mencionan en el párrafo 2. Lo único es que esta enmienda presentada por México nos permite simplemente en todo momento saber con precisión quiénes forman parte del organismo, en qué forman entran a participar en él y con quiénes y con cuántos contamos en cada momento.

En vista de ello reitero el apoyo de Colombia a la propuesta de México.

J. SONNEVELD (Netherlands). First of all I would like to say that what has been said by the delegate of Yugoslavia is very valid. He pointed out that in the resolution put forward by Libya, Article 2(c), this sub-committee should review all matters relating to the policy, programmes and activities of FAO in the field of plant genetic resources. There you have already a wider scope than the Undertaking. So I think we should take that into consideration.

There was a specific question by the delegate of Yugoslavia to Libya whether he had in mind to limit the membership to those adhering to the Undertaking, because I think specifically with Article 2(c) in mind that would be impossible.

I listened to the delegate of El Salvador and I think he made a very valid suggestion to mention nations adhering to the Undertaking and other nations interested in the conservation of plant genetic resources. If I understood the delegate of El Salvador well, I would like to support that suggestion, because I think that will cover the two elements of the Resolution of the Libyan delegation, those matters which relate to the Undertaking and all other policy matters and activities of FAO in the field of plant genetic resources. So I think the suggestion made by El Salvador might be a good compromise.

CHAIRMAN: After I give the floor to Belgium, I will request the distinguished delegate of Libya to answer the question for Yugoslavia, and then we will come back to the Netherlands' proposal.

E. MARTENS (Belgique): La délégation belge préfère le texte comme il apparaît maintenant dans le point 4 et comme le Groupe de contact l'a formulé, c'est-à-dire sans aucune modification.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya): I think the discussion we have had so far should be taken to help the so-called Libyan resolution, and it is not the other way round, because I made it clear that we made our suggestion late last night, based on the state of discussion at that stage. At that stage, the question of an amendment to Article 4 of the resolution was not discussed, and we did not have advance knowledge of it. So, as I said last night, our intention in submitting the Draft Resolution for your consideration is first, to cater for the time requirement sometimes necessary on resolutions, so you have something on hand at least 20 or 24 hours before.

The second base of our resolution was, it was our understanding that there is perhaps a wide acceptance of the Director-General's proposal in his Report. So, at that time we thought a subsidiary of COAG is a possible mechanism or body for this Undertaking. When we thought of the membership of COAG we were aware that this body will be discussing various things, some relating to the Undertaking, and some relating to the activities of the FAO which are wide activities, and can cover many areas and many other organizations, other than the FAO.

As I said last night, this is perhaps not the most effective or the best way, it is not the best body, but we thought under the circumstances that perhaps this sort of arrangement could be given a try. Perhaps, in the final analysis it will work as a strong lobbying forum or pressure forum, to put some pressure on those countries who are still reluctant to join the Undertaking. So, we thought that by having them all together in the same body perhaps there would be this dialogue, and an attempt to encourage as wide as possible participation in the Undertaking.

So, I repeat, when we thought of this resolution, the amendment which is proposed by Mexico was not in sight at that time, and we were more or less occupied by what we thought was the wide acceptance of the Director-General's proposal which was included in the Report.

CHAIRMAN: Therefore, Libya, you were trying to devise a mechanism which would invite the widest possible participation in the Undertaking.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I could drag on and on, on procedural matters. First of all, we all are, I hope, fully aware of how the selection of COAG membership is arranged. We know it should be on formal indication. In that case, still on a procedural matter - though I do not think procedure is important - I doubt very much that a subsidiary body of COAG could be fair from the rules that are applied formally to the senior body itself.

Secondly, I referred already to 2(c). I cannot see how we can omit from the Terms of Reference "to review all matters relating to the policy, programmes and activities of FAO". If it is allowed to stand, I think there is no point in excluding everybody again on a purely procedural basis. But, the point I want to bring out is much more substantive, I think, and I believe really that this Conference has made a step forward in the right direction.

The position has narrowed down quite appreciably. We hope very much once we start with the sub-committee of COAG, that some members that are still reluctant at this stage at least - and who all promised as I understood, to carefully study the whole matter - I hope very much that in both Bodies we will create a conducive atmosphere and finally win them in. By words or formal text I do not think we will be anymore successful. Plant genetic resources are I think of such vital importance that we should perhaps invite everybody to participate. Whoever is interested should apply the same procedure as I applied in the case of COAG, with the hope as I stressed, that even though these countries which are still in the process of reviewing their position, vis-à-vis the whole Undertaking would join in in the near future.

R. ZUÑIGA (Honduras): He escuchado con sumo interés las diferentes opiniones planteadas por los países participantes en este debate. He encontrado muy lógica y aceptable la proposición hecha por la Delegación de Colombia. Por consiguiente, la Delegación de Honduras apoya la propuesta de enmienda presentada por México.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): No le parece a nuestra Delegación que la intención de México sea la de limitar la participación de los Miembros de la Organización ya que estamos convencidos que un Comité sin la participación de países de elevada tecnología, como lo son los que han manifestado su reserva, sin lugar a dudas será un Comité en donde se sentiría su ausencia. Lo que a nuestro juicio México plantea es que participen en el inicio aquellos países que así hayan manifestado su intención de hacerlo y aquellas otras que lo deseen se vayan integrando al mismo.

Por lo tanto, nuestra Delegación apoya decididamente la propuesta de enmienda de México.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Il me semble que la résolution de la Libye, C 83/LIM/33, a été adoptée. Si c'est le cas, je trouve étonnant, après avoir accepté que ce sous-comité soit un organe subsidiaire du COAG, que l'on discute maintenant sur un terme assez vague. Le COAG est ouvert à tous les Etats, et s'agissant d'un organe subsidiaire du COAG, tout Etat pourrait participer aux travaux de ce sous-comité.

Donc, si tel est le cas, je pense que nous devrions cesser de discuter, parce que cela ne sert à rien. Mon problème est donc de savoir si la résolution présentée par la délégation de la Libye a été acceptée ou non. Si elle a été acceptée, le Sénégal ne voit pas l'intérêt de discuter du paragraphe 4 de la résolution générale.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, we are now on this point. After very lengthy discussions yesterday it was clear that there was difficulty in arriving at common ground and we adopted the approach that since some members would have difficulty in agreeing to what would seem to be a majority view, especially on the Undertaking and on the resolution, that they would register in writing by way of reservation in a footnote, and that they would not stand in the way of consensus. Today, we have a situation where those countries that press ahead for what other countries have to reserve on, are making new amendments to what we had already agreed, which is this resolution, yesterday.

There are members in this body who have opposed this amendment, they may be few, but there is no consensus on that. I do not know if the suggestion of those who keep saying "majority" is that we should move to a vote. But, as far as I can recall, it has been common agreement within this Organization that we do not want to resolve things by voting, as far as possible, we try to reach a consensus. The mechanism we adopted yesterday with members saying instead of going to a vote on the resolution, they would not stand in the way of consensus, but they registered their reservation. I think that in the spirit of this Organization we are trying as far as possible to move to agree on things by consensus.

Now, we have had a lengthy discussion on this matter. It was necessary that we should discuss the Libyan resolution which was seeking to spell out in detail the kind of mechanism or intergovernmental body, agency or entity required to oversee and to direct, and discuss and monitor the activity under the plant genetic resources. This suggestion, or this proposed resolution by Libya was discussed so that all members in this Commission would gain a better understanding of what was necessary, and therefore the full implication and then arrive at an understanding of the kind of body that we need to set up, or that most people would like to see set up. So, that resolution was discussed first and I think that we are very clear what it is - whether we like it or not - and it has helped our better understanding of the kind of Body that gave us difficulties in the main body of the Undertaking, which is Article 9.2. Now we have not yet adopted that resolution but we have used it to better our understanding.

I think we should now make progress. The only thing that was holding us up on making progress, in other words in dealing with documents and putting them aside, was the little thing in the Undertaking 9.2. We have in the Bureau a suggested wording which would seem to be a compromise of compromises because compromises could not go through yesterday. Now we have a compromise of compromises and this wording is - I should like to ask the Secretary to read so that everybody will understand what it suggested, and after she has read I would like to get an indication of any who oppose that suggested compromise of compromises, and if there is no opposition then we shall immediately take it that the document on the Undertaking is acceptable to all of us in the spirit again of arriving at a consensus, and then we will move on to the other parts.

Will the Secretary please read 9.2 as suggested.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): This suggestion involves making some small changes in the first version of paragraph 9.2 which appears in Article 9 in REP/4 in the Draft Undertaking. The two versions of paragraph 9.2 in the first version the changes involve deleting the brackets and changing one word in the phrase which is at present within brackets, so that the sentence would read, "FAO will, in particular, establish an intergovernmental mechanism which will monitor the operation of the arrangements referred to in Article 7". At this point, a comma would be placed instead of the full stop, and the rest of the paragraph would continue after the insertion of the word "and", so it would become all one sentence - "Article 7, and will take or recommend measures etc.".

CHAIRMAN: Do I see any opposition to that compromise of compromises? If not, I will then take it that we are agreed on all the Articles of C 83/II/REP/4 which is the annex of that document.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Le Senegal doit être la seule delegation à ne pas être satisfaite de cette proposition, nous nous rallions sans observation à la majorité.

Cependant, nous tenons à signaler que la notion de mécanisme est abstraite. Cela ne répond pas en tout cas à ce que nous avons retenu. Depuis longtemps, nous aurions dû accepter la formule d'hier: "mettre en oeuvre les mécanismes appropriés". C'est la même chose. Un mécanisme, c'est abstrait, cela ne représente rien.

Mais si tout le monde est d'accord, si personne ne présente d'observation particulière, nous nous rallions à la majorité. Mais je dois dire que c'est la même chose que nous avons refusée hier.

CHAIRMAN: I thank you for your cooperation, Senegal.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Para responder a la preocupación del Senegal, que seguramente comparten otros delegados. La transacción se logró porque el Asesor Jurídico nos aseguró qué mecanismo podía comprender al grupo intergubernamental, al comité intergubernamental, a un cuerpo intergubernamental. Con ese espíritu llegamos a la transacción. No excluye el cuerpo, comité, subcomité o grupo intergubernamental. ¿Es ésto correcto, señor Asesor Jurídico? Esto fue lo entendido y por eso fue la transacción.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I can see confirmation from the Legal Counsel.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je ne suis pas d'accord sur le dernier compromis proposé. Je serais plutôt favorable à l'expression utilisée au point 4 de la résolution que nous venons d'adopter. On enlèverait les mots entre crochets et on dirait: "En particulier, la FAO créera un groupe intergouvernemental ou un autre organisme ..." au lieu d'employer le terme "mécanisme" qui, comme l'a dit le délégué du Sénégal est très vague. Un mécanisme est quelque chose d'abstrait.

CHAIRMAN: Congo, you realise you are all on your own, you are the only one, because Senegal has said if the majority supported we are willing to go along. Now you are all on your own.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je préfère être tout seul de mon avis, mais qu'il soit mentionné.

CHAIRMAN: So we will reflect that situation in the report.

M. B. SY (Senegal): J'ai été le premier à prendre la parole pour dire que si je devais être le seul à trouver que la rédaction proposée n'est pas convenable, je me rallierais à la majorité. Mais il se trouve que je ne suis pas le seul. Il y a aussi le Congo. Il y a donc deux seuls. Je ne vois pas pourquoi ayant été le premier à dire que le mot "mécanisme" ne me satisfait pas, on ne me mentionnerait pas.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to others I would be agreeing with Congo and Senegal that perhaps their dissatisfaction could be registered in a manner which will be indicated in the verbatims and everywhere else in the Conference documents where it is necessary, but we could adopt the Undertaking with the amendments as indicated.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Le texte proposé ne nous satisfait pas non plus. La délégation du Bénin émet aussi des réserves.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya): I do not think it is quite correct to say that either Senegal or Congo are alone. I do not think they are alone in their concern to be absolutely clear in their mind that what we mean by "mechanism" is the nearest thing to "intergovernmental group", and I think the Mexican delegation based their acceptance of this on the understanding that this is the case. Now you accepted the nod of the Legal Advisor. Perhaps if we had it in very concrete terms from the Legal Counsel himself, perhaps our friends from Congo and Senegal and the others will reconsider, because frankly I do not want to see them alone and if it is a matter of being alone or not alone we will join their company.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The delegate of Mexico said the word "mechanism" is a flexible one; it would include any appropriate form of body. The important thing is that the adjective "intergovernmental" is there. It will be a mechanism, whichever one is found to be the most appropriate, which will be of an intergovernmental nature. I do not know what the best translation into French would be, but "mécanisme" could certainly include any form of "organisme" and, therefore, I do not think that the delegates of Senegal and Congo should have any misgivings as to the compromise text which has been found acceptable by the rest of their colleagues.

E.P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I was going to say that if we do not accept some measure of compromise in this meeting we will all be here in time for the next biennium, and my understanding of the word "mechanism" in English is that it is perhaps the one word which will allow us to move on because it covers a multitude of things. I would strongly recommend that we give it serious consideration, and our acceptance of that wording I think would allow everybody to be in at this point. I do not know what would happen afterwards.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): Il s'agit d'un problème linguistique. Nous qui avons appris le français pendant 40 ans, nous ne croyons pas que l'expression "mécanisme intergouvememental" ait un sens. Nous pensons qu'il conviendrait de trouver un autre mot à la place de "mécanisme". Ne pourrait-on pas dire: "organe" ou "organisme", quelque chose de plus concret. Ce qui joue ici, c'est le fait que ce soit fluide. Sans être français, je ne pense pas que le terme "mécanisme intergouvernemental" soit français. Néanmoins, nous acceptons le compromis parce que nous sommes pour le compromis.

E. EMMANOUILIDIS (Grèce): Le mot "mécanisme" n'est pas français, il est plutôt grec. De plus, je voudrais assurer mes collègues que ce n'est pas un terme abstrait. Je crois que le mot "mécanisme" peut inclure des groupes ou toute autre chose, et je crois qu'on peut l'accepter.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je ne suis ni Grec ni Français, mais il est certain qu'un mécanisme est toujours supporté par quelque chose. Pour qu'il puisse faire un mouvement, une action, quel est donc ce moteur qui va faire bouger le mécanisme? Ce n'est pas parce qu'on a ajouté le terme "intergouvememental" encore que ce mot, juridiquement parlant, qu'est-ce que cela veut dire? C'est une action entre deux organismes. Quand deux Etats constituent un organe, cela a un caractère intergouvernemental. Il n'est pas besoin d'être grand juriste, ni très fort en latin pour connaître l'étymologie des mots, mais un mécanisme est mû par quelque chose.

Nous nous sommes réunis hier soir jusqu'à 21 heures et nous avons refusé de dire: La FAO mettra en oeuvre toutes sortes de mécanismes nécessaires, on aurait dû accepter cette rédaction.

CHAIRMAN: I realize that people want to take the floor to explain or ask about "mechanism" and "body" and so on and so forth. The other side of the coin is, of course, that we have had very clear views coming from very many delegations indicating that the term "inter-governmental body" would have been preferable to anything else, even if that anything else is the only one that will ensure that when this undertaking has been agreed upon, it invites the widest participation. Therefore we could even be prepared to forego the widest participation only to have the word "inter-governmental body" in the document of the undertaking.

On that note I would like to ask, so that we are clear as to where we stand at this time, in case we are belabouring a point that we should not really be belabouring: are there still any very strong feelings against "inter-governmental body"? I repeat: are there still any very strong feelings against "inter-governmental body"?

Now, for the last time: are there still any very strong feelings against "inter-governmental body"?

R.F.J. NETO (Angola): Je pense que notre avis n'est pas très valable. Nous ne sommes pas francophones, mais je pense que même en portugais, "mécanisme intergouvernemental" c'est vague. Nous préférons: "Organe intergouvernemental".

CHAIRMAN: I had asked for people who have strong feelings against "inter-governmental body". Distinguished delegates, I think it is necessary that we make progress. If I do not see an indication of very, very strong feelings against "inter-governmental body" I would seek your permission that we adopt this annex with the inclusion of the words "inter-governmental body", and if I do not see any more indications, it is adopted.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Así se acuerda

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

ADOPTION. OF REPORT (continued)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)
APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 5
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - CINQUIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 5.

CHAIRMAN: I want to remind the Commission that this Report, owing to the circumstances that prevailed over genetic resources, did not go to the Drafting Committee and therefore it has come directly to the Commission for consideration and adoption. Let me draw attention to some features of it. On page 3, paragraph 11, we would be inserting there the resolution on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, which is the resolution that we have discussed for a very long time, especially operative paragraph 4 thereof. The resolution has an Annex, which is the text of the actual Undertaking. Resolution and Annex are now C 83/II/REP/4 and will be incorporated in Draft Report Part 5, C 83/II/REP/5. I believe that when we come to that, because of our treatment of the Undertaking, it should then be easy to deal with it.

Now regarding paragraph 12. When we have finished with that, if the "Libyan resolution" is agreed and adopted by this Commission, then we will have a resolution under paragraph 13, a new paragraph. We shall be saying that "the Conference adopted the following resolution ...". If we have agreed, then that will be the complete structure of our Report.

PARAGRAHS 1 to 10
PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 10
PARRAFOS 1 a 10

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): En el párrafo 3 hay una frase sobre la cual quisiera pedir una explicación, con su venia señor Presidente, al Asesor Jurídico. Aquí se habla de una red internacional bajo los auspicios a la jurisdicción de la FAO. Como auspicios y jurisdicción son dos términos jurídicos que si bien no se oponen sí son ambiguos y crean una pequeña dificultad de comprensión o de interpretación, me gustaría entender exactamente que es lo que aquí se ha querido decir.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think these terms have been used advisedly because, quite clearly, the arrangements that will be made with individual governments or centres regarding the way in which the collections would be placed within the network, will depend very much on negotiations in each case. Obviously the arrangements cannot be identical in every single case. They may even develop over the years because this network is obviously designed to be a dynamic process which may take some years to develop. Therefore the language which - as the delegate of Colombia rightly pointed out - is perhaps somewhat imprecise from a legal point of view, is designed on purpose to cover all the possible arrangements that governments may be prepared to make in order to place the networks which are under their control, within the network.

CHAIRMAN: Colombia, are you satisfied? Than you very much for your cooperation.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Peru): Estoy de acuerdo, pero en ese caso para completar el concepto que se ponga y/o la jurisdicción, por que la palabra "o" es excluyente del otro y puede ser que sean los dos: auspicios y jurisdicción cuando un país lo acepte, y en el otro lado solo auspicios.

Entonces, para que no sea excluyente, que se ponga "bajo los auspicios y/o la jurisdicción".

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor back to the Legal Counsel, I would like to ask: why would he not wish countries, at that point in time, to decide what happened, instead of determining it now and preempting their decisions and arrangements with FAO?

LEGAL COUNSEL: I have no serious difficulty with the proposal of the delegate of Peru. In English legal drafting "and/or" is not used because "or" means the possibility of one or the other or both. Perhaps it is different in Spanish drafting, but I do not think that in the long run it would make very much difference. I think it is more likely to be one or the other, rather than both, in the particular circumstances envisaged here, but the amendment proposed by the delegate of Peru would be quite acceptable.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Ninguna objeción, simplemente una solicitud de aclaración al Asesor Jurídico de una duda que surgió en el Grupo de Contacto respecto al término de "jurisdicción". ¿Cual es el sentido y el alcance de "jurisdicción" entendido por un jurista anglosajón? Y lo digo porque, efectivamente, es un problema de precisión. Nos preocupa la vaguedad; aquí estamos hablando de la red internacional de colecciones base que forman el Banco Internacional bajo jurisdicción de la FAO, no es cualquier red, es la red de colecciones base que se forman con las donaciones, como el caso de España, de sus colecciones base para que estén bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO.

Nos preocupa, entonces, aquí sí la precisión. Le pediría al Asesor Jurídico nos explicara este punto.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think that the word "jurisdiction" is perhaps not, in any language, the ideal one in the context, since jurisdiction implies that a person or object is under the control of an entity with a legal system and courts to enforce that legal system. Therefore it may not be the ideal legal term, but I believe it has become accepted, in the context of your discussions as meaning "control". The measure of control that would be exercised by FAO over the base collections would obviously vary, but I think probably the underlying idea behind the term "jurisdiction" is that the collections would be under the full control of and would be administered by FAO which would put them at the disposal of all those countries that wish to benefit from such collections. That is what I understand by the term "jurisdiction" in this context.

CHAIRMAN: It looks as though Mexico is happy.

J. M. BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): Unicamente quería preguntar al señor Asesor legal si esta interpretación de la palabra "jurisdicción" que nos acaba de dar significa, como nosotros la interpretamos, que esas colecciones no estarían bajo ninguna soberanía nacional.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The degree of the so-called jurisdiction of FAO would depend entirely on the arrangements made in each case with the governments concerned. If the government wished FAO to conduct all the functions connected with having a collection under its control and if this is possible in the circumstances, then of course it could be subtracted from the jurisdiction of any national legal system. I concede that this would be a rather extreme case and perhaps a very unlikely one, because there would obviously be considerable problems. However, I would not exclude the possibility of some method of doing this being found, I would leave that question open, and say that at this stage that it would be entirely a question of entering into arrangements with the government which is within the bounds of the FAO Constitution and within the bounds of the legal system of the government concerned.

CHAIRMAN: Are you happy, Spain? Thank you. Any other observations on paragraph 3?

G. ANDRE (Sweden): In Article 7.1 (a) we have used the expression "under the auspices of the jurisdiction of FAO". Now we are in our Report referring to the amendment as by the colleague from Peru. I wonder whether the Report should reflect what we had discussed in the Undertaking.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I suppose that, as all lawyers, I like consistency, I therefore believe it would be preferable to use exactly the same wording in all the parts of the Report and the Undertaking that refer to exactly the same thing.

CHAIRMAN: That is understood. What we have in the Undertaking which we have just adopted, and we are not going to open discussions on it again is "or". Any observations on paragraph 3? Paragraph 3 is approved. Any comments on paragraph 4?

J.M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): I believe the language that has been used in paragraph 4 could be misleading and I would like to suggest a more general wording which seems to be more in line with the resolutions we are adopting, "the Conference noted that the Director-General's proposals also envisaged the establishment of an intergovernmental committee or other body which would review the intergovernmental situation regarding plant genetic resources.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My delegation would like to give its support to the proposal which has just been made by the representative of the United Kingdom. Indeed we do have a little addition to propose. If we want to be consistent with what we have already done then perhaps in paragraph 4 we should also say "the establishment of an intergovernmental body" and then carry on from there, instead of "intergovernmental committee". This would be in line with what we have already decided elsewhere.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any observations?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): En el mismo sentido del comentario hecho por el distinguido delegado de Alemania nosotros creemos que es conveniente, para evitar confusiones, suprimir el término "u otro organo". Suprimir el término "u otro órgano" inmediatamente después de "organo intergubernamental", como lo popuso Alemania.

CHAIRMAN: I said are there any other observations.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je crois que la délégation de la République fédérale d'Allemagne a soulevé un problème de cohérence très pertinent, qui ne présente apparemment pas d'objection. Mais, si l'on veut continuer dans cette logique, au point de dire également qu'ont doit supprimer "ou d'un autre organisme", on se rendra compte que le rapport a non seulement pour objectif de résumer l'Engagement mais la résolution. Or, dans la résolution, on retrouve le terme "Ou d'un autre organisme". Par conséquent, nous pouvons accepter ce qu'ont dit le Royaume-Uni et la République fédérale d'Allemagne, si on laisse "ou d'un autre organisme" parce que figurant dans la résolution.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I just wanted to remind you that we are discussing "the Conference noted the Director-General's proposal" and if you go to the text of the Director-General's proposal you will find the words as being used here where I think you put the emphasis of your discussion on the wrong paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that clarification. So we will let it stand as originally written because these are not the words of the Commission but of the Report. Any other observations on paragraph 4?

J. ZIMMERMANN (Denmark): Reading the lines in paragraph 4 I recall the resolution where it is stated that such a committee should be open for all members of the United Nations system and it is stated by the Secretariat that it is the old text in the old document but I have a feeling that it should be inserted here after the words "of an intergovernmental committee" and then we could insert "open for all members of the United Nations system" and then go on because then we have stated that it is in fact open for all members of the system. It is not otherwise stated in the text in paragraph 4 and I think it should be said here because this paragraph deals with the establishment of such a committee. I think it should be stated also here.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I think that is certainly in line with the proposal of the Director-General. If you wish to insert it then it should be inserted.

J.M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): It may be that I am looking at the wrong part of the Director-General's Report but I am not entirely happy that paragraph 4 is in fact in line with it. As printed paragraph 4 would read that the intergovernmental body is directly reviewing IBPGR and other organizations, which I am not sure is quite correct. Looking at paragraph 173 of the Director-General's report this refers to the intergovernmental committee doing such tasks as the examination of the Report of the IBPGR which are received by FAO. I therefore would ask again whether we might not be better with a more general wording along the lines that I suggested originally.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I thought I understood that this proposal made by the representative of the United Kingdom had already been adopted and therefore it did not need to be discussed any further. I hope that this is the case. I had certainly supported it.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): It is on this issue of the review which the inter-governmental committee or body will do. I suggest. we could use the exact phraseology in Article 9 of the Undertaking, which says that the body would keep under continuous review the international situation concerning the exploration, collection and conservation of plant genetic resources. It is a sentence which we have accepted in Article 9 of the Undertaking and this refers exactly to the functions of this body.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Bommer, could you please say again what: you have said concerning the Director-General's Report?

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): This paragraph tries to reflect the proposals made by the Director-General. I am certainly not now in a clear position if the suggestion proposed by the United Kingdom has been adopted by you. This' is in your hands to decide But this was my proposition. If the United Kingdom delegate feels that it is not a fair reflection additional changes of words should be introduced.

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of the United Kingdom, did you say that what is reflected in paragraph 4 does not reflect the Director-General's report on this matter?

J.M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): Yes. I feel it does not quite reflect the right nuances but I could accept the wording suggested by the delegate of Cyprus.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to the proposal of Cyprus, which is supported by the United Kingdom? Let me ask the Secretary to read what is proposed.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): As I understand it, the change would be introduced in the second part of the sentence and incorporating an earlier amendment. The sentence would read: "The Conference noted that the Director-General's proposals also envisaged the establishment of an intergovernmental committee or other body open to all interested states which would ..." and at this point we would pick up the wording in paragraph 9.1 of the Undertaking and say: "keep under continuous review the international situation concerning the exploration, collection, conservation, documentation, exchange and use of plant genetic resources".

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I can only repeat that it is customary that it is left to the Director-General to summarize his proposal in the form he sees it best summarized. I do not think it is fair for delegations to correct the Director-General's summary.

CHAIRMAN: Could you please explain what you have just said?

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): In this paragraph the Director-General summarizes the proposal he has made in the Report. Some delegations may feel it is a good summary, or it could have been better and something has been left out, but I think it is not correct for delegations to try and improve his summary. It is his wording and I think it would be fair for the Commission to accept it, as all the concerns and all the wording which have been used would come anyway in the text which had been agreed on. So why now try to correct the summary of the Director-General and amend it to something which has been later discussed?

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): The comment I made I was going to make in the Drafting Committee, of which I was a member, if the Report had gone to the Drafting Committee. My intention was only to help. I do not have any difficulties at all with the suggestion of the Assistant Director-General. If the wording is being kept as it is in the Report I have no problem at all.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): A la lumière de ce qu'a dit M. Bommer, le Sénégal ne peut effectivement accepter, quand on veut reproduire l'idée de quelqu'un sur laquelle il faut prendre une décision, que l'on n'ait pas l'honnêteté de lui donner l'entière responsabilité de ce qu'il a dit. En ce qui concerne le rapport du Directeur général, il a envisagé certaines choses que nous avons notées. Nous ne devons rien changer à ce qu'il a envisagé.

C'est une lecture inattentive du texte qui m'a fait approuver la proposition du Royaume-Uni. Pour le moment, nous ne pouvons que noter. Dans le corps du rapport, nous déciderons ce que nous voulons.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): En el párrafo 12 del informe que estamos revisando, podemos manifestar efectivamente los acuerdos a los que hemos llegado en materia de formación del Organismo Intergubernamental. Podemos, en consecuencia, respetar el párrafo 4 en su original redacción como señaló atinadamente el Delegado del Senegal, tomando nota la Conferencia de esta propuesta hecha por el Director General en su informe, pero yendo adelante en precisar cuáles son las recomendaciones y decisiones que ha tomado en cuenta la Conferencia, que en el caso particular del Organismo Intergubernamental aparecen en el párrafo 12.

En síntesis, aprobemos el párrafo 4 como está y hagamos nuestras observaciones del Grupo Intergubernamental en el párrafo 12.

J. M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): I do not wish to distort the views of the Director-General, but nevertheless I feel that the summary does not quite reflect his Report. In this case perhaps the best solution would be to quote the whole of sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) of paragraph 173 of his Report. This way we would be all quoting exactly the Director-General's full and considered views.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to the inclusion of (a) to (d) as the quotation of what the Director-General has in his Report? If we are agreed on the summary we could agree on the full text. Thank you. Paragraph 4 is approved, as amended according to the suggestion of the United Kingdom. Paragraph 5?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): La referencia entre paréntesis de los últimos dos renglones ¿son para que el Comité los discuta? ¿Es una propuesta de la Secretaria? ¿Por qué se hace esta insistencia o insistente referencia al CIRF? En la versión en español está entre paréntesis en la última oración del párrafo 5. Y mi pregunta es por qué aparece entre paréntesis y, en todo caso, por qué hay esa reiterada referencia al CIRF. En consecuencia propongo un punto final inmediatamente después de "particularmente el CIRF" punto.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): To clarify the first question by the delegate of Mexico, there are typographical errors in both the Spanish and the French texts with these brackets around the last sentence, but they are not in the English text.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Just to respond to the second comment of Mexico, the continued references to IBPGR, I think it is in the Report because that was the factual occurrence in our discussions. Many members have recalled the good work of the IBPGR. It is as simple as that.

J. M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): Further to what the delegate of Canada has said, I should like to point out that the first sentence refers to the effective role played by FAO and its contribution to IBPGR. It is only the second sentence which recognizes, as did many delegations, the effective role played by IBPGR. I therefore believe that we need both sentences in this Report.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other observations on paragraph 5?

E. MARTENS (Belgique): Je voudrais tout d'abord revenir au paragraphe 5. Je ne sais pas ce qui a été décidé finalement. Est-ce que l'on conserve les parenthèses ou est-ce qu'on les annule?

CHAIRMAN: I am told that the brackets are deleted because they are mistakes, but otherwise without the brackets the paragraph stands. Paragraph 5 is approved, as amended. Any comments on paragraph 6?

E. MARTENS (Belgique): Je voudrais faire une intervention concernant le paragraphe 6. Ce paragraphe commence par les mots "Certains membres". Je crois que cela ne reflète pas exactement le nombre important de délégations qui ont insisté sur le rôle du CIRPG. Il y avait, outre les Etats Membres, les représentants du Comité européen de l'OCDE qui ont exprimé leur satisfaction sur l'activité du CIRPG. Je propose donc que l'on remplace les mots "Certains membres" par "Un grand nombre de membres"

R. F. J. NETO (Angola): Je suis du même avis que notre collègue de la Belgique pour dire que "Certains membres" doit être remplacé par "Bon nombre de membres", parce que l'on connaît le nombre de membres qui sont intervenus.

Lorsque nous arriverons au paragraphe 7, je ferai une intervention dans le même sens.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): A la lumière de ce qui a été dit, il faut tout de même observer une certaine prudence. Nous avons été presque tous unanimes à reconnaître les efforts et les prouesses du CIRPG. Là où se situe la divergence c'est dans les derniers membres de la phrase. Certains ont dit que le cadre actuel devrait être amélioré.

Il convient de dire que les membres de la Commission ont été d'avis que les activités scientifiques et techniques actuelles du CIRPG ont été particulièrement rentables mais que certains membres souhaitent que le système actuel soit amélioré. Mais il n'est pas question de mettre en doute que cet organisme a été efficace.

CHAIRMAN: Senegal, the secretary is trying to re-write the paragraph. Can you be specific on what you are proposing?

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je disais que pour la délégation sénégalaise la proposition reflétant notre avis devrait être la suivante:

"Les membres ont été d'avis que les activités scientifiques et techniques actuelles de conservation et d'échange de ressources phytogénétiques qui sont encouragées par le CIRPG en collaboration avec la FAO soit satisfaisante à notre avis. Cependant, certains d'entre eux ont souhaité que le système existant soit seulement amélioré."

J'ai désiré faire cette observation, sinon cela remettrait en cause notre décision de créer un autre champ d'application, un cadre juridique. C'est de cela qu'il était question, Mais nous avons tous reconnu les qualités du CIRPG.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to this proposal?

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Pido realmente excusas por intervenir nuevamente. Yo había pedido la palabra antes de que Senegal interviniera por segunda vez. Tal vez usted no me vio. Sea en todo mi propuesta completamente un poco de la propuesta de Senegal y me parece que puede tal vez solucionar la situación. Yo iba a proponer que, en vista de que en el párrafo 7 y en el Compromiso y en la Resolución se habla de encuadrar todo ese sistema de recursos fitogenéticos mundiales dentro del marco jurídico o bajo otros auspicios de la FAO, tal vez convendría terminar el párrafo 6 en "satisfactorias", es decir, penúltimo párrafo "en colaboración con la FAO eran satisfactorias". Y ahí terminaría el párrafo 6, simplemente, puesto que en el párrafo 7, inmediatamente abajo, se habla de que en la segunda oración se dice "ese sistema debía encuadrarse en un marco jurídico bajo los auspicios o la jurisdicción de la FAO. Se habla también de que "la mayoría de los Estados Miembros recomendó, etc." luego todo lo que propone el delegado del Senegal para ampliar el párrafo 6 ya está contenido y figura con mucha claridad en el párrafo 7.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voudrais améliorer la proposition faite par le Sénégal. Si nous sommes tous d'avis que le CIRPG a obtenu des résultats satisfaisants, je propose qu'au lieu de mettre "certains membres", on dise: "La Conférence a été d'avis que les activités scientifiques et techniques, etc. jusqu'à sont satisfaisantes". Evidemment cela s'entend si personne ne soulève d'objection.

M. S. ZEHNI (Libya) : I think there is a slight confusion here because paragraph 5 is addressing the happiness of the Conference with IBPGR and the FAO-related activities, but I think 6 and 7 are trying to show that there was a different opinion. In 6 it talks about those who thought that the present arrangements were satisfactory and we did not need anything else, while 7 is talking about the majority opinion. So, I think the phrase and the connotation was made in 5 and does not need to be repeated. I suggest that 6 should be allowed to stand as it is, perhaps with the amendments of "some" to "many", because this just reflects the views of those who thought the present arrangements were satisfactory, and 7 goes on to expand the other side of the coin.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to the Senegalese amendment as again amended by the Congo, starting with the words "The Conference"? Are there any objections? Libya, United States, Yugoslavia, Mexico. I had Canada on my list first.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I was going to take the floor to support the Senegalese and Congo delegations who, I think, have accurately reflected what happened, and also now the delegate of Libya who put it in the right perspective. Actually, the report is quite well written.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je crois que le délégué de la Libye a effectivement fait du rapport une lecture plus complète que la nôtre. La réalité, c'est que le paragraphe 5 avait déjà traduit l'appréciation générale de tout le monde et qu'on commençait le débat par les paragraphes 6 et 7. A part l'introduction faite par la délégation de la Colombie qui pouvait nous amener à supprimer la partie du texte adressant de nouveaux éloges au CIRPG, on pourrait peut-être maintenir le paragraphe 6 en commençant par dire: "L'avis contraire de certains membres ...

Je peux me rallier à l'idée générale formulée par la Libye.

CHAIRMAN: In other words Senegal, are you withdrawing your suggestion?

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Oui Monsieur.

CHAIRMAN: So, if the Senegalese suggestion is withdrawn then we go back to the sentence as it stood before. Let us have comments on the paragraph as it stands.

R. SALLERY (Canada): In that case then, I support the delegate of Belgium that we use the word "many", "Many members consider that the present scientific and technical activities of plant genetic resources conservation and exchange as promoted by the IBPGF in collaboration with FAO were satisfactory". Then "some members thought that possible improvements should be sought within the existing system", which is a clear reflection of the situation.

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Si el Senegal retira su propuesta, en el fondo quedaría en pie la propuesta de Colombia de eliminar la última parte del párrafo 6. No me opondría a que se pusieran al principio las palabras "La Conferencia", puesto que esta mención ya figura en el párrafo 7, señor Presidente.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German) : If paragraph 6 is supposed to reflect the discussion as it took place then I believe we should adopt the proposal made by Belgium and Libya, and should leave the paragraph as it stands, with one small improvement and that would be to put instead of "some" as the first word of the paragraph, replace it by "many", and say "Many members considered", and otherwise leave the paragraph unchanged.

R.F.J. NETO (Angola): Si nous devons accepter la proposition formulée par la Belgique, il ne s'agit pas de supprimer les mots "Certains membres" pour les remplacer par "Un grand nombre", mais bien par "Bon nombre de membres". Il y a équilibre.

CHAIRMAN: The Belgian proposal is supported, as amended by the Federal Republic of Germany and by Angola.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): Just to support the Belgian proposal. I think the delegate of Libya put the case very clearly. So far as the situation in paragraphs 5,6 and 7, they are three paragraphs running together and if they are right together I think paragraph 6 as it stands, as amended by Belgium, would be a better rendition.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegate of Colombia, do you still insist on that?

H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Bueno, si efectivamente hay un consenso un sentido contrario, señor Presidente, en aras de la transacción retiro mi propuesta.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): With respect to paragraphs 5,6 and 7, as we have seen they are related. Paragraph 5 recalls the effectiveness of the role and so on; paragraph 6 expresses the view by member countries or some countries' minority view, and paragraph 7 expresses the majority view. I am concerned about paragraphs 6 and 7, and ask the question is it right to put the minority view before the majority view? In that case paragraphs 6 and 7 cannot stay in the sequence they are in in the report.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I hate to intervene, but certainly in the Report we have tried to put things in a logical sequence. Some people think you have improved it, and some people think you can go even further, so there is a kind of logical thinking about it. If you wish to turn it round, you can do so, but that was the purpose in trying to put it this way.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): Thank you for the explanation, the point I raised was only referring to the sequence of the sentences. I am quite happy.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, everybody is happy.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Para unirme a la satisfacción general. Como quedamos en el párrafo 6, ¿cuál es la redacción final?

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The revision would involve putting the word "many", so that it would read: "Many members considered ..." up to the end of the sentence where it says: "as promoted by the IBPGR in collaboration with FAO were satisfactory". Then there would be a full stop, and another sentence: "Some members thought that ..." and the rest of the sentence would continue. So, it would be: "Some members thought that possible improvements should be sought within the existing system ."

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): I thought we were going on the basis of the Belgian and Libyan amendments which most people seem to be supporting. My view of what they proposed was to change the "some" to "many" and let the rest of the sentence stand as it was originally.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): A la luz de los comentarios que se han hecho se nota que, efectivamente, existe una unidad entre los párrafos 5, 6 y 7, que tienen que ser vistos en conjunto, porque tienden simplemente a reforzarse mutuamente. Fue por ello que yo insistí en eliminar los últimos dos renglones del párrafo 5. Si mantenemos el párrafo 6 original, estamos repitiendo casi a la letra los últimos dos renglones del párrafo 5. Nos referimos a que "La Conferencia reconoció que el CIRF había desarrollado una considerable variedad de actividades en el campo de los recursos fitogenéticos, y elogió estos esfuerzos y sus resultados". ¿Cuál es la diferencia con relación a los primeros tres renglones del párrafo 6? Si lo que queremos es, en el párrafo 6, destacar que algunos delegados recomendaron que debía intentarse esta mejora dentro del sistema existente, esta es otra idea que habrá que destacar, pero que queda confusa porque hay una repetición o duplicación entre la parte final del párrafo 5 y el inicio del párrafo.

CHAIRMAN: Might it help if we left the sentence as it was originally drafted? Is that what the Congo was going to suggest?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voulais proposer une autre rédaction, compte tenu des avis qui ont déjà été exprimés et en tenant compte de ce qui précède. Peut-être accepterez-vous que j'en donne lecture avant que vous rejetiez ou pas ma proposition?

Le paragraphe 6 pourrait être libellé ainsi: "Bien que la Conférence ait été d'avis que les activités scientifiques et techniques actuelles de conservation et d'échange de ressources phytogénétiques qui sont encouragées par le CIRPG en collaboration avec la FAO sont satisfaisantes, certains membres ont cependant estimé qu'il faudrait rechercher à réaliser des améliorations du système existant".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any serious objections to that suggestion by the Congo?

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): This is not very serious, but if we take paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 and if a balance is established in those three paragraphs, the interpretation given by Libya is correct. Here I would go along with "many", with certain reservations. For example-, I would prefer "A number of members", to strike the proper balance. If we said by and large were satisfied with the FAO and the IBPGR collaboration, we could say "some members stated" or "Many members", or however many you want, "thought it was satisfactory and that possible improvements should be sought within the existing system."

What we have been doing for days is that the majority felt that the framework should be changed or modified to allow even further improvements in the newly established framework. So I could not accept in Conference the beginning of paragraph 6 anyhow.

CHAIRMAN: We shall go on for another two hours debating which word to use at this rate. Might it not help to accept the paragraph as it stands? In any case, it does reflect the views and the balance. Is that agreed? Thank you. Paragraph 6 is approved as stands. Any comments on paragraph 7?

M.S. ZEHNİ (Libya): I do not think the first sentence here conveys the views of the majority and it could give the wrong impression, that we want to expand the activities of the IBPGR. It says here that: "The majority of members, however, recommended that present activities should be expanded in order to develop...". So I do not think we are asking for the expansion of the present arrangements as they stand. I am suggesting the following amendment: "The majority of members, however, considered that present activities -" I recommend "considered" - "are not sufficient and that they should be complemented ...". I suggest not "expanded" but "complemented in order to develop a global system ...". Then the sentence carries on to repeat: "The majority of members however considered -" I do not feel very strongly about this, but the rest I feel strongly about -"considered that present activities are not sufficient and that they should be complemented in order to develop a global system on plant genetic resources..." and so on to the end of the sentence. I hope the English is correct.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to those amendments? I see none. Are there any more comments on paragraph 7?

J.M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): I should like to comment on the second sentence of paragraph 7. As drafted at present, it would seem to restrict the scope of the global system to the network under the auspices or jurisdiction of FAO. Perhaps I could suggest a re-draft with the following words: "Such a system should -" then we delete the next section - "enable governments to fully collaborate in all aspects of plant genetic resources activities and to monitor new developments in this important field", then we add: "and should include an international network of base collections in genebanks under the auspices or jurisdiction of FAO."

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to those amendments?

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): No es para referirme a la enmienda ésta, sino que quiero hacer otro planteo sobre otro tema. Bien, si es así, no sé si realmente cabría aquí en este párrafo 7, pero es el único párrafo de todo el Informe donde se trata la cooperación de los países. Nos parece que sería útil señalar que algunas delegaciones reconocieron con cierta satisfacción las ofertas generosas que hicieron algunos países, en el sentido de ofrecer sus Bancos Fitogenéticos y ponerlos a disposición de esta RED. Creo debe destacarlo de alguna manera en el Informe.

M. B. SY (Sénegal): Je suis d'avis que la délégation du Royaume-Uni a raison de vouloir compléter ce paragraphe 7. Il est cependant assez difficile pour nous de souscrire à la modification du début du paragraphe parce qu'il nous semble assez contradictoire que la Conférence, dans son intégralité, ait reconnu d'une manière particulièrement élogieuse les performances du système du CIRPG et que nous disions ensuite que les activités sont néanmoins insuffisantes. Je pense que ce que nous avons effectivement souhaité, en tout cas notre délégation, c'est que ces activités soient effectivement élargies dans le cadre d'un autre système, d'un autre cadre juridique. C'est pourquoi nous souhaitons vraiment que l'on maintienne les élargissements des activités dans un autre cadre juridique plutôt que de dire que cela est insuffisant, puisque par ailleurs, nous avons sans réserve dit que c'était excellent et satisfaisant.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Nuestra intervención es para apoyar la propuesta hecha por la distinguida delegación de Libia, y unimos también a la modificación propuesta por Gran Bretaña. Apoyamos también la propuesta de Cuba, y nos unimos a la preocupación de Senegal en el sentido de que hay que dejar muy claramente establecido, en este párrafo, en el párrafo 7, que fue la mayoría la que se expresó no en contra del CIRF; ya lo manifestamos en el párrafo 5. La Conferencia dio su pleno reconocimiento, pero en el párrafo 7, tenemos que ser muy claros en manifestar la expresión de la mayoría; la mayoría mencionó que era necesario establecer o desarrollar un sistema global de recursos fitogenéticos, la propuesta de Libia, y que también era importante establecer una RED de colecciones bases en Bancos fitogenéticos bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO. Y si esto no queda suficientemente claro, si no queda claro en esta Comisión en donde nos estamos refiriendo al Banco Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, habrá que ser más explícitos. Muchas delegaciones se refirieron en particular al Banco Internacional, dieron su apoyo, y tal vez esto se preste a confusiones.

En consecuencia, nuestra propuesta concreta es la redacción del párrafo sugerida, con la enmienda de Libia, incorporar la propuesta de Gran Bretaña, tal vez destacando Banco Internacional en lugar de Red Internacional, y hacer una referencia explícita a la oferta española de ceder su colección base y ponerla bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Mexico, there is something quite contradictory in your statements. You are supporting the Libyan formulation as well as that of the Senegalese. I think I should ask the Secretary to read what we have here so that, as we go on with Spain and the United States and so on, we know what has been proposed.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): I have taken down the amendments proposed by Libya and the United Kingdom. I do not have a complete formulation for the amendment proposed by Cuba, which in any case would come at the end of the paragraph if I understand correctly.

The present paragraph with the two earlier amendments would read as follows: "The majority of members however considered that present activities were not sufficient and that they should be complemented in order to develop a global system on plant genetic resources. Such a system should enable Governments to fully collaborate in all aspects of plant genetic resources activities and to monitor new developments in- this important field".

Then we would add the following phrase, "- and should include an international network of base collections in gene banks under the auspices or jurisdiction of FAO".

Those are the two proposals. Cuba had then suggested that we have a formulation referring to the offers, but if we can have a specific text it would be easier.

CHAIRMAN: If you have it ready, Cuba, please read it out.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Dice: "Varias delegaciones reconocieron con satisfacción las ofertas de algunos países para poner a disposición de la Red Internacional sus Bancos de Recursos Fitogenéticos"

CHAIRMAN: Should we adopt this paragraph as it is or does anyone else wish to intervene?

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voudrais intervenir sur la proposition de Cuba. Je ne sais pas si la traduction est fidèle, le délégué a dit "plusieurs délégations ont reconnu..." mais en fait, "plusieurs délégations ont accueilli avec satisfaction" au lieu de "reconnu" on mettrait "nous avons accueilli avec satisfaction...".

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 7 is approved as recommended. Are there any comments on paragraph 8?

S.P. MUKERJI (India): On paragraph 8 I have a minor addition to make. In the second line of paragraph 8, in conformity with what we discussed earlier, we might add a few words such as - and I will read the sentence - "The Conference stressed the need for expanded assistance to developing countries in the strengthening of national plant -" I would like to add the words, "- plant survey and identification and plant breeding capabilities with regard to training...". This will be in conformity with the preamble of the resolution which we have been discussing in the past.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no more comments on paragraph 8, it is approved. Paragraph 9?

J. M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): I should like to comment on the second sentence of paragraph 9. I had a feeling during our debate that financial aspects were, in fact, touched on very little. I should, therefore, like to suggest that we delete this second suggestion which concerns a recommendation of Conference. I should explain that I am not trying to express a view either way as to whether or not the Director-General should seek the views of donor governments etc, as it says in the Report, but I simply feel that the discussion in Conference did not really give us the ground for saying that Conference recommended anything on this subject.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I have a suggestion on the second sentence of this paragraph. It would read like this, "It is therefore recommended that the Director-General seek the views of donor governments and financing agencies with respect to strengthening existing funding mechanisms through the allocation of funds specifically for - "here I would like to add the words" - in situ and ex situ conservation activities at national and international levels."

Why I am worrying about this is because normally conservation activities are generally interpreted as conservation in nature in situ, but in the case of plant genetic resources ex situ conservation is also very important, especially to those species which are endangered or are near extinction. I would like to emphasize and amplify conservation activities to comprehend both in situ as well as ex situ systems.

CHAIRMAN: We have two proposals, one to take the second sentence completely out; the other proposal is to reinforce it with the additions of in situ and ex situ. Now let us quickly come to some agreement, something which will come from the Commission.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States): I would support the United Kingdom's proposed deletion of that second sentence, because I agree that this was not any recommendation of the Conference that I recall. Therefore it would not reflect the discussion.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): If we had had a drafting committee to deal with this part of the Report, then may be this sentence would not appear in our draft. Therefore we can agree with the proposal to delete this sentence.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Realmente coincidimos con las delegaciones que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra sobre ese punto en el sentido de que no fue ampliamente debatido, pero si realmente, de alguna u otra forma, este aspecto queda implícito en las discusiones que sostuvimos, realmente no nos parece que esto dañe, ni obligue, ni cree ningún compromiso. Sencillamente, es una recomendación al Director General de tratar de movilizar, de acuerdo con las posibilidades de los diferentes países y organismos, movilizar los recursos que sean posibles y en dependencia de las posibilidad de cada país.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): I was actually going to support the idea that our Report should reflect the debate that went on in the Commission. To my recollection there was certainly little or no discussion - none that I remember - on this aspect. So it is rather optimistic to try to say that the Commission recommended something, given the commitment to that discussion.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya): While I have no problem in deleting the sentence because the concern is expressed that there is no long-term commitment, and I am sure efforts should be made to correct this if it is true, but I am unhappy to see this out completely, because I think the delegate of India made a very good point concerning in situ and ex situ. So I suggest that if we decide to delete this sentence, if and when, we could put a comma after "activities" and delete the three lines, and retain "activities especially for in situ and ex situ conservation activities at national and international levels". This is just to tie the two together. This is where we see the funding is lacking. Perhaps amendment of the English of it could be done by our efficient Secretary.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Secretary to read what we have now.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): With the amendment proposed by Libya, paragraph 9 would read: The first sentence unchanged, but a comma instead of a full stop. We would then delete the largest part of the second sentence and link it to the first with the word "especially". So that it would read "genetic resources activities especially for in situ and ex situ conservation activities at national and international levels."

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to that formulation?

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): I do not seriously object, but going back to article 8, and also in the spirit of consistency, I see that at paragraph 8.4 we made reference to financing, and we made it specific that the financing will be from extra-budgetary sources, and although I agree that not much was said from the floor while we were discussing this in the Commission, it was dwelt on quite a bit in the Contact Group, and that is what made us have that paragraph in, and I do not think that it will be all that good if we remain completely silent on financing. Because of that I would be happier if that sentence is left in, with the amendment of the distinguished delegate from India.

CHAIRMAN: Are you, in other words, rejecting the proposal by Libya to link the first sentence with the last part of sentence 2? You said you did not have any serious objection.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): I would rather have the sentence as it is, with the amendments of the Indian delegation.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): Though I have no quarrel with the amendment suggested by the distinguished delegates from Kenya and Libya, I do feel today that we are sitting not in the capacity of a Drafting Committee, but also Commission. So that there is nothing to prevent us from filling up the gap in our discussions of the last day, or last few hours, in case we feel strongly that this gap has to be filled, and the gap is undesirable to be kept. Therefore, I feel that we should not be over-concerned with the procedural matters, and since the whole Commission is sitting we should try to amplify the first sentence of this paragraph by the second sentence. Because the first sentence, "showing concern", or "noting with concern", if left at that will be absolutely inconsequential, and having shown the concern we must try to make a suggestion as to how that infirmity in the existing system should be corrected. I have no objection if the second sentence could be reworded to meet the reservations which some delegates may be having but, nonetheless, some reference to funding mechanisms to correct the weakness in the existing system will go very well in this paragraph.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I asked for the floor simply to say that we fully agree with what India has said just now. May I also say that the phrase is very, very carefully worded here. But, what we are recommending the Director-General, in fact, is to seek the views. I could not imagine that it could be more carefully worded. It is very innocuous anyhow. So I feel a bit strongly on the issue, it should be retained. Otherwise the whole context is destroyed. In 8 we are just speaking that national systems should be strengthened. Then we expressed concern with regard to the financial arrangements, and then what kind of action we are to pursue. So I would, as I said, like the sentence to be allowed to stand.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): I just have a problem with the procedure. I thought the idea when we meet to consider a report at the end of a session is just to reflect what the debate was. All right, many members of the Commission are here, but that is not the way we normally operate. Many members of the Commission have also gone home. I think we should be reflecting what they were focussing on at the time they were discussing the issues, and the issues they were focussing on may place greater weight elsewhere. I think our Summary Report should reflect that. So it is a question of procedure.

G. CAMELARIS (Cyprus): I am referring to the same point as the distinguished delegate of Yugoslavia raised. In paragraph 8 we stress the need for expanded assistance, and in the first sentence of paragraph 9 we express our concern that there is no firm commitment on these financial requirements. If we stop at the first sentence then it is something which is left in the air, I could say, and though I take into consideration the views of other delegates, it seems to me that there must be something of a concrete proposal, recommendation of the Conference, and it may be that the Commission has not gone in to depth in discussing this aspect, but definitely it has been discussed on various occasions during the last two days when we discussed the subject. Therefore, I consider that if we stop at "activities" we leave something in the air without the concrete recommendation, and I would say that with the wording of the second sentence there should be something of the recommendation remaining in the draft report.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to the United Kingdom, let me say that it is true normally when the Commission considers its report there should not be new ideas being thrown in, but we also want to recognize the fact that we did not take this report to the Drafting Committee, which would otherwise have debated the points as we are debating them, and perhaps would have wanted to reflect those ideas, even if they were just traces. I think the truth of the matter is that mention was made of desires to have financing for certain things, but, of course, there are no specific formulations of words to that effect. Therefore I think it should be within the competence of the Commission to find some way to reflect, maybe not in the strongest terms as we have here, but I think it would be unfortunate if we left out the fact that there was some desire that something should be done about funding some of these activities.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I wanted to make a suggestion. First of all, I recall very well that financial issues have been discussed because I had to answer several times pertinent questions about how much is financed from regular budget, and how much should be financed from extra-budgetary resources, so there was some concern about financial issues, including the undertaking we have. On financial security there are four paragraphs. I think with the present text, and the amendment of the Indian delegation, I think it could read and be easily

acceptable if we could say instead of, "It therefore" "It was therefore recommended", which I think has been used several times in other reports, and is very general. It does not mean that the Conference as such, or the Committee as a whole, has made this recommendation.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): Just to add something to what Mr Bommer has stated now. I can recollect really a very great number of speakers who said that they fully supported the proposals of the Director-General in the document. It was stated by my delegation for one. And the document certainly at length described the financial situation at present, and how it could be improved. So I really do not want to be involved in purely procedural matters, but really it is much more than a little unfair to say that in our debate the issue was not discussed. It was covered this or the other way.

CHAIRMAN: Are we accepting the proposal of Mr Bommer? All right. Thank you. This approves paragraph 9, as amended. Any observations on paragraph 10?

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Sobre el párrafo 10 nosotros tenemos reservas sobre la redacción propuesta en la segunda parte del párrafo. Se entiende que es la Conferencia la que recomendó al Director General el inicio. Dice textualmente: "que iniciara la preparación de un estudio sobre viabilidad etc. etc.". Que nosotros hayamos interpretado bien las intervenciones a lo largo de la Conferencia, no fue realmente eso lo que se recomendó, e inclusive si nos referimos al mismo (reporter del Director, párrafos 181-189, en el mismo Compromiso, en el Artículo 7 inciso e) que se menciona textualmente, "se organice un sistema global de información", creemos que realmente se rebasa la recomendación de iniciar la preparación de un estudio sobre viabilidad.

Nosotros también hemos destacado a lo largo de las discusiones la importancia que tiene como parte de un sistema global la organización de un sistema de información. Por lo tanto sugeriríamos la siguiente redacción:

Recomendó, por consiguiente, al Director General que iniciara la adopción de medidas encaminadas a la instalación de un Sistema Internacional de Información sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos coordinado por la FAO. (Y aquí estoy en concreto refiriéndome al texto que utilizamos en el inciso e) del Artículo 7 del Compromiso) "Coordinado por la FAO", y terminaría el párrafo como originalmente está en el Informe.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to that formulation? Paragraph 10, as amended, is approved.

Paragraphs 1 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 11 OF C 83/11/REP/5 AND THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IN DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 4

PARAGRAPHE 11 DE C 83/11/REP/5 ET LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION DU PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II -QUARTATEME PARTIE

PARRAFO 11 DE C 83/11/REP/5 Y EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION DEL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II -PARTE 4

Here we go back to C 83/II/REP/4, where we find that resolution.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I just wanted to know whether we have cleared paragraph 12 also, or whether we will come back to that.

CHAIRMAN: We will come back to paragraph 12, because it gives rise to the other resolution. I think we can go a long way on this resolution. Could we quickly complete our discussions on this? I will ask the Secretary to read the latest formulation of paragraph 4 of the resolution which was suggested.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): In operative paragraph 4 of the resolution, I believe the formulation I have was the latest formulation proposed by the delegate of Mexico. It involved adding a clause at the end of the sentence which presently ends "open to all interested States". We would add the words "that have notified their intention to give effect to the principles contained in the undertaking."

However, the Secretariat would like to point out here that the beginning of operative paragraph 4 says "Endorses the Director-General's proposal for..." and since that proposal did not contain the words now suggested, if this particular amendment is adopted it would perhaps be necessary to begin operative paragraph 4 by saying "Endorses the establishment..." It would thus read "Endorses the establishment as soon as possible, within the framework of FAO, of an intergovernmental committee or other body on plant genetic resources open to all interested States that have notified their intention to give effect to the principles contained in the Undertaking".

J. M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): I was under the impression that paragraph 4 had been left as printed. Up to now, the United Kingdom delegation has been very ready to compromise and accommodate other people's wishes in an effort to get an agreement. However, when it comes to this, we have all had legal advice that the committee and the COAG should be open to all.

We have also had practical advice from the Deputy Director-General about the difficulties which could arise from a wording of this sort. It has been pointed out that the intergovernmental committee will cover a very wide range of activities, not simply the Undertaking, and delegates have pointed to the advantages of encouraging people to participate in this activity so they can sort out their difficulties with the Undertaking and ultimately adhere to it.

If we are going to adopt this wording, I regret I am going to have to ask you to add the United Kingdom's name to that of the United States, Canada and Japan in the reservations to this document. I very much regret having to take this step, and I hope that perhaps we may still be able to consider returning to the original draft of this resolution.

J.M. BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): Pensamos, que quizá esta discusión fuera posible zanjarla si simplemente después de "interesados" añadiéramos "en el compromiso". Es decir, "interesados en el compromiso".

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): We also have given consideration to this proposed amendment. I think all along Australia has supported the general idea that is behind the international Undertaking. We continue to do so, but we see great difficulties with the proposed amendment.

I would draw the attention of members of this Commission to the fact that the word used is "interested" States. That is really the operative word as far as participating in this proposed body is concerned.

Obviously, many Member States have difficulties with this international Undertaking, for various reasons. Unlike Australia, some of them are members of UPOV, or they have plant variety rights legislations. They do not know how this affects their own national situation. Some of those countries are developing countries, some are developed countries, but although this does not affect Australia we can understand that others do have these strong concerns. There is a great deal of uncertainty about how the Undertaking would affect them, and there is also concern that they would like to have the matter examined in their capitals. I think the more we can encourage people to participate in this intergovernmental group or body, or whatever you wish to call it, the more we might tend to allay these concerns.

To try to bring pressure to get all to participate could, in fact, have a perverse effect and encourage governments, some of whom are not members of FAO, to pursue other activities or to pursue their interests in this field elsewhere.

It is really a question of principle about how we operate, and how we operate in FAO. We would see this amended proposal as counter-productive. In fact, we feel so strongly about it that we feel forced to join the United Kingdom in also joining with other countries that have reservations on the Undertaking. I would urge those considering this proposal to look at the wording very carefully before they come to a final decision.

J. SONNEVELD (Netherlands): As I pointed out earlier in the debate, my delegation could not agree on any limitation on the membership of this sub-committee. I pointed out also that it would not be logical, looking at the terms of reference of the sub-committee and specifically at paragraph 2(c), in which it is stated that the sub-committee should review all matters relating to the policy, programmes and activities of FAO in the field of plant: genetic resources. These activities of FAO are not necessarily under the Undertaking. That means that here you probably have activities of FAO financed from the regular budget, and there is no possibility of excluding any member which is interested in the activities of FAO from participating in any debate on such activities.

Therefore, my delegation would support either the suggestion made by the United Kingdom to leave it as it stands, or I would come back to my suggestion made earlier, more or less inspired by the delegate of El Salvador. That suggestion was to delete the word "interested" in the last line so that it would then read "... open to all States adhering to the Undertaking and other States interested in the conservation of plant genetic resources".

CHAIRMAN: I have indications from several delegations that they wish to speak. There is no pretending that we have not begun once more to walk on very thin ice. Might it not help to leave paragraph 4 as it is in the interests of progress and for the benefit of all?

R.C. GUPTA (India): We find it difficult to accept that Member States and organizations who have no interest in this Undertaking should be monitoring the work of this network. It is difficult for us, I reiterate, to accept this position.

CHAIRMAN: Now, I have four other speakers and we are proceeding to increase the list of those countries who are going to reserve on this resolution and probably on the whole Undertaking. Let us go on to do that, if that is your wish.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): I will not repeat the arguments that I have previously stated, and I want to support fully your view that there is perhaps no better solution than to leave the paragraph as it was originally drafted.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): I have refrained from coming in on this one for some time. It seemed to me Senegal raised the issue earlier as to whether or not the resolution by Libya was to be accepted as it is, and his view with which I agree, is, if we are going to accept Libya's resolution then we have little choice but to accept paragraph 4 as it is.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Je crois que nous ne devons pas perdre beaucoup de temps pour ce paragraphe, car en préambule nous avons reconnu que les ressources phytogénétiques sont le patrimoine commun de l'humanité. A partir de ce moment-là il suffit simplement à mon avis de trouver un compromis que je souhaite vous proposer, c'est-à-dire "ouvert à tous les Etats qui en feront la demande".

En effet, à partir du moment où un Etat est conscient de ce que les ressources phytogénétiques sont le patrimoine commun de l'humanité, à partir du moment où il y a tentative de réglementer, l'Etat qui peut se mettre en marge de l'engagement peut demander à participer à un moment donné à un Comité intergouvernemental qui s'en occupe. Cela constitue déjà un processus pour récupérer pas mal d'Etats qui, par la suite, verront que l'oeuvre est intéressante. C'est pourquoi nous proposons de mettre à la place de "Etats intéressés", "tous les Etats qui en font la demande".

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): J'ai suivi les interventions des délégations qui m'ont précédé, et je note -(si j'ai bien compris) - que si on gardait le texte en l'état les réserves qui avaient été faites auraient été retirées. Si tel est le cas, si effectivement ceux qui avaient émis des réserves les retirent, dans un esprit de compromis, nous pourrions garder le texte en l'état tel qu'il est au point 4: mais sous cette condition absolument.

CHAIRMAN: I want to clarify the Congo's statement, the reservations or inclinations to reserve that we make now, those that were already written in the text, taken as they stand. I think the later ones come from the United Kingdom and Australia, this is what the Congo is referring to.

W.A.F. GRADISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My delegation was somewhat surprised that we actually took up this paragraph 4 again. We too had the impression that all of us had adopted this text as it stands, without any amendment. I do not want to repeat the reasons for which we would like this text not to be amended. I think we should not waste time on this, but

I must say that if we were not to adopt the text as it stands now, and as it has been recognized as the best common denominator by many delegations, if we are to change this in line with the proposals that have been made, then, I would have to ask you to add my delegation to the list of those who would appear in a footnote as having reserved their position.

G. ANDRE (Sweden): My delegation has great difficulties in accepting the Mexican proposal, and my delegation's suggestion is that the text should be adopted as it stands.

M. NIETO Y LARA (Cuba): Quizá con ánimo de buscar una posible transacción en este asunto, nos atravesáramos proponer que se agreguen al final del párrafo solamente tres palabras que dijeran "los Estados interesados en el compromiso".

De esta forma daríamos quizá un marco más general y menos restrictivo al planteamiento.

J.P. NEME (France): Ma délégation tient également à conserver le texte initial tel qu'il a été préparé par le Groupe de contact. Il nous paraît en effet indispensable que tous les pays puissent participer à ce Groupe intergouvernemental.

J. ZIMMERMANN (Denmark): We also want to join the delegates who want the present text maintained without any amendments. I think we have to make this clause No. 4 really operational just like the other three clauses, because when the Director-General has to carry out those activities he should have a clear answer, a clear responsibility and not having heard the proposals until now, in fact, if I could recall two of them, the first is that "interested partners should have notified an interest". I ask myself what does that mean - to notify an interest? How should the Director-General judge some words on a paper, whether there is 100 percent notified interest or not.

Another proposal was it should only be for governments who have made the request for membership. I ask myself what does that imply? Does that imply that member governments without any limitations themselves should find out when such a committee is established? How they should apply for a membership or not, without any limitations? Such proposals are not operational. I think the present text is very operational, it gives the Director-General a clear line to operate on.

I.P. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): Nosotros quisiéramos volver sobre la observación que hicimos anteriormente, en el sentido de que vemos dos intereses, a nuestro juicio, igualmente legítimos y que debieran poderse conciliar.

El primer interés, decíamos, es que la discusión a propósito de los recursos fitogenéticos, particularmente como está recogido en la Propuesta de Resolución presentada por la delegación de Libia, ese interés digo, es obvio que no puede quedar nadie excluido de participar en esas discusiones.

Pero por otra parte, hay el interés a nuestro juicio también legítimo de que se delimite, en cierto modo, quiénes tienen un interés en el Compromiso y quiénes no lo tienen. Porque si hay alguien que no tiene absolutamente ningún interés en este Compromiso, entonces es otro nivel de discusión, está en otro campo distinto del que aquí estamos tratando de delimitar.

Ahora bien, los que tengan interés en el Compromiso pueden encontrarse en dos situaciones: que adhieran, así sea con todas las reservas que señale el artículo 11 del Compromiso mismo; o que simplemente consideren interesante la posibilidad y decidan analizar su posible participación, como lo ha señalado el delegado de Canadá o de Australia, no recuerdo bien.

Para cubrir todas esas posibles situaciones, nosotros pensamos en una modificación que ojalá no complique más las cosas. Si se pudiera poner, en el párrafo 2 del Proyecto de Resolución sobre el Compromiso, donde dice: "... a los recursos fitogenéticos, y los invite a comunicarle para", suprimir la fecha a fin de no dejar plazo establecido, y "y los invite a comunicarle si están o no interesados en el Compromiso y en qué medida están en condiciones de aplicar los principios que figuran en el Compromiso". El estado diría: nosotros estamos interesados en el Compromiso; no lo suscribimos, pero estamos interesados y tenemos tales y tales reservas.

Y el párrafo final dejarlo como está, diciendo: "... recursos fitogenéticos en el que puedan participar todos los estados interesados". ¿Cuáles son? Son los que han manifestado al Director General que están interesados en el Compromiso y en participar en el grupo respectivo.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): Je crois que finalement on commence à friser un peu la chinoiserie, excusez-moi le mot. Je trouve personnellement que la version que l'on a sous les yeux est la meilleure parce que si on est intéressé par les ressources phytogénétiques on finira toujours par faire un pas. Bien sûr on ne va pas marquer ici que l'on viendra ou que peut-être on ne viendra pas à ce Comité. Je pense que finalement la version que l'on a sous les yeux est la meilleure. Tous les points et tous les Etats sont intéressés. Il suffit qu'ils soient intéressés par les ressources ou l'engagement. Ce sont les Etats qui sont intéressés.

R. GUADARRAMAS SISTOS (México): En vista de que la delegación de México con su propuesta ha motivado estas distintas manifestaciones, estas distintas opiniones en torno a la voluntad de los estados para adherirse al Compromiso, queremos hacer una propuesta de transacción, una propuesta en la que, recogiendo el comentario hecho por El Salvador, terminemos el párrafo 4 simplemente incorporando, como lo propuso España y Cuba, "Estados interesados en el Compromiso". Punto. Evidentemente, con la necesaria incorporación de los comentarios de El Salvador en el punto 2. Una preocupación general es que los firmantes del Compromiso acatan los 11 artículos del mismo, y esto no es así. El artículo 11 es muy claro en señalar los términos o condiciones en los que cada estado está dispuesto a aplicar el Compromiso. Lo que se requiere es mostrar voluntad, y la adhesión al Compromiso implica el derecho que tienen todos los Estados de especificar en qué artículo se adhieren y cuáles son sus restricciones.

Repito que en un ánimo positivo de transacción, hacemos la propuesta de incorporar en el párrafo 2 el comentario o recomendación hecha por El Salvador, y terminar el párrafo 4 con las palabras "en el Compromiso". Punto. Esperamos que esto sea aceptable para las delegaciones presentes, y de esta manera, puedan retirar sus objeciones, sus reservas.

CHAIRMAN: Before I check with delegations who have difficulties, I would like to ask the Secretary to read the latest suggested amendments.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): I believe the first amendment would be to operative paragraph 2 of the resolution. Referring to the Director-General, it begins with the clause: "and to invite them to inform him of their interest in the Undertaking and in what way they could participate", or "to what extent they could participate..." That would be the approximate translation of the Spanish.

Then the second amendment in operative paragraph 4 would simply involve removing the word "interested" before "States" at the end of the sentence and saying "States interested in the Undertaking".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any difficulties with the latest formulation?

J. M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): I find the change to paragraph 2 a little difficult. It does not seem quite to make sense. We have to inform the Director-General of our interest in the Undertaking, but does this mean we write and say we are a little interested, we are very interested or we are not interested at all? Or do we just send a little letter saying: "Thank you very much for sending us the Undertaking. We are interested?". I think I would sooner leave paragraph 2 as drafted, although I could accept the change to paragraph 4 as suggested by the Mexican delegation.

CHAIRMAN: The United Kingdom is suggesting we leave paragraph 2 as it stands, and accept the amendment to paragraph 4. Can we check with those delegations that have difficulties so that we can save time?

J. ZIMMERMANN (Denmark): Perhaps it would save time if we could clarify the meaning of the proposed words in paragraph 4, "interested in the Undertaking". What does that mean? Thinking aloud, I could imagine a country which has a positive attitude to the Undertaking but has temporarily expressed a general reservation about most of the articles. Such a country is still interested in being a member of such a committee, because somebody had to take a decision as to whether a Member State should be a member or not, and that decision had to be taken by the Director-General. Now we opt for a really weak measure for such membership.

I do not oppose the proposal as such, but I think we should make this paragraph more operational. Perhaps you could ask Legal Counsel what is the real meaning of the words "interested in the Undertaking".

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the Legal Counsel could tell us how that would be interpreted.

POINT OF ORDER.

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

I.P. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): Es que quisiera para aclarar nuestra propuesta, que fue aceptada por la delegación mexicana, para aclararla porque la traducción, es decir, la redacción en inglés, porque la escuché cuando la estaba diciendo la señora secretaria, no corresponde a nuestra propuesta. Ella dijo: "To express their interest".

Realmente, nosotros habíamos visto que expresen si están o no interesados. O sea, las posiciones son dos; en respuesta al Director General si dicen, señor Director General, no estamos interesados en absoluto en ese Compromiso; y entonces, no vemos por qué participar en el Comité.

Pero si dicen, sí estamos interesados, lo vamos a considerar, tal vez no lo podemos firmar ahora pero vamos a ver después, entonces, bienvenidos al Comité. Y yo digo que así se satisface el interés tan fuertemente abogado por la delegación mexicana y por otras muchas delegaciones que la han apoyado, en el sentido de que haya una delimitación de quiénes pueden eventualmente participar en el Convenio y quiénes no. Era para corregir la redacción.

CHAIRMAN: Before I pass on to the Legal Counsel, does the United Kingdom still have difficulty with paragraph 2 as explained by El Salvador?

J.M. ALLFREY (United Kingdom): Subject to the detailed wording, I think I would be able to accept the suggestion as explained by El Salvador, although it will, of course, be subject to what is finally agreed on the Libyan resolution.

CHAIRMAN: I shall ask the Secretary to read what we have now, after El Salvador's explanation. Then we shall call on the Legal Counsel.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The last clause of operative paragraph 2 would then read: "and to invite them to inform him whether or not they are interested in the Undertaking, and of the extent to which they could participate in it". Or, "the extent to which they are in position to give effect to the principles contained in the Undertaking". Then the text would be as it is at present.

CHAIRMAN: The United Kingdom is willing to accept that. Are there any difficulties with what we now have in paragraphs 2 and 4?

R. SALLERY (Canada): This is not a difficulty, it is just a question of clarity. If a Member State were to say to the Director-General: "We are indeed interested in the Undertaking" or "We are indeed interested in plant genetic research and so on", if we were not prepared to sign, to what extent would that still entitle us to attend these meetings?

CHAIRMAN: I think the question of interest will have to be interpreted by Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I do not think it is so much a question of defining the word "interest" as the way in which some communication of interest is received by the Director-General. This technique is very far from being new in FAO; in all the Standing Committees of the Council that are open to all Member Nations, only those States that express their desire to be a member actually become members of these committees. This applies also to a number of other bodies established under Article VI of the Constitution. Therefore it requires, on the part of a government, some manifestation of its interest in being a member.

In this particular case, the government would indicate whether it is interested in the Undertaking. This would be sufficient. One must interpret the words of a government, if it says that it is interested, as really meaning what has been said. No serious government that was not interested in the Undertaking would actually say that it was. Therefore, all that is required is an indication, preferably in written form, that a government is interested in the Undertaking. I consider that would be sufficient and I hope this will dispel the doubts expressed by the delegate of Denmark.

CHAIRMAN: With that clear explanation, do we still have any difficulties with the proposed amendments?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): To be absolutely frank -and no doubt you wish me to be absolutely frank - my delegation does not really see any need for these two amendments. Paragraph 2 has already been adopted, and it states quite clearly: "to invite them to inform him by (date)...". So this already implies that there will have to be a very clear indication to the Director-General and we do not really think that it is necessary to change anything there. With regard to paragraph 4, after having heard the Legal Counsel just now, we feel that it is not necessary to introduce an amendment. As Yugoslavia said, half an hour or an hour ago, we believe that this text really meets all interests.

M. S. ZEHNI (Libya): I do not know if this will help, but I think the Mexican proposal and the proposal from El Salvador are really trying to differentiate between two categories of countries: those who say flatly "No, we are not interested, we don't want to have anything to do with it", and the other group which will say "We are interested, but not now. We are interested but...".

As I understand it, I think with those countries who will have a flat "No" for the Undertaking, "We don't want anything to do with it", it is a moral question whether they should be sitting in judgment on those who show some interest or great interest or little interest. This is the distinction and I offer it if it helps.

CHAIRMAN: Could the Federal Republic of Germany make an effort to live with that after the explanation of Libya?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): If everybody feels that this exact wording is absolutely necessary, we are not going to object, but we feel that it is in any case perfectly clear that if we are invited to inform the Director-General whether one is interested, we do not think any further wording is necessary. But if everybody feels that we should add this wording, we are not going to object to it.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): I was going to agree with my colleague from Germany that no change in the wording is really necessary. Why we need any change I cannot understand. As regards the intervention of my colleague from Libya, obviously by definition what is in the wording already is that it is participation by interested States. If they are not interested they will not participate and that has been made perfectly clear by my colleague from Cameroon. It is self-evident in the definition. So long as I can have a categoric assurance from the Legal Counsel that the fact that a signature or an agreement to participate in the undertaking is not a requirement to participate in the intergovernmental body, then if it makes people happier to have a more convoluted wording I guess I can go along with it. But it is that question I want resolved, not the question of how the words sit.

CHAIRMAN: So all the delegations are willing to live with this. But the Legal Counsel would like to answer Australia's question.

LEGAL COUNSEL: It is the Conference that has adopted and drafted this text, and I am interpreting it as it is drafted now. I am quite certain that it would not require any formal adherence to become a member of this intergovernmental body. It seems quite clear that the intention of the Conference was that countries should be interested, not that they should be adhering countries. Therefore it is my interpretation that the delegate of Australia need not have any fears on that count. But, as I said, the Conference is supreme, and this is my interpretation.

CHAIRMAN: I hope you are happy with that, Australia? Everybody is happy. Are you still happy, Mexico?

R. GUADARRAMAS SISTOS (México): No, señor Presidente, nos parece inadecuada la interpretación del Asesor Jurídico al interés mostrado por los países respecto al Compromiso. Evidentemente, no estamos esperando que envíen tarjetas postales para indicar que están interesados en el tema desde Hawaii. Esperamos una notificación formal de los gobiernos una vez que ellos, responsablemente, lo hayan evaluado como correctamente lo sugiere Canadá, y después manifiesten, de acuerdo al Artículo 11, su adhesión al Compromiso en los términos y con las restricciones que sus condiciones particulares, sus legislaciones nacionales les imponen.

En este sentido, se demostró el interés en el Compromiso. La explicación del Asesor Jurídico no nos es satisfactoria. Estamos esperando que haya congruencia en los actos y las decisiones que tomen los Estados Miembros; si no están interesados en el Compromiso ¿cómo van a participar en el Grupo u organismo intergubernamental? Eso es lo que queremos indicar con "interesados", señor Asesor Jurídico. En consecuencia, repito, nuestra transacción tiene que entenderse como interesados en los términos del Artículo 11 del Compromiso, que no ata, no ata a nadie que no quiera aceptar. Voy a leer textualmente el párrafo del Artículo 11: "Artículo 11. Información sobre la aplicación del presente Compromiso. En el momento de su adhesión, los gobiernos e instituciones harán saber al Director General de la FAO hasta qué punto están en condiciones de llevar a la práctica los principios contenidos en el Compromiso" repito, hasta qué punto están en condiciones de llevar a la práctica los principios contenidos en el Compromiso. "Anualmente informarán al Director General de la FAO de las medidas que hayan tomado o tengan el propósito de tomar para alcanzar el objetivo del presente Compromiso", repito, la adhesión al Compromiso no implica la aceptación tácita del Artículo 11, artículo que lo contiene.

Hay capacidad para que cada Estado manifieste las restricciones del caso. Lo que queremos, en consecuencia, es voluntad, que se muestre voluntad con la adhesión al Compromiso; esto es, evidentemente, un problema de congruencia, entre lo que queremos y lo que debemos de hacer. El interés, por consiguiente, debe demostrarse adhiriéndose al Compromiso y participar en los organismos intergubernamentales, no yéndonos a nadar a Hawaii. Esperamos congruencia, repito, en el acto y decisiones que tomemos.

CHAIRMAN: Modalities of postcards are not part of the resolution. The resolution is approved as amended.

Distinguished delegate of New Zealand, we received your note and you are going to propose the wording of your reservation to be added in the Report.

E.J. STONYER (New Zealand): We wanted to express in a limited form our reservation with regard to this proposal, the Undertaking. We have a form of words which we would like adding to the other reservations, if possible. New Zealand reserves its position on the text of the International Undertaking on genetic resources because there is no provision which takes account of plant breeders' rights. Perhaps if we could add this to the text of the Report it would cover our situation.

Paragraph 11, including draft resolution, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 11, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 11, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 4, as amended, was adopted
Projet du Rapport de la Commission II, quatrième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraph 12 approved
Le paragraphe 12 est approuvé
El párrafo 12 es aprobado

C 83/LIM/33 PARAGRAPH(13), INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION, ADDED TO DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 5
C 83/LIM/33 PARAGRAPHE(13) Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION, AJOUTE AU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - CINQUIEME PARTIE
C 83/LIM/33 PARRAFO(13) INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION, AGREGADO AL PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 5

CHAIRMAN: In moving towards the adoption of the Libyan resolution, which is C 83/LIM/33, I would like to indicate that we need, therefore, to change the wording in paragraph 2 to take account of what was agreed in Article 9.2. That is the first one. Then I will ask the Secretary to indicate all other changes that have been made so that we can now adopt the resolution.

K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): Regarding C 83/LIM/33 we had statements by three delegations that they would like to place a note at the top, next to the number of the resolution, expressing their reservations. We do not have an exact text which we would appreciate.

The other changes so far introduced were, one in the third preambular paragraph of the resolution. It was suggested that the word "hereby" be deleted and that the paragraph thus begin with "Requests". Later on that the words "take the necessary measures to" be deleted, so the sentence would read "request the Council and the COAG to establish a subsidiary body".

It was also suggested in operative paragraph 2, Terms of Reference, small paragraph (b), that the words "take or" in the first line be deleted. So that it would read "To recommend".

Those are the only two specific amendments I have.

R.C. GUPTA (India): If I understood correctly, in the undertaking in Article 9.2 the word was to establish an intergovernmental body. Now in this resolution we have reference to Article 9.2, but we are still talking of mechanism ...

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegate of India, at the beginning I said in my explanation that we would have to change those words to which you are referring to take account of what we agreed in the undertaking.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): Au troisième paragraphe il y a quand même quelque chose qui est gênant et qui risque de paralyser même le fonctionnement de l'organe que l'on veut créer.

En fait, on demande au Conseil et au COAG de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour créer un organe subsidiaire du COAG.

Tout d'abord une question de procédure: à mon sens, je crois que l'on devrait peut-être demander au Conseil de prendre des mesures pour créer cet organe qui ne serait pas forcément subsidiaire au COAG parce que, sinon, le calendrier des deux réunions du Comité serait très difficile à réaliser compte tenu du délai qui serait fixé. Je pense qu'il faudrait peut-être le rattacher à un organe qui se réunit plus souvent, puisqu'il s'agit de problèmes assez importants et souvent conjoncturels.

C'est pour cela que nous voudrions que l'on invite le Conseil à créer un organe sur les ressources phytogénétiques qui pourrait se réunir à une périodicité plus rapprochée que celle qui existerait si c'était un organe subsidiaire du COAG.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to Libya, I would request distinguished delegates - I know you are tired - please to try and listen. Senegal, the words "take the necessary measures" have been deleted.

M.S. ZEHNI (Libya): I wanted firstly to point out that the words "take the necessary measures" were deleted earlier on, but many colleagues around the room came to me and enquired about a couple of things: that the Council and COAG will establish this body, but there is no indication that it will be established at the next meeting of COAG. They said this could be the following year, or the following meeting or the other meeting. This is one. Should the meeting, the establishment of this subsidiary body, should it take place in the next meeting then this body will have no document, or no material to work in. So if there is an agreement that it should be established in the next meeting of COAG, then it should have the documentation and the material, and matters to discuss at its first meeting. So these are two things which have been brought to my attention, and I think if they can be incorporated would improve the text.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I am responding to the Secretary's request for wording, if I understood her correctly, for the three or four, was it, countries who asked to have their reservations noted. May I present that wording? It is very brief. "The Governments of Canada, Japan and the United States of America reserve their positions with respect to this Resolution". I would like to ask whether Switzerland was included in that, or not.

F. ROHNER (Switzerland): Yes. In order to be consistent with the position we took on the other resolution, we will have to ask you to add the name of our country to this reservation.

CHAIRMAN: Now, distinguished delegate of Libya, do you have the wording ready to accommodate those ideas?

M. S. ZEHNI (Libya): I do not have the wording, but I thought they would be very easy for the Secretariat, and perhaps if the Legal Counsel think this is possible to suggest the date, and I wanted the reaction of the Secretariat to the documentation and preparation for the first meeting if it takes place next time. So I was not prepared.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): I cannot find it at the moment, but I thought there were some words which would take account of this request, that the body be established as a matter of urgency, or as quickly as possible, that I saw somewhere there, and I just cannot find them again. Does that not then require the Council bodies, or necessary implementing bodies do all the necessary procedure at the earliest possible opportunity? This may be a way of overcoming the requirement, but it does not concern me which way it is done.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I think with due respect and all understanding of the Libyan delegation's wishes to give further advice to the Director-General, I would like to say on behalf of the Director-General that he is used to reacting as soon as possible, and as quickly and as speedily as his inter-governmental bodies wish him to do this, and to add in addition some kind of instructions to the Director-General what he has to do, sounds to me a little bit of a curious approach.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The indication of establishment of the body as soon as possible is in the resolution of the Undertaking.

M. S. ZEHNI (Libya): I have no problems with the Director-General. I know he will take action. I have a problem with COAG, for example. Let us say COAG for some reason decided that it would not like to establish that body at that particular time or procedure. So, I mean, I do not think it is a matter of a problem with the Director-General. It is unfortunate that this was brought in here. I do not think that was the point of the question.

D.R.F. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): If you desire it so then the wording could read "requests the Council and the Committee on Agriculture at the next session to establish".

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): Antes de hacer una propuesta concreta, nos gustaría escuchar la opinión de la asesoría jurídica respecto de subcomités, o cualquier otra forma de grupo intergubernamental que se establezca en FAO. ¿Es posible hacerlos depender directamente del Consejo?

Es evidente que el Consejo, la Conferencia pueden establecer estos organismos.

La pregunta específica es: ¿Es posible hacer depender directamente y no a través del COAG, un grupo o subcomité, sea cualquiera la fórmula que adoptemos de organismo, directamente del Consejo?

Antes de hacer mis observaciones, nos gustaría escuchar la respuesta de la Asesoría legal.

LEGAL COUNSEL: There is one possibility, which cannot be envisaged at this particular Conference, that would consist of creating a standing committee of the Council. But that would require an amendment to the Constitution, and that is obviously out of the question at this stage. A standing committee would be on the same level as the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Forestry, and so on. Such a body would depend directly on the Council, but there is no question of adopting any such measure now, because an amendment to paragraph 6 of Article V of the Constitution would be needed.

Other possibilities, which I mentioned, I believe, in answer to the delegate of Colombia earlier on, are a commission established under paragraph 1 of Article VI of the Constitution, or a committee or working party of selected Member Nations, under paragraph 2 of Article VI. Article VI bodies, in fact, report to the Director-General and the Director-General in turn passes on the recommendations of these bodies to the governing bodies when they affect the policies, the programme or the finances of the Organization. That is laid down in the Basic Texts of the Organization.

These are the only alternatives which are open to you and, as I said, I mentioned them earlier on this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN: I think we have talked about the major changes in this, and unfortunately because we have to close at 9, on your instruction that there should be no interpreters at 9 o'clock, those who have problems will be requested maybe they might want to consider reserving on the resolution, and then we go ahead to Plenary tomorrow.

R. GUADARRAMA SISTOS (México): En vista de la respuesta de la asesoría jurídica, nos proponemos para agilizar y ganar tiempo en el establecimiento del órgano auxiliar del COAG que sea el Consejo en su próxima sesión él que establezca dicho órgano.

La propuesta concreta sería suprimir "y al COAG", y pedir al Consejo que establezca un órgano auxiliar del Comité de Agricultura sobre recursos fitogenéticos, etc.

De esta manera podríamos superar el problema de la limitación de tiempo y permitir trabajar con celeridad a dicho organismo.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Maybe I did not express myself clearly enough last time. The Council cannot establish subsidiary bodies of other bodies. It can establish, as I said, commissions or committees under Article VI of the Constitution. That is not the same thing as creating a subsidiary body of the Committee on Agriculture. It is the Council that can give instructions to its Committee on Agriculture to establish a particular body. This is what we had originally envisaged. But, I repeat, the Council cannot create a subsidiary body of one of its own subsidiary bodies. I hope that is clear now.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. It seems the text as it stands is the only possible way we can do things.

M. Balla. SY (Sénégal): Compte tenu de l'avis juridique du Conseil qui vient de nous être donné et qui m'a gêné au début, il n'est pas possible d'adopter cette résolution. En fait, nous voulons créer des organes subsidiaires au COAG. Le COAG ne peut pas le faire, ni le Conseil. Puisque nous avons déjà suggéré la création d'un groupe, d'un groupe intergouvernemental, au Directeur de voir pour les prochaines conférences comment mettre en pratique l'opération.

CHAIRMAN: One last time I would like to give the Legal Counsel the opportunity to make a desperate effort to explain what can happen and what cannot happen.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The possibilities are as follows: the Council can establish a commission under Article VI. It can establish a committee or a working party, also under VI, but under a different paragraph. of that Article. The Council can also give instructions to the Committee on Agriculture to set up a subsidiary body. Maybe the delegate of Senegal did not quite understand what I said. The Committee on Agriculture can certainly establish a subsidiary body, and will have to do so if it receives instructions to do so from its parent body, which is the Council. So you have three possibilities, the subsidiary body of COAG, which cannot be established before COAG meets, and the possibility of a commission or a committee under Article VI, which can be established by the Council.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. On that note I believe we can adopt the resolution as it stands.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): J'ai suivi le Conseil juridique. Je pense pour ma part, que nous ne pouvons pas adopter cette résolution. A la limite nous pouvons ordonner qu'une commission préparatoire à la création du comité intergouvernemental soit mise en place. C'est tout ce que je voulais dire.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The resolution as amended, is approved.

Paragraph 13, including draft resolution, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 13, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 13, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 5, as amended, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la Commission II, cinquième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 5, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 21.00 hours
La séance est levée à 21 heures
Se levanta la sesión a las 21.00 horas